

Pelican Post

A quarterly publication - Weeks Bay Foundation



Summer 2009
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"The Earth is not ours; it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations."

- African Proverb

Kid's Fishing Day Spring 2009

Fishing



Family



The 11th Annual Weeks Bay Kid's Fishing Day was a great success. Area children 15 years and younger were invited to fish in the Safe Harbor pond which had been stocked with 1,300 pounds of channel catfish earlier in the week. There was no charge to participate, however, a parent or guardian was required to accompany each child. Over 300 people attended, including 150 children who tried to catch their five-fish creel limit. Though not all caught their limit, everyone enjoyed the event. Volunteers cooked hot dogs and served Coca-Cola products.

Kid's Fishing Day was sponsored by the Foundation, the Reserve, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and State Lands Division Coastal Section, Baldwin County Commission, Danny's Fried Chicken and Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated. This event would not have been possible without the support of our event sponsors, volunteers and event donors.

Thank you.



Fun



Friends



From the Executive Director...



It is hard to believe that summer is just around the corner. The pitcher plants have bloomed and nests are full of young birds. It is a busy time for the Foundation as well as for wildlife. We have been increasing our efforts to partner with other organizations, and have three projects underway with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. These include the Gulf Regional Training Coordinator project, the Watershed Wagon project, and a movie theater non point source water pollution education project. We are also conducting a Fish River water-quality grant with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. A new Weeks Bay Foundation brochure has recently been completed.

The Foundation welcomed the addition of seven new members to the board of directors during the recent annual meeting. New board members are **John T. Crowder, Dennis Frodsham, Jim Gaines, Bob Holk, Cindy McBrearty, Dr. Phil Norris, Dr. Michael Quinn, and David Sutley.** **Carey Bentley** and **Jack Edwards** rotated off the board of directors. The Foundation is very grateful to Carey and Jack for their longtime service to the Foundation. Look for more information about the Foundation's new directors in the Fall issue of *The Pelican Post*.

The Foundation is still working towards land trust accreditation, and we are actively pursuing conservation properties for purchase, donation or potential conservation easements. These efforts are an important mission of the Foundation.

We thank the Weeks Bay Volunteers for their work landscaping the Foundation office with native plants and for donating four framed prints of scenes on Magnolia River. Please stop by and see the office when you can.



Carey Bentley and Maureen Nation presenting prints to the Foundation.

Remember to enter the Weeks Bay Photography Contest. The entry deadline is June 13. Also, remember the Alabama Coastal BirdFest is scheduled for October 15-18. The Foundation will have a food booth at the Bird and Conservation Expo on Saturday, in addition to our information booth.



I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Working for Conservation,

Walter

Kid's Fishing Day	2
From the Executive Director	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
Water Festival	4
Education Update	5
Longleaf Pine	5
Did You Know?	6
Employee Award	6
Estuarine Field Trip	6
6th Annual BirdFest	7
Alabama Coastal Cleanup	7
Estuarine Queen	8
Training Coordinator	8
Spring 2009 Calendar	9
Donors	10
Fish River	10
Watershed Wagon	11
Bill Ireland	12
Make a Difference	12

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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.

Cover Photo by
John Borom
Kid's Fishing Day

Layout and Design by
Kelly Anderson
KellyAndersonDesigns.com

Water Festival

After six years, the Baldwin County Water Festival remains an excellent educational field trip for eager Baldwin County students. On February 9 and 10, nearly 1,150 fourth graders and teachers were treated to the fast-paced educational experience. When the idea of a countywide watershed education program was being discussed, the commitment was made to host an event full of hands-on activities that would teach students about watershed and water-quality protection. Now, six Water Festivals later, over 5,500 students from local public and private schools have benefited from the knowledge gained at the event. The hands-on activities are designed to instill a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic in the students. In addition, the activities help the students make the connection between water and the ecology of the coastal areas. In 2009, activities included a model watershed, a coastal food web activity and the characterization of different types of pollutants in water. Thanks to all who helped make the Baldwin County Water Festival a success.



Education Specialist Angela Underwood engages students in the Coastal Food Web activity.



Fairhope Intermediate School students explore stormwater pollution with the Model Watershed.

Volunteer Spotlight

The Baldwin County Master Gardeners held their 12th Annual Spring Plant Sale on the grounds of Safe Harbor at Weeks Bay on May 3, 4 and 5. Despite the weak economy, this sale broke all previous records, becoming the most profitable plant sale ever held at the Reserve, and the Weeks Bay Volunteers are delighted by their success!

The Baldwin County Master Gardener program was begun in 1990 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as a volunteer auxiliary organization, designed to offer horticultural and gardening information to non-commercial consumers throughout the county. The Extension System provides intensive, in-depth training for these volunteers who, in return, agree to assist the Extension agents by providing horticultural expertise and education to their communities.



The Baldwin County Master Gardeners have freely given their labor and their expert assistance to countless projects and events at the Reserve over the past 18 years, and they continue to play an important role in the Weeks Bay Volunteers Annual Native Plant Sale each fall. We are proud of our association with this dedicated group of volunteers and look forward to working with them as we continue our important work, to educate the public as we protect our natural heritage and beautify Baldwin County.

Education Update

In April, the Baldwin County Grasses in Classes Program conducted three restoration projects. For the first project, Spanish Fort High School students planted black needle rush plants along an eroding shoreline at Camp Beckwith. Daphne High School students planted sea oats and bitter panicum grass on the dunes at Gulf State Park in the second project. Finally, Robertsdale High School students planted dune species as well as pine tree seedlings at Gulf State Park.



Daphne High School student planting sea oats



Spanish Fort High School students planting black needle rush along Weeks Bay

Recently, the Reserve partnered with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Auburn Marine Extension and Research Center and the Baldwin County Board of Education to establish an advisory committee on invasive exotics. Guidelines were developed for Baldwin County Public School teachers and students concerning the growing and/or raising of plants and animals on school campuses. Hopefully, this will help prevent the spread of invasive species in our area.

Longleaf Pine

The longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is found in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains from southeastern Virginia to central Florida and west to eastern Texas. The longleaf pine ecosystem dominated the southeastern Coastal Plain prior to European settlement. By the early 1900's, human activities had dramatically altered the landscape

of the longleaf pine ecosystem limiting it to less than three percent of the original range.

The longleaf pine is distinguished from other southern pines by its 8 to 15 inch long needles and 6 to 12 inch long cones. Longleaf pines are long-lived and mature trees may attain a height of 100 to 120 feet and a diameter of 2 1/2 feet. Its seeds are the largest of all southern pines and are a valuable food source to many animals which inhabit the forests.

Fire is necessary for the reproduction of the longleaf pine and the many herbaceous understory species that thrive below it. Every component of the forest is adapted for fire, including the timing of plant flowering and seeding and the nesting of ground-dwelling bird species. Longleaf seedlings have a special adaptation to fire – they grow in phases. They begin life in a “grass stage,” during which the tree puts all of its energy into developing a deep tap root, while keeping its “head down” below the hottest parts of the fire. In the next stage, the seedling grows several feet every year for a few years. If timed right, this growth spurt will allow the tree to be tall enough for the sensitive buds to escape the flames of subsequent fires. The final phase of growth for this pine is a long stage of maturity, in which the tree develops thick, flaky bark to protect the stem from frequent fires.

Public awareness of the importance of longleaf pine forests has increased in recent years due to the efforts of the Longleaf Alliance and various state and federal agencies.



Restoration efforts are occurring on most federal lands and some private lands within its historic range and are becoming increasingly successful with the increased availability of quality longleaf seedlings and the use of modern planting techniques. Regional initiatives to restore habitat are also taking place thanks to programs such as the Baldwin County Grasses in Classes program and the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. These restoration efforts will increase the acreage of longleaf pines in the Southeast and provide habitat for the plant and animal species associated with the ecosystem, ensuring its existence for generations to come.

Estuarine Field Trip

The Foundation and Reserve sponsored an educational tour of the estuary aboard the *Weeks Bay Explorer* on a beautiful morning in April. The trip was organized by **Gaye Lindsey**, and about 30 people were treated to a glimpse of estuarine wildlife. Highlights included a pod of bottlenose dolphins flipping southern flounders in the air, a huge Bald Eagle nest with young birds and adults, Ospreys feeding their young, Brown Pelicans and Forster's Terns diving for food, and herons and egrets



along the shore. This trip reminds us of the ecological importance of the Weeks Bay estuary and the beauty that surrounds us. The photos were taken by **Kathy Hicks** who



will be a featured presenter at the Alabama Coastal BirdFest in October.

Did You Know?

By **John Borom**

In breeding plumage, the Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) is identified by the bright rust-red crown, white eyebrow and black eye stripe. Its small size and habit of squatting close to the ground when feeding make it easy to overlook. It will usually retreat to nearby trees when flushed. Many North American sparrows line their nests with hair if they can, but the Chipping Sparrow uses so much that it is known



as the hair bird in many parts of the country. When horses were a more common part of the American scene, Chipping Sparrows used mostly horsehair, often building their nests with the long hairs from the tails or manes and then lining them with shorter hairs. They still make nests this way in horse country, where they can sometimes be seen tugging and nipping at a swishing tail, then flying off with a strand of hair trailing from their bills. However, they now mostly build their nests out of thin rootlets, then line the little cups with hairs from dogs, cattle, deer, rabbits, raccoons, or even humans.

Reserve Employee Award

Mark Cooper, Reserve Maintenance & Repair Supervisor, recently received recognition



from State Lands Division as their recommendation as an exemplary state employee. On May 13, **Patti Powell**, Lands Division Director, presented a certificate to Mark for his dedicated work at the Reserve. Congratulations to him for this well-deserved recognition at the highest level in the Lands Division.

Mark has worked for the state since November 1992. Originally contracted to build exhibit cabinetry for the Interpretive Center, he was later hired as a state merit employee. Since that time, Mark has consistently displayed characteristics of high motivation and attention to detail in all aspects of his job.

A skilled and talented employee, Mark takes great pride in his work and every project in which he participates. He is willing to take the lead in accomplishing tasks and following these through to a job well done. Whether it is carpentry, metal works, construction or trouble shooting special needs at the Reserve, he is always willing to solve problems and serve the needs of the state.

6th Annual BirdFest

by Fran Morley

Local birders will recognize the names of two featured speakers for the 2009 Alabama Coastal BirdFest, said **John Borom**, Foundation vice president, president of Mobile Bay Audubon Society and BirdFest chairman.

“**Kathy Hicks** and **Bill Summerour** are local residents, but we think they will present programs that will appeal to birders from all over the country who will be here for BirdFest this fall,” Borom said. “For opening night, we will have a presentation by photographer Kathy Hicks. Kathy is also a very talented graphic designer. She has created the BirdFest logo, featuring a Black Skimmer, each year since 2004. This year, she designed our 2009 poster using three of her Great Blue Heron photos. I think it’s going to be a very popular poster.”

A Baldwin County resident who grew up on the western shore of Mobile Bay, Kathy calls herself an ‘advanced amateur’ photographer, but her work has won several awards and has been used in *Forbes*, *Antique Road Show*, *Science Daily*, and *Outdoor Alabama*. She is also an exclusive photographer for iStockPhoto.com. Her show Thursday night is *A Gulf Coast Photo Journal*, a selection of her best birding shots, set to music.



“On Friday night, we will feature another birder and artist, Dr. Bill Summerour. Bill is as well known as an artist as he is as a biologist. His watercolor of a Purple Gallinule was featured on the 2005 BirdFest poster.”

A graduate of Auburn University, Bill earned

his Ph.D. in zoology at Mississippi State. He taught biology, zoology, botany and ornithology at Jacksonville State University for more than 20 years and was a visiting professor of biology at Virginia Military Institute. He spent seven years as editor of *Alabama Birdlife*, the Journal of the Alabama Ornithological Society. Since retiring in 1991, he



continues to photograph and paint birds and conduct research into Red Crossbills in the Talladega National Forest and Swainson’s Warbler in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Bill’s Friday night presentation, *Birding the Alabama Gulf Coast*, will highlight some of the best birding spots in our area.

This year’s BirdFest will feature repeats of favorite tours from years past and visits to new locations on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. Proceeds from the Alabama Coastal BirdFest are used to help preserve and protect bird and wildlife habitat on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Since 2004, the Alabama Coastal BirdFest has donated more than \$50,000 to help preserve habitat in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

The 6th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest is scheduled for October 15-18. Visit www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com for more information. Registration opens mid-July.

2009 Alabama Coastal Cleanup

Over the past twenty-one years, the **Alabama Coastal Cleanup** has removed over a million pounds of trash and debris from Alabama’s coastline. In its dedication to continue the effort, the 22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, September 19, 2009, 8:00 a.m. to noon**. Show your support and concern for Alabama’s waterways by participating. You or your organization can make a difference by volunteering to clean up our cherished coastal area.

For more information call the ADCNR State Lands-Coastal Section Office at (251) 621-1216.

Training Coordinator

The Foundation and the Gulf Coast Reserves welcome **Amy Gohres** as the Gulf Regional Training Coordinator. In this position, Ms. Gohres will work with the Coastal Training Program (CTP) Coordinators at the five Gulf Coast Reserves in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Texas to provide targeted professional workshops. This work will result in increased opportunities for professional audiences to access technology and continue their professional development. Workshops will promote activities that improve the health of the Gulf of Mexico by addressing the needs of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Teams and providing technical assistance to the Gulf States and local communities.



Ms. Gohres held her first workshop on May 7 in Spanish Fort with **Mike Shelton**, Weeks Bay Reserve CTP Coordinator. The “Coastal Terrestrial and Wetland Invasive Plants” workshop was held at the Wehle Nature Center at Blakeley Historical Park and included a classroom component and field tour. Participants were provided with expert information on the identification, ecology and practical control and prevention of damaging invasive terrestrial and wetland plants on the northern Gulf Coast. Workshop partners included the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Forestry Commission. Other upcoming workshops include “Innovative Floodplain Strategies: Application of No Adverse Impact Principles in Coastal Areas” hosted by the Apalachicola Reserve on May 28 in Cedar Key, Florida and “Living Shorelines” hosted by the Rookery Bay Reserve on June 3 in Naples, Florida.

“We are excited about these new partnerships and pleased to announce that Amy has

joined our team,” said **Walter Ernest**, Executive Director of the Weeks Bay Foundation. “This is a perfect example of partners working together to educate coastal decision makers and protect our coastal resources.”



Previously, Ms. Gohres was an Environmental Specialist for The Home Depot, with responsibilities for developing, implementing and managing companywide environmental initiatives. She earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering from Louisiana State University and a Master of Science in environmental engineering and science from Clemson University. A native of New Orleans, she currently resides in Daphne, Alabama. Project partners include the Weeks Bay Foundation, NOAA’s Coastal Services Center, Apalachicola Reserve, Grand Bay Reserve, Mission-Aransas Reserve, Rookery Bay Reserve, Weeks Bay Reserve, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Funding for this position comes from a grant through NOAA’s Coastal Services Center in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

Estuarine Queen

The *Estuarine Queen* recently received some much needed maintenance due to the generosity of the Weeks Bay community. The fifteen-year-old pontoon boat is used for education and research activities in and around Weeks Bay. Needing attention to the hull, deck, and engine, the boat was recently pulled out of the water to assist in making repairs. Several of our partners in the community assisted in this effort; their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Donald and Joyce Annan used their expertise to pull the 32-foot boat out of the water to scrape, clean, patch, and paint the hull. Over

the years a lot of fouling had accumulated with barnacles and algae growing along the bottom and sides. As one might imagine, this creates a lot of drag on the movement through the water and needs to be periodically removed followed by a fresh paint job.



Donald and Joyce Annan

Donald and Joyce have provided this donated service several times over the last decade. Donald tended to the *Estuarine Queen* as if it were second nature as his knowledge of boats comes from a wealth of experience. He has been building boats all his life and has worked on the repair and maintenance of innumerable vessels over the years. He spent eight years charter fishing, worked for a long time at Battleship Park, and spent most of his professional years in the Civil Service with the Army Reserve. Donald and Joyce settled in the Weeks Bay community, and have lived on Waterhole Branch since 1963. The Reserve appreciates the work and the donation of this valuable service.

Additional assistance came from **John Houser**, owner of **Blue Water Ships Stores** in Foley, and **Al Weeks**, manager of **River Park Marina** up Fish River near Big Daddy's Grill. The hull of the cleaned pontoons on the *Estuarine Queen* needed a new coat of antifouling paint. This paint is quite expensive; it's not your normal house paint. The price of one gallon was discounted, and a second was donated, compliments of John Houser and Blue Water Ship Stores. Also, the deck needed some preparation before being painted. This has been a problem due to the rainy weather in March and the wood not drying out. Al Weeks and River Park Marina donated a stall for the month of April and part of May. This allowed the deck to dry out to get ready for the preparation work and a new coat of epoxy paint. These donations represent community support of the Reserve and it is with such partnerships in the Weeks Bay community that the Reserve can do more with the resources at hand.

Summer 2009 Calendar

JUNE

- 1 **Jefferson Davis Day Holiday.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.
- 10 **Weeks Bay Advisory Committee Meeting.** Weeks Bay Resource Center, 2:00 p.m.
- 13 **Weeks Bay Photography Contest.** Deadline to deliver entries to the Weeks Bay Reserve is 4:00 p.m. today. For more information, call (251) 990-5004.
- 19 **Field Trip to Gaillard Island.** Join **Roger Clay** and **John Borom** to observe nesting Brown Pelicans, Laughing Gulls, Royal Terns, Sandwich Terns and Black-necked Stilts, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet at the marina at the Dog River Bridge in Mobile County. There will be a \$15 per person fee and space is limited to 20 people. For reservations call John Borom at (251) 990-0423.
- 22-26 **Coastal Discovery Day Camp.** Grades 4-6. Weeks Bay Resource Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (251) 928-2248.
- 23-24 **Project Wild/Aquatic Project Wet.** K-12 teacher training. Weeks Bay Auditorium and Classroom, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call (251) 928-9792.

JULY

- 3-4 **Fourth of July Holiday.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.
- 6-10 **Coastal Discovery Day Camp.** Grades 4-6. Weeks Bay Resource Center, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (251) 928-2248.

Thanks to Our Donors

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**Your Support is
 Essential to Our
 Environment!**

Fish River

by Rick Wallace

The river we know as Fish River was first named *Riviere Aux Poissons* according to the writings of a French carpenter who explored South Alabama with **Pierre Le Moynes d'Iberville** in the 1700s. It was also referred to as the *Rio del Pez* by the Spanish and appears on a 1771 British map as Fish River. A later map (1837) names it the North Branch of the Fish River and the Magnolia River as the East Branch of the Fish River.

Just in case you did not get it, *poissons* and *pez* both mean fish in their respective languages. So the idea that the 20 mile coastal stream that drains over a 100,000 acres of Baldwin County might have some fish in it was well established 300 years ago.

Modern anglers have been well aware of the abundance of finny creatures in Fish River for some time. Largemouth bass, "bream" (bluegill, etc.), spotted seatrout, and red drum are among the species commonly pursued by hundreds of fishermen during summer and fall.

Those four or five kinds of fish are just the tip of the iceberg that makes up the fish population of Fish River. There are 59 species of fish recorded from the river, not including some of the "saltier" species that are found in Weeks Bay.

Among the more common fish found in the river are striped mullet, Gulf menhaden (pogies), threadfin shad, and spotted gar. Striped mullet are the fish jumping entirely out of the water – often 2 or 3 jumps at a time. Menhaden and shad are the smaller, silvery fish that form large schools and are eaten by diving pelicans from above and unseen predator fish from below. Spotted gar are very common and may be seen at night under dock lights. They and other species of gar are also the fish that make a large swirl at the surface when they rise to get a gulp of air.

The other 50 species are a little more obscure. They are not readily seen because they

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are small, are not caught by anglers, or only live in some of the smaller, nearly inaccessible tributaries of Fish River.



Flagfin shiner, courtesy of Pat O'Neil, Geological Survey of Alabama.

A few species are unexpectedly colorful and if it wasn't for the efforts of dedicated fish scientists (ichthyologists), we would barely know they exist. One such species is the flagfin shiner, a minnow which is not uncommon in blackwater streams draining forested wetland areas.

Two other species are in the group of fish known as darters.



Gulf darter, courtesy of Pat O'Neil, Geological Survey of Alabama.

Darters can be as spectacular as any tropical fish you might see at the pet shop. Many of the most colorful ones occur in central to north Alabama in fast running, clear streams. But we have a couple of multicolor species living in the coastal area and in Fish River. One is the Gulf darter with its red and blue fins which has been found in a small tributary of Fish River. A second is the speckled darter with brilliant blue stripes also found in a small stream feeding into Fish River.

As you would expect, these fabulous fish and all the other critters living in Fish River depend on good water quality for their existence. The Weeks Bay Foundation and the Weeks Bay Reserve, with your help, are working to preserve water quality and the diversity of life found in Fish River.



Speckled darter, courtesy of Pat O'Neil, Geological Survey of Alabama.

Watershed Wagon

The Foundation, the Reserve and the Baldwin County Commission Natural Resources Planning Department will be implementing a new project entitled *Watershed Wagon: A Rolling Watershed Education Classroom*. Through a grant funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center in support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), the partners will be engaging local churches, civic groups, libraries and other organizations with hands-on activities involving the connection between land uses, potential pollution sources and water quality.

GOMA is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Environmental education is one of the six priority issues that it has addressed as regionally significant. In order to effectively engage this priority, the GOMA Environmental Education Network, coordinated through the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, received a grant from NOAA Coastal Services Center to fund Gulf-wide environmental education projects. The Network awarded funding to seventeen projects in the five Gulf States this month.



The GOMA grant received many applicants from the state of Alabama, but *Watershed Wagon* was selected for its creative and mobile approach to reach out to area communities. Be sure to check out the Foundation's website at www.weeksbay.org, or call the Foundation office at (251) 990-5004, to find out when the *Watershed Wagon* will be rolling into a location near you.

Weeks Bay Foundation

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*Pitcher Plants at the
Foundation's Juniper Preserve*

*"It seems to me that we all look at Nature too much, and live with her too little."
- Oscar Wilde*

Bill Ireland

On March 5, 2009, the Weeks Bay Foundation, as well as many other organizations across Alabama and the nation, lost a great benefactor, **Mr. William R. Ireland**. He has been called one of the best friends of Alabama's environment, and has certainly been a wonderful supporter of the Weeks Bay Foundation. Mr. Ireland's son, **Scott**, lived on Magnolia River and was an active member of the Foundation. Upon Scott's death, Mr. Ireland established the Foundation's **Scott Ireland Memorial Water-quality Fund**. This fund has been utilized by the Foundation for water-quality education and monitoring in the Weeks Bay watershed.



*Bill Ireland,
Friend of Conservation*

Mr. Ireland was very interested in preserving our environment. According to Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation President **Skipper Tonsmeire**, "On a visit to Weeks Bay Reserve, Bill and I went out on a boat tour of the Bay. Bill and I had wonderful conversations about conservation and protecting natural areas for future generations. Conservation was the main topic of our discussion during the boat trip."

Bill Ireland's wit and generosity will be remembered by all who knew him. Many generations to come will benefit from his work in conservation.

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.

Stewardship Fund: This is designed to assist with the costs associated with long-term stewardship of properties.

Gaynor McCown Environmental Education Fellowship Fund: This was established to assist with the educational outreach activities of the Reserve and Foundation. (This currently funds Education Assistant, **Casey Stephenson**, at the Reserve.)

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

Operating Fund: This is utilized to help with the day-to-day activities of the Foundation.

As a 501(c)3, the Foundation can accept gifts of real estate, stocks, and life insurance in addition to donations of cash. If you have questions regarding any of these funds, or other ways to support the Foundation, please contact **Walter Ernest** at (251) 990-5004.