

THE Pelican Post

A quarterly publication - Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation



Spring 2007
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*"In every walk with nature one
receives far more than he seeks."*

- John Muir

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From the Executive Director...

Spring at the Reserve is a beautiful time to take a walk down one of the boardwalks or enjoy the exhibits in the interpretive center. The daylight hours are longer, the weather is pleasant, the pitcher plant bog is in full bloom, and migratory birds are moving through coastal Alabama in large numbers. On a recent day at the Reserve, it was interesting to see a researcher workshop occurring, staff performing water quality research, and visitors learning about the importance of estuaries.



The Foundation is pleased to serve as the 501(c)3 non profit friends group of the Reserve. The staff will tell you that they could not accomplish many of their tasks without the assistance of the Foundation. Whether it is acquiring ecologically sensitive property, funding water quality work, funding workshop expenses, or providing public outreach, the Foundation is here to support the Reserve.

In this issue, you will read about land protection and stewardship, natural history, environmental education, water quality research, upcoming events, and ways that you can support conservation efforts in Alabama. The Foundation looks forward to the future. In April of 2006, the Board of Directors adopted the implementation of the Land Trust Alliance's *Land Trust Standards and Practices*. The implementation of these guidelines will allow the Foundation to seek national accreditation as a land trust. This accreditation will be required for all land trusts beginning in 2008. We will be looking at meeting the challenges faced with the sudden growth of Baldwin County and applying a watershed approach to these challenges. This means we will be seeking additional funds for land acquisition, conservation easements and public outreach. The Foundation could not accomplish any of its work without our membership. Thank you for your support.

Enjoy the Spring 2007 issue of *The Pelican Post*. I hope you will plan a visit to the Reserve soon.

Working for Conservation,

Walter



White-Topped Pitcher Plants
(*Sarracenia leucophylla*)
Photos by Marlene Cashen

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The 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.

Cover Photo:
 Boardwalk at Weeks Bay

Stewardship

Prescribed Burns

Prescribed burning is a management technique that is used for lands that have been suppressed from natural fire, or to reduce leaf litter to avoid unexpected catastrophic fire. The Reserve and the Foundation utilize controlled burning to achieve both of these goals. This year, for the first time since the Reserve was designated in 1986, two large tracts (Damson and Ogburn Tracts) have been burned with assistance from employees of the State Lands Division. The Foundation also performed a prescribed burn on the Juniper tract in Marlow.



Boardwalk at Kurt G. Wintermeyer Trail is protected as bog habitat is burned

The Weeks Bay Pitcher Plant Bog has been burned quite frequently over the years because the habitat is fire dependent. The carnivorous bog plants can not grow in the shade. Without the fires which retard the growth of surrounding plants and trees, these rare plants would disappear.



Prescribed burn at the Foundation's Juniper tract in Marlow.

The Kurt G. Wintermeyer Trail with a boardwalk through the bog was funded by the Foundation in 1997 and provides visitors with an up close look at this most interesting and beautiful coastal resource. Through the efforts of State Lands employees and Reserve volunteers, the goals of the controlled burns are achieved without damaging assets like the boardwalk itself.

The 15 acre Juniper tract including a five acre pitcher plant bog was donated to the Foundation in 2003. Restoration activities began last spring with the first controlled burn, and a second burn was made this spring.

These prescribed burns were funded by grants to the Foundation from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Shell Marine Habitat, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners.

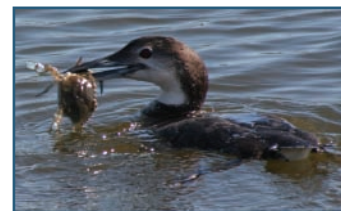
The open longleaf pine forests and seepage bogs filled with pitcher plants and other carnivorous plants were once much more extensive than they are today. Prescribed burns can help save the special plants and animals which still thrive in this fire-dependent landscape. Such stewardship activities help maintain Gulf Coast biodiversity and provide us with opportunities to learn about other creatures that share our world with us. Reserve and Foundation lands incorporated into the burn this year totaled more than 505 acres.

Did You Know?

by John Borom

Loons have sleek bodies wider than high for stability on the surface of the water where they spend most of their lives. The hind limbs and webbed feet are located just about as far back on the body as possible, and they are shortened to provide greater leverage as swimming paddles. When swimming underwater, loons propel themselves with their feet alone, using their wings to guide them one way or another.

Most birds have hollow, light weight bones to assist them in flight, but the bones of loons are almost solid. This adaptation allows them to dive easier and to greater depths. Loons can control the level at which they float. They can be fully upright like a duck or they can sink quietly with just their nostrils above water. When they are below the surface, their heart rate drops to use less oxygen, and many of their vital organs are adapted to function with low levels of oxygen.



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)
photo by John Borom

The photo of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) having a blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) snack was taken on the Bon Secour River in January. It reminds us of the importance of estuaries to other creatures as well as to humans.

Historical Ecology

In the fall of 2006, the staff of the Reserve sought out volunteers to assist in obtaining and organizing historical data relevant to Reserve functions. It soon became apparent that there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm among the volunteers and the title “Historical Ecology” was assigned to the project. The first hurdle was to provide the volunteers with a working definition of historical ecology. It is a multi-disciplinary investigation of the interacting relationship between humans and their environment through time. This definition implies that there are reciprocal relationships between humans and the environment. Humans are drivers of environmental modification and the environment is a driver of human actions. To better understand these relationships and their impact through time, multiple sources of information must be obtained and analyzed.

The first objective for the project volunteers was to acquire historic information (the what, when and where) and synthesize it into an integrative timeline of places, events, and landscape conditions. A complete explanation of ecological structure and function must involve reference to the actual sequence and the timing of the causal events that produce them. Given adequate information, the second objective of providing functional interpretations (the why and how) may be met. To keep the project feasible, initial and somewhat arbitrary spatial limits had to be made. We decided that our spatial limit would be the landscapes that lie within the Weeks Bay watershed, and that we would go back in time to the extent that the data would allow.

To accomplish objectives, project volunteers have and will continue to use an amalgam of data from the natural and social sciences. Narrative histories, both written and oral, photographs, maps, monitoring data, results of environmental research, and more will be incorporated into the end product. This project will further an understanding of ecological function and human response. This improved understanding can help guide decision making processes regarding research, stewardship, education and management.



Research Training



Dr. K.R. Clarke

Recent training for scientists was held at the Reserve as part of the Coastal Training Program (CTP). This training was on the Analysis of Multivariate Data from Ecology and Environmental Science, using PRIMER v6. This sophisticated software will help researchers to better evaluate ecological processes in the field. The workshop covered the statistical analysis of physical, chemical and biological data.

The workshop was led by **Dr. K. R. Clarke** (Director, PRIMER-E and an honorary fellow of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the Marine Biological Association of the UK). He is a researcher in ecological statistics and has worked for many years at the PML, where he was responsible for adapting and developing the methods underlying the PRIMER package. The program was a mixture of lectures on the methodology and computer lab sessions, and participants had the opportunity to bring some of their own data to the workshop. The emphasis throughout was on practical application and interpretation.



Scott Phipps (left) discusses research applications with Dr. Clark

This five-day session was quite successful and is an example of the ongoing opportunities at the Reserve through the Coastal Training Program. For more information contact **Mike Shelton** at (251) 928-9792 or visit www.coastaltraining-al.com.



Students and researchers from several universities and agencies attended the workshop

Mahogany Tide

An unusual coloration appeared in the Reserve on Tuesday, January 30, 2007. A slurry of dark brownish material with an orange tint was observed. This discoloration was under several inches of clear surface water moving in wisps of consolidated areas covering vast acreages in the lower Fish River and portions of Weeks Bay. Anecdotal reports were called in that described a brownish to orange coloration in the lower Magnolia River as early as Friday, January 26. Monitoring showed spikes in turbidity (water cloudiness) and following sample collections, an algal bloom was determined to have been caused by the dinoflagellate, *Prorocentrum minimum*, known to produce what is often referred to as a Mahogany Tide.



Prorocentrum minimum bloom as seen in bucket of water and cells under microscope

The dinoflagellate, *P. minimum*, contains reddish pigments and causes the water to have a brownish to mahogany hue. It occurs naturally in estuarine waters around the world and does not occur in fresh water. Nutrients, light, temperature and water flow are factors that enhance the blooms that have on occasion been associated with fish kills. The bloom did not persist, at first, past the mouth of Weeks Bay. Two weeks later, the area covered a vast portion of southeastern Mobile Bay (Bon Secour Bay) from north of Fort Morgan Peninsula to Fairhope. Organisms such as *P. minimum* have an ideal range of environmental factors in which they thrive. This must have occurred as the phytoplankton population grew to numbers as high as 370,000,000 cells per liter. No adverse effects of this bloom, such as a fish kill, have been observed to date.

Advisory Committee

Mike Dardeau recently accepted the position of Chair for the Weeks Bay Advisory Committee. This position is for two years and was formerly held by **Roger Clay** of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Mike works at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab directing Technical Support, a

unit that provides faculty and students with information, technology and services related to coastal research. He has a long association with the Reserve and conducted research here back in the 1980's. Some of his work involved the study of zooplankton, small marine animals that drift with the tides. In addition, he facilitated the beginning of the System-Wide Monitoring Program at the Reserve. He also had a lead role as one of the editors for the Reserve Site Profile published in 1996. The Reserve is a better place because of the dedication and leadership of Roger Clay and Mike Dardeau, and the Foundation appreciates their contributions.



Past Chair Roger Clay passes gavel to new Chair Mike Dardeau (right)

Technical Training

Hosted by Coastal Training Programs

Interactions between people and the environment present great challenges to coastal resource management. Weeks Bay Reserve in Alabama and Grand Bay Reserve in Mississippi jointly hosted a coastal decision maker workshop on the GIS tool, ArcHydro (ESRI, Redlands, CA). The training was designed to assist developers, planners, engineers and natural resource managers to better understand the impacts that changes to watersheds coupled with natural elements have on our coastal resources. The GIS tool evaluates the relationships between rainfall and terrain in order to better understand how these elements interact and impact the flow of water across watersheds to sensitive wetlands and coastal environments.



John Cartwright (left) and Louis Wasson (right) lead students in ArcHydro exercises.

John Cartwright and **Louis Wasson**, Research Associates at the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University were the instructors at the training held in Gautier, Mississippi. John has been involved with Weeks Bay Reserve for several years and was a Graduate Research Fellow. **Marian Dicas**, Grand Bay, and **Mike Shelton**, Weeks Bay, Coastal Training Program coordinators organized the workshop. ArcHydro has been one of several technical tools that assist resource managers.

Stewardship

Habitat Reference Sites



Pitcher plant bog habitat

Gulf Coast habitats have been used and modified for millennia by humans, and recently these modifications have occurred on a large scale. These changes often result in reduced environmental function and aesthetic appeal. Such habitats may be candidates for restoration efforts.

Often empirical data regarding past conditions for a specific habitat tract are not readily available or lacking entirely, which poses a problem for restoration managers. Without specific data regarding past abiotic and biotic conditions it is difficult to measure change, set attainable objectives, and define an end point goal for a restoration project. To resolve these issues a number of actions need to occur prior to restoration actions. One is to collect, synthesize and analyze as much historical data as possible. Another is to collect data from a reference site, a site that represents habitat conditions similar to those you wish to recreate.

Within the Weeks Bay management area three habitat types have been selected that best represent habitats likely to be restored in the near future. The



Marsh habitat

three habitat types are freshwater dominated marsh, estuarine marsh and pitcher plant bog. A variety of parameters will be measured at each site through the deployment of data logging devices, biota surveys, and chemical and geological analysis. This information, when combined with historic data, will enable habitat change analysis and reference site comparison. With this information available, future restoration efforts can be better planned, increasing the probability of success.

Did You Know?

by John Borom

Contrary to its name, the Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) does not occur in prairie habitats but rather in shrubby fields and early successional forests. It is a small songbird about four inches in length and the only warbler with a bright yellow face and underparts with a dark stripe through the eye. A v-shaped stripe separates the yellow below the eye from the yellow on the throat. Females and immature birds have duller coloring, and it eats mostly insects and spiders that it gleans from leaves and branches.

The Prairie Warbler breeds in brushy areas and forest edges in eastern North America. The nest is an open cup usually placed low in a tree or shrub. It winters from central Florida and the Bahamas south to Nicaragua and the Lesser Antilles.

Male Prairie Warblers sing two different types of songs, which closely resemble each other but differ in volume and speed. The “Type A” song is faster and directed at females for courtship and maintenance of the pair bond. The “Type B” song is sung at territory boundaries to discourage other males. It is interesting that females commonly eat the eggshells after their young hatch.



Prairie Warbler
(*Dendroica discolor*)
photo by Dave Cagnolatti

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the species has been declining in the United States at a rate of two percent annually since 1966. Declines are largely due to loss of breeding habitat through development and advanced succession from shrubby habitat to forests.

Active management including prescribed burning is necessary to create the required early successional shrubby vegetation. Because no single area can provide continually available habitat, a landscape level approach is necessary to provide a mosaic of different successional stages.

Our affiliation with birds like the Prairie Warbler has a moral consequence. The more we come to understand other creatures, the more our learning expands to include their vast diversity, and the greater the value we will place on them and, inevitably, on ourselves.

Volunteer Spotlight



Ed Wirgowski

Ed Wirgowski likes people. You only have to be around him for a short time to discover this, from the relaxed and friendly way he greets visitors to the Interpretive Center. It takes a little longer, however, to unearth Ed's many other facets, and his unusual hobbies. He is a member of the

"Dabbling Dulcimers," and also plays the "strum stick" (similar to a small banjo). He relaxes by carving miniature wooden shoes, and loves creating ceramic "Kilroy Was Here" figures.

Ed was born in Bay City, Michigan. He attended the University of Wyoming on an athletic scholarship where he played football and earned a degree in Marketing. He began working for General Motors and moved to Chicago, where his only daughter still lives. Upon retiring as a supervisor for General Motors, Ed and his wife **Diana** intended to move to Mexico, but they fell in love with this area while visiting friends in Georgia and traveling through Baldwin County. They decided to move south, if not as far south as Mexico, and bought a home in Foley, where they have lived for the past 13 years.

Ed's outgoing nature has led him to become actively involved in community life. After meeting **Jill McArthur** with the Master Gardeners at the Foley Library, Ed became a Master Gardener in 2002. He has chosen to do his public service for the Alabama Extension System, where he can meet and help people. Some of these activities include, giving trees to the public during Arbor Day, answering questions on the Master Gardener "hot line," and he fields many questions and provides educational materials during the plant sales.

Ed has manned the Master Gardener's information booth for the last several years at the Weeks Bay Native Plant Sale. During our last sale he expressed an interest in volunteering at the Reserve. After being informed of our critical ongoing need for help in the reception area, answering questions and greeting visitors, Ed agreed to help us fill this vital position. Weeks

Bay Reserve is fortunate to have someone with Ed's experience and interpersonal skills in this position, to serve as first contact with our visitors. When asked what he liked most about working at the Reserve, he said, "I enjoy talking to people from different areas of the country—I just enjoy meeting people." Perfect!

Lost Battles

The Foundation has been instrumental in the area of land protection since 1986. We have protected a total of 2,336 acres which includes 1,652 acres in the Weeks Bay watershed. The Foundation has won a few battles and lost a few battles. We could not have been successful in the area of land protection without the support of our membership.

The picture below illustrates an example of a lost battle. In 1997, the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation purchased the Safe Harbor RV Park and the Safe Harbor Marina at auction. The purchase of both of these parcels amounted to over \$1,500,000. There was an adjoining wetland parcel containing isolated wetlands that the Foundation could not economically purchase at that time. No one ever imagined that the isolated wetland parcel would be filled and devel-



oped into a small industrial park with mini storage units, billboards and a cell phone tower. This isolated wetland parcel was able to be developed due to the fact it was in an unzoned area. The Foundation is very grateful to have been able to protect the Safe Harbor RV Park property and the Safe Harbor Marina. Imagine what would have happened to this ecologically sensitive property in an unzoned area if it had been acquired by those who acquired this industrially developed parcel.

The Marina property was purchased through a cooperative effort organized by the Foundation, with support from **Ottile Halstead**, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The RV property was purchased by Coastal Land Trust and later conveyed to the Foundation.

Wildlife Heritage License

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) is supporting legislation in the upcoming state legislative session that will increase hunting and fishing license fees. As part of that legislation, a new license – the Alabama Wildlife Heritage License – is also being proposed. By voluntarily purchasing a Wildlife Heritage License, conservation-minded Alabamians can become stewards of wildlife by supporting wildlife habitat improvement and species conservation. License sales will support on-the-ground wildlife biology, research and habitat enhancement.



The proposed cost of \$10 annually per person for the Wildlife Heritage License will permit licensed Alabama residents to do the following:

- Freshwater fish statewide with a hook and a line from the bank
- Fish in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) operated public fishing lakes (daily permit required)
- Hunt small game, except waterfowl, on WFF Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) with no hunter safety course required
- Target practice on WFF managed public shooting ranges
- Be counted in the license certification for both Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration federal funds to help generate more money for state wildlife habitats.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR visit www.outdooralabama.com.

Water Festival

Baldwin County

Baldwin County has abundant surface water as well as groundwater. Creeks, rivers and bays provide endless recreational enjoyment and economic bounty. However, without protection both ground and surface waters will be in danger of degrading.



Foley Elementary students enjoy learning about the way sediment behaves in water.

The protection of drinking water supplies and the health of local waterways are vitally important to the people and economy of Baldwin County. Fourth grade students and teachers from many area schools were reminded of this fact at the Fourth Annual Baldwin County Water Festival held at the Daphne United Methodist Church on February 5th and 6th. Over



The edible aquifer is a great and yummy way to teach the importance of ground water resources.

1,050 students and teachers examined the structure of aquifers, the pollution in stormwater runoff and the behavior of pollutants in water. All the events at the Water Festival were designed to instill a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic in students and to educate them and their families about aspects of ground and surface waters and other related natural resources.

Students were engaged in dynamic, hands-on experiments. The Foundation provided funding for the Water Festival through the **Scott Ireland Memorial Fund**.

Nature's Calendar

by John Borom

White shrimp (*Penaeus setiferus*) spend part of their life offshore and part in the nutrient rich estuaries that are connected to the Gulf by passes. Mating and spawning take place offshore at depths of 42 to 150 feet. When these shrimp mate, a capsule containing sperm is transferred from the male to the female. White shrimp spawn two or three times when stimulated by temperature increases from March to October off Alabama. When conditions are suitable, the female releases her one-half to one million eggs and they are fertilized as they are released. Such free-spawning creatures must of necessity produce much greater quantities of eggs, by at least a thousand-fold, than related species which protect their eggs to some extent.

Twenty-four hours later the drifting eggs hatch into very simple nonfeeding larvae known as nauplii. They are mite-like in appearance and begin a planktonic existence. After five molts the egg yolk is exhausted, and the nauplius transforms into a free-feeding protozoa, then a mysis, and finally a postlarva. Each stage is more shrimp-like than the preceding, but all early stages are carried about at the mercy of the currents. Passage from the nauplius to the postlarval stage takes several weeks. The migration from offshore waters to coastal bays occurs during the last planktonic stage and shrimp enter estuarine nursery grounds as postlarvae. Once they move into brackish waters, the postlarvae abandon their planktonic way of life and become part of the benthic community.

The first young white shrimp make their appearance along our shores by early June, and are mostly less than an inch long. Juvenile growth is rapid, up to two and one half inches per month. The seagrass meadows, tidal creeks, marshes and mud flats provide abundant food and shelter. As the summer advances they attain lengths up to six inches and more by the end of August.



White Shrimp
(*Penaeus setiferus*)
photo provided by Auburn
Marine Extension & Research

When nearly mature, they begin to migrate out of the bays back to the Gulf. White shrimp, found in shallow waters, are caught mostly during daylight hours during the fall months. The last young recruits from the Gulf enter the estuarine nursery in early fall, but growth of these is retarded by cold weather. They resume growth the following spring and return to the Gulf by the summer solstice.

In the Gulf, adolescent white shrimp transform into adults whose lengths normally range from about seven to nine inches or more. The females average about nine to the pound and large males average about ten to the pound. The adult white shrimp forage on the sea bottom, somewhat like cattle on a ranch. When they mature, they breed and complete their life cycle.

Shop at the Bog!



Here are just a few of the items available for purchase at The Bog gift shop in the Foundation office. From hats to t-shirts and ornaments, we have the perfect gifts for the nature lover on your shopping list! Stop by or call (251) 990-5004 for more information.

- Long-sleeved Pitcher Plant t-shirt \$15.00
Green, Caramel, & Gray Colors
Adult and Youth sizes
- Eugenia Foster Watercolor t-shirt..... \$15.00
Adult and Youth sizes
- Long-billed cap with clip \$15.00
Khaki and Olive Colors
- Adult short-billed cap \$15.00
- Youth short-billed cap \$12.00
- Christmas ornaments \$10.00

Federal Evaluation



Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, a public meeting will be held as part of the federal performance evaluation of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at the Reserve.



The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comments regarding the Reserve's operation and implementation. The Reserve is part of the Coastal Section, Lands Division, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Written comments are encouraged, and participation at the public meeting is not required for submission. Written comments should be sent to **Ms. L. Christine McCay**, NOAA/NOS/OCRM, 1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM7, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or sent electronically to chris.mccay@noaa.gov, no later than Monday, April 9, 2007. If more information is needed regarding this public meeting, call **L.G. Adams** at (251) 928-9792.

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 ment!*

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Annual Memberships

Student \$10 Individual \$30 Family \$50
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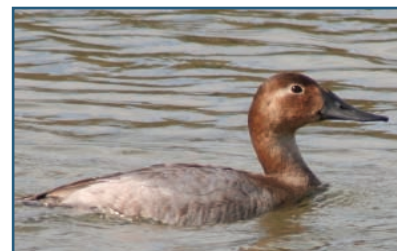


photo by John Borom

Canvasback
 (Aythya valisineria)

Spring Calendar

March

- 20-22 **Federal Evaluation of Weeks Bay Reserve.** Weeks Bay Interpretive Center and Auditorium.
- 21 **Public Comment Meeting for Federal Evaluation.** The public is invited to make comments regarding the Reserve's operation and implementation. Weeks Bay Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- 22 **Weeks Bay Advisory Committee Meeting.** Meeting will focus on the Federal Evaluation, in addition to updating this group on projects, programs, and activities at the Reserve. Weeks Bay Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.
- 24 **Auxiliary Safe Boating Course.** Boating course to obtain certification. Weeks Bay Auditorium, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call (251) 928-8249.

April

- 10 **Guest Lecture Series.** "Historical Ecology of the Weeks Bay Watershed" presented by **Eric Brunden**, Stewardship Coordinator, Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Five Rivers, Alabama's Delta Resource Center, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 14 **Discovery Day,** the Dauphin Island Sea Lab's Open House is a fun-filled event for the whole family. Free Kid's activities and much more. Contact **Lisa Young**, (251) 861-7509 or www.disl.org.
- 21 **Earth Day Celebration** at Five Rivers, Alabama's Delta Resource Center. Literature, events and activities for all ages. For more information, call **Amy King** at (251) 621-1216.
- 25 **Master Gardener Training Class.** **Fred Nation** will teach on native plants. Weeks Bay Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May

- 5 **Kid's Fishing Day.** A joint project of the Foundation and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Safe Harbor Pond, across U.S. 98 from the Weeks Bay Reserve. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, call **Walter Ernest** at (251) 990-5004.

- 8 **Guest Lecture Series.** "Coastal Bird Research" presented by **Dr. Mark Woodrey**, Research Coordinator, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Mississippi. Five Rivers, Alabama's Delta Resource Center, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 12 **Fish River Clean Up.** Volunteer clean up of Weeks Bay Area. Fish River Marina, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Mike Shelton** at (251) 928-9792.

June

- 16 **Eighth Annual Weeks Bay Photo Contest.** Entry deadline, June 16, 5:00 p.m. All entries must be delivered to the Reserve by the deadline date and time. Entry forms and contest rules are available on the Foundation website. For more information contact the Foundation office at (251) 990-5004 or visit www.weeksbay.org.
- 19-20 **Alabama Water Watch Teacher Workshop.** Watershed monitoring and management issues. Weeks Bay Auditorium, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact **Mike Shelton** at (251) 928-9792.

New SWMP Technician



Tim Lankford

The System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) at the Reserve has a new technician to oversee all the data collection, management, and reporting. **Tim Lankford** was hired in January 2007 to carry out the requirements of SWMP. Tim is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and chemistry. He also has extensive experience in computer systems, network operations, and software analysis from his work as a systems consultant for a private computer company. Having spent almost seven years in the Coast Guard as a Marine Science Technician, Tim brings a wealth of monitoring experience to the Reserve. His duties will include the maintenance of electronic water quality and atmospheric (weather) monitoring equipment as well as the chemical determination of various non point-source pollutants such as nutrients. In addition to his SWMP work, Tim will be assisting visiting researchers and participating in research projects initiated by the rest of the research and stewardship staff here at the Reserve. Please join us in welcoming Tim Lankford to the Weeks Bay family!

Photo Contest

Kid's Fishing Day

2006 Winner



*Best of Show - Azalea Caterpillar
Sherry Stimpson Frost
Fairhope, AL*

Join us for the 8th annual Kid's Fishing Day,
free of charge to all participants!

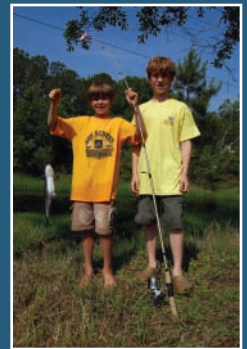
Saturday, May 5, 2007
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Weeks Bay Reserve
Safe Harbor Pond

For more information, contact the Foundation office
at (251) 990-5004 or visit www.weeksbay.org.

It's that time of year again... start preparing your pictures for the 8th annual Weeks Bay Photo Contest!

This year's entry deadline is Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. All entries must be delivered to the Reserve by this date. Entry forms and contest rules will be available on the Foundation website.

For more informaton, please call (251) 990-5004 or visit www.weeksbay.org.



Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation

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Conservation Leadership for America's Future



"The only way to save the diversity of life and come to peace with nature is through a widely shared knowledge of biology and what the findings of that science imply for the human condition."

- E. O. Wilson