

# THE Pelican Post

A quarterly publication - Weeks Bay Foundation



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*There was never a king like Solomon  
Not since the world began  
Yet Solomon talked to a butterfly  
As a man would talk to a man.*

**- Rudyard Kipling**

From the Executive Director	2
The Gift of Conservation	2
Christmas Ornaments	2
New Construction	3
Research Notes	3
Baker Branch	4
Tidal Datum Station	4
Leeches	5
BirdFest	6-7
Wetland Protection	8
GreenCoast 208	8
Good Search	8
Wetland Restoration	9
Sue Kimsey	9
Shop at the Bog	9
Exotic Beetle Traps	10
Charitable Trusts	10
Cell Phone Recycling	10
Calendar	11
Did You Know?	11
Donors	12

# From the Executive Director...



Recently, I had the pleasure to represent the Foundation at the 2007 National Land Conservation Meeting in Denver, Colorado. One of the things that really hit home with me was when Trust for Public Land Board President, **Charles Jordon** spoke and asked everyone in the audience, "Are we making a difference?" This is a very important question. Because of our membership, financial contributions and volunteers, the Foundation is making a difference in land conservation in coastal Alabama.

The Foundation and the Weeks Bay Reserve Coastal Training Program hosted a conservation easement seminar with attorney **Stephen Small**. It provided essential information for individuals seeking information about landowner conservation tools. We are grateful to Legacy Partners for Environmental Education and Alabama Department of Environmental Management for providing a grant to assist with the seminar. We are also grateful to the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Baldwin County Association of Realtors, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Lands Division and Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Fourth Annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest was very successful. Birders came from 19 states and Canada to view birds. In addition, over 1,500 people attended the free Bird and Conservation Expo, including my daughter, Elizabeth (see photo). Proceeds from this event will be used for bird habitat conservation on the Alabama coast.

The Foundation has been selected to undergo the Land Trust Alliance's accreditation process. We are one of 80 land trusts participating in this process, and one of 20 land trusts in the Southeastern United States.

Working for Conservation,

*Walter*

## *The Gift of Conservation!*

This Christmas, give a Foundation membership to your family and friends.

The Foundation will send a letter announcing your gift in time for the holidays.

In addition, they will receive *The Pelican Post* and other updates about the work of the Reserve and the Foundation during the year.

For more information, call the Foundation office at (251) 990-5004.

## *Christmas Ornaments!*



Remember to purchase your 2007 Weeks Bay Foundation commemorative Christmas ornament!

The ornament, depicting a spotted seatrout in the estuary, may be purchased for \$10 at Fairhope Pharmacy's Christmas 'Round the Corner, Eastern Shore Art Center, Weeks Bay Reserve or by contacting the Foundation office at (251) 990-5004.

Previous years' ornaments are also available at the Reserve and the Foundation office.

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### Executive Director

Walter C. Ernest, IV

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

## New Construction

As many have observed while driving across the new bridge over Fish River, construction has begun on the new Education, Research, and Community Center on Weeks Bay. The new structures will house various educational and outreach functions and provide classroom and meeting space for the Reserve.

The site under the bridge has historically been a center



*Architectural view of the Education, Research, and Community Center currently under construction on Weeks Bay*

of community activity largely due to the location of the boat ramp and close proximity to Weeks Bay. Acquisition of the property in 1997 was the result of a state, federal, and Foundation partnership. The Foundation took the lead in organizing support from the state and other local environmental organizations, in particular the Coastal Land Trust. A federal grant from NOAA was secured and over several years this property was paid for and transferred to the state. The property remained available for the public to launch boats. Following the destruction of Hurricane Ivan, state officials became committed to replacing the destroyed buildings. The waterfront site will become a hub of activity forming a base for field-oriented education and research. These projects will connect Reserve programs to various stakeholder groups and the public in general. Workshops will be offered as part of the Coastal Training Program; kindergarten through 12th grade classes will utilize the classroom; live educational programs will be broadcast via the World Wide Web from this location; and the facility will be available for the general public to visit through various outreach opportunities in the near future.

Construction is progressing well and the buildings should be complete by late spring of 2008. The facility will consist of two elevated buildings surrounded by observation decks overlooking beautiful Weeks Bay. Keep an eye on this site as the months go by and you will see the beginnings of a new milestone in the ongoing history of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

## Research Notes

One of the Reserve's current Graduate Research Fellows (GRFs) is **Charlyn Partridge**.

She is a Ph.D. student at Texas A&M University, and her research at Weeks Bay concerns the pipefish population found here and their response to ambient mercury concentration. The following description of her research was taken directly from the abstract of her GRF proposal.



*The Gulf pipefish is a relative of the seahorse.*

The Gulf pipefish (*Syngnathus scovelli*) is a euryhaline fish commonly found throughout Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This species is known to inhabit both estuarine and coastal habitats around Alabama, yet its population structure is unknown. This study will evaluate the population structure of the Gulf pipefish throughout Weeks Bay and Mobile Bay and will assess if population structure influences the effects of environment contaminants on species genetic diversity. Additionally, a genome chip DNA microarray currently being developed for the Gulf pipefish will be used to



*Weeks Bay Graduate Research Fellow Charlyn Partridge (left) and Dr. Anne Boettchler from the University of South Alabama (right) collecting Gulf pipefish in Fish River.*

examine the effects of non-point source pollutants on differential gene expression and may allow for the development of biomarkers for specific pollutants.

Recently, a film crew from France shot a sequence on Charlyn's research that will be shown on television in France and Germany next summer. The Reserve hopes to obtain a copy of the film sometime next spring. It is nice to have a little international attention to Weeks Bay Research!

## Baker Branch

To introduce Baker Branch watershed residents to the Restoration Project, two public meetings were held at the Alumni Building in Summerdale. On June 28, thirty residents heard **Mike Shelton**, Project Manager, explain the project goals and outcomes. In turn, Mike sought from area residents information on their perceptions of water quality and natural resource issues in the watershed. The process continued on July 12



*Red dirt road at the headwaters of Baker Branch*

when twelve residents met again in Summerdale looking at maps of the watershed and pinpointing potential action sites. Out of the discussions, residents recognized two significant issues: flooding and erosion problems. Changes in land use around the watershed and use of the Restoration Project funds to address problems were discussed. A close look at an aerial photograph of the branch revealed isolated wetlands which could be used as natural high water storage areas. Restoring sites for natural high water retention can go a long way to slow flow and clean runoff water.

Three area residents welcomed Mike into their homes to discuss the project and to examine reaches of the creek. Two sections of the branch, one along County Road 32 and another east of the County Road 55 bridge, were investigated. The location of the start of the perennial or flowing portion of the creek was identified. The stream reach along County Road 32 is a site where flooding has impacted homes. A third site investigated was along a dirt road. Dirt roads can be significant sources of both water and air pollution. Runoff from dirt roads can carry sediment, nutrients and organic chemicals and cause problems in the creek.

Funds provided by the Alabama Department of Environmental Mangement, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District for the project could be used to do restoration actions to address problems. Future public meetings will be held to inform residents of progress and recruit involvement. Efforts to form a Citizens Committee to lead the Project are ongoing.

## Tidal Datum Station

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently established a tidal datum station on Weeks Bay. This station will give extremely accurate real-time information on the water level at any given time. What makes it so accurate is that the station and its monitoring equipment have been surveyed in by multiple fixed benchmarks. This methodology allows measurements of water level to be very accurate, to tenths of an inch. Having this tidal data on Weeks Bay enables more accurate measurement of all the Reserve System-wide Monitoring Program data and provides new use of Mean High Tide to a more accurate level than ever before. Mean high tide is the dividing line between public and private lands in Alabama. Such data from this station will be available to assist the Reserve in ongoing conservation efforts.



*New tidal station surveyed in at Weeks Bay to provide most accurate real time monitoring information.*

Establishing tidal stations in the northern gulf areas became a goal of NOAA as a result of recent storm activities. Measurements from this station and others along the gulf coast during storm events will better assist future predictive forecasting of surge levels and hazards related to high water. In addition, such monitoring will contribute to establishing baseline data to measure any change in sea level. As climate change continues to be an issue impacting coastal areas, monitoring of tidal data becomes even more important for the future than perhaps it has been in the past.

The new tidal datum station on Weeks Bay demonstrates the benefit of the state-federal partnership found at the Reserve. This station will be accessible to the public for a real-time look at water level, providing a data base of information for both education and research. Whether it is used to plan for a fishing trip, delineate public lands for conservation, forecast impacts of storm events, or assist research investigations in the Reserve, this station will be a new asset exemplifying the Reserve partnership.

# Leeches: Medical Devices or Fish Bait?

by Lynn Yonge, MD

Reprinted from the Fall 2007 Alabama Wildlife magazine, a publication of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Until recently, when I thought of leeches, I pictured old African jungle movies where victims emerged from the water with black, slimy creatures stuck to their skin. After a fair amount of screaming, the leeches were removed as blood drained from the bites. Although this is a disturbing image, as a physician, I know that some leeches are actually used for medicinal purposes to reduce swelling and clotting in skin grafts and in the reattachment of limbs or fingers. Leeches secrete chemicals in their saliva that prevent pain and clotting; and in some cases, after surgery, the leeches are attached to the patient at the surgical site until they fill with blood and drop off. In 2004, the FDA classified medicinal leeches as medical devices. Like most people, I find the whole idea rather creepy, but my opinion of leeches has improved of late.

A man fishing in Fish River brought in a live leech (see photo) that had attached itself to his foot. He wondered if this particular species of leech commonly used humans as a food source. After observing the creature for several days, I photographed the leech and sent the photo to **Dr. Mark Siddall** of the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Siddall believes the leech in the photo to be of the genus *Placobdella* and probably species *papillifera*. **Paul Freeman**, an ecologist with the Nature Conservancy of Alabama, reviewed the photo and agreed the genus was *Placobdella* with the common name of turtle leech. Both scientists agree that exact identification of the creature is not possible from the image alone, but it does not appear to be a species that prefers humans as a host.

Just like their mammalian cousins in the bat family, few leeches actually suck blood from humans. Like bats, however, we tend to fear them all. Most leeches live in fresh, slow-moving water in temperate regions. They are generally reclusive creatures that live under rocks and logs. Leeches are stealthy by nature and respond to disturbances in the river bottom to seek their prey. The majority of leech species in the world attach themselves to fish or invertebrates like shrimp or snails. There is only one leech species in America that preferentially feeds on the blood of mammals. This particular leech is not found in Alabama. In this state,

leeches may be seen on fish, marine birds, turtles, frogs and shrimp.

Leeches are members of phylum Annelida, the same category as earthworms. The similarity is the segmented nature of their bodies. However, leeches have developed a more advanced form of feeding than worms. Their feeding patterns involve three basic forms: the jawed types that have teeth that create a wound which bleeds, those with a needle type nose (proboscis) that penetrates the skin of the host to suck blood from the host, and the third type that simply devours its prey whole. The first two types secrete a chemical to prevent the blood from clotting until after they are full. The leech brought to me by the fisherman was determined to be the second type with a proboscis. All leeches employ suckers on either end to hold themselves in place for feeding and travel. Some leeches can swim, but most employ inch worm type locomotion.



*Fish River leech*

So, what should you do if a leech attaches itself to you? The most effective way to remove a leech is to slide your fingernail under the sucker located at either end of the creature. Breaking the suction will usually cause the leech to drop off. Because leeches can carry harmful bacteria and parasites in their gut, it is not advisable to burn them with matches or coat them with salt. These procedures can cause regurgitation of stomach contents onto the skin surface or into a wound. If there is bleeding at the site of the wound, simply wash with soap and water, then cover with an antibiotic cream and a bandage. If you see signs of infection or allergic reactions such as redness or swelling, consult your physician.

Aside from their role as medical devices, leeches are commonly used as fish bait by our northern neighbors. I've found reference to fly fishing patterns designed to resemble leeches. I've never heard of leeches used as bait in Alabama, but their physical kinship with worms is undeniable. That said, I still don't want to handle them and I'm happy to leave them in the water knowing they probably won't harm me.

# BirdFest 2007 Was a Big Hit

by D. Fran Morley

The rains came down on two days, but the wet weather didn't keep the birds or the birders away from the Fourth Annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest. "We didn't have to cancel a trip," said **John Borom**, vice president of Weeks Bay Foundation and one of the event's organizers. The Foundation is a sponsor and serves as BirdFest's fiscal agent.

"We tell people that if the weather is wet, we might rearrange a trip, and we did do that on the first two days, but everyone saw birds and had a great time. The final two days were beautiful, so we had great weather for our Bird & Conservation Expo and for the tours on those days," Borom said.

As in previous years, birders from all over the United States attended the four-day festival. "We had visitors from 19 states and Canada this year, including California, Maine, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas. I think the word is getting out that the Alabama Coastal BirdFest is a great spot for birding," said **Fran Morley**, coordinator.

Proceeds from BirdFest are used to help preserve and protect habitat on the Alabama Gulf Coast, Borom said. "Our proceeds are used to purchase habitat land. In past years we've donated \$30,000, with the money going toward land purchases for the Weeks Bay Reserve and for the Audubon Bird Sanctuaries on Dauphin Island. We hope to make another donation this year, but in addition to raising money, the festival also serves to educate people about the need to preserve our vital Gulf Coast habitats."

In addition to 18 guided tours, the BirdFest included two evening events and a free, day-long Bird & Conservation Expo, with exhibits, speakers, vendors, artists, live birds and other animals, and kid's activities. On Thursday night at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, visitors enjoyed a presentation of works by photographer **Terry Hartley** of Mobile. Friday night's dinner at the Nix Center in Fairhope featured a talk by **Dr. Geoff Hill**, professor of ornithology and director of the Hill Lab at Auburn University.

Sponsors and supporters of the Alabama Coastal BirdFest include Mobile Bay Audubon Society, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Lands Division, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, Alabama Power, The Forum, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Faulkner State Community College, Degussa, Baldwin County Commission, Mobile County Commission, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary, Weeks Bay Foundation, Weeks Bay Reserve, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Talking Phone Book, City of Fairhope, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Shores Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Mobile Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau.

To see more photos from this year's festival, visit [www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com). Mark your calendar now for the Fifth Annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest, Oct. 16-19, 2008. Details will be posted online when they are available.





## Wetland Protection Workshops

The Coastal Training Program hosted three workshops highlighting several tools to identify ecologically-sensitive areas, assess their function and plan for their protection. The events began in September with a Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure workshop. **Boyd Gunsalus** with the South Florida Water Management District and developer of the assessment methods was the instructor for the two-day training. The method is designed to rate wetlands based on a series of functional criteria including habitat, wildlife utilization, plant types and hydrology. Twenty-four participants including private consultants and federal, state and local government officials attended.



*Jim Teaford (left) and Brian Mitchell (right) of Jones County (Mississippi) Junior College discuss wetland soil colors.*

Also in September, a workshop on conservation planning and writing local resource protection ordinances was held for twenty participants at the University of South Alabama Brookley Campus in Mobile. With the Southeast Watershed Forum, the Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Baldwin County Commission, the Alabama Department of

Environmental Management and others, CTP crafted a program designed to promote enhancement of local economies resulting from conservation planning. **Christine Olsenius** and **Jane Fowler** of the Southeast Watershed Forum, Chattanooga, Tennessee, conducted the conservation planning portion of the workshop. **Richard Davis** and **Phillip Walker** from the law firm of Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O'Neal of Birmingham, informed participants about writing local ordinances which are designed to protect wetlands, contain adequate enforcement capabilities and withstand legal challenges. Cabaniss has assisted other Alabama communities in writing conservation ordinances. Representatives from several coastal communities including Orange Beach, Dauphin Island, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida and Baldwin County were in attendance.

Private consultants and federal and state regulators attended the five-day Wetland Identification and Delineation Workshop held in October. The program was jointly sponsored by the Grand Bay Reserve, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Weeks Bay Reserve, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources State Lands and the Foundation. Instructors included **Gena Todia**, Wetland Resources, Daphne, and **Jim Teaford** of JW Teaford Company,

Eufaula, Alabama. The class delved into identifying the plants, soils and hydrology which define a wetland. Students were taught the procedures to find the boundary between the wetland and the upland areas and how to best prepare reports given to clients and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Instructors incorporated new methods still in draft form for classifying hydric or wetland soils. Workshop instruction was split between lecture and field exercises which challenged students hailing from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

## GreenCoast 2008



The two-day GreenCoast 2008/Green Expo is scheduled for April 9-10, 2008 in Mobile with the exact location to be announced. It

will feature interactive educational sessions on commercial and residential design and construction as well as public topics related to sustainability. It will also feature the latest products and services available to make construction and buildings more energy efficient, healthier and environmentally sound. Expert instructors will lead pertinent lectures and company professionals will be present to demonstrate products. On April 8 as a lead in for the conference, a workshop on LEED® or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (U.S. Green Building Council, Washington, DC; [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)) in New Construction will be held.

For more information contact **Mike Shelton** at (251) 928-9792 or visit [www.greencoastonline.com](http://www.greencoastonline.com)

## Good Search

What if every time you searched the internet you could also raise funds for conservation? Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter the Weeks Bay Foundation as your selected charity to support. Good Search.com will donate a penny to the Foundation every time you utilize their search engine. Good Search is powered by Yahoo! and donates half of its revenue to the charities its users designate. You utilize it just as you would any other search engine. Just 500 people searching four times a day would raise \$7,300 a year for the Foundation. Be sure to spread the word.



# Wetland Restoration

On September 28th, students from Daphne High School along with staff from the Reserve; Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, Coastal Section; and US Fish and Wildlife planted over 200 wetland plants along a shoreline at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. The students grew the bull tongue and pickerelweed plants in small wading pools in a greenhouse at Daphne High School. The Daphne High agriculture science students and their teacher, **Lance Harbison**, are part of the Baldwin County Grasses in Classes (BCGIC) Program. Six high schools in the county are involved with the program. More restorations are planned for later this fall.

The Grasses in Classes Program coordinates and sustains a network of teachers, students, restoration specialists, and other community members to plan and implement restoration of the hurricane ravaged coastal environments (dunes, salt marshes, submerged grass beds) of Baldwin County. **Margaret Sedlecky**, Education Coordinator at the Reserve, coordinates this program for the Baldwin County Schools. With guidance and assistance from restoration specialists and teachers, students grow native plants in outdoor nurseries they have constructed at their schools.



During the school year, students work with environmental agency personnel to implement restoration projects on public lands, planting the native vegetation which they have grown. Since 2005, over 1,000 students have participated in the BCGIC Program and have planted approximately 18,000 native plants in coastal restoration projects in Baldwin County.

# Sue Kimsey

**Sue Kimsey** is the newest employee at the Reserve. She was hired as an Administrative Support Assistant II and will assist the Reserve Manager with all fiscal functions and daily operations. In addition to acting as receptionist in the Interpretive Center, her duties include the control of office matters, support of record keeping and inventory and management of grants, contracts, reporting and budgets.

Sue grew up on a farm and graduated from Illinois



*Sue Kimsey joins Reserve staff as Administrative Support Assistant II.*

State University with a B.S. degree in Education, and she has a sincere appreciation for the environment. She says, “Working at the Reserve and promoting environmental education and research is just thrilling.” She lives in Baldwin County and enjoys kayaking on Bon Secour Bay and Weeks Bay.

# 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 Christmas list! Stop by or call (251) 990-5004 for more information.



- Pelican t-shirt ..... \$15.00  
*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

# Exotic Beetle Traps

Exotics have been an ongoing topic of concern for Reserve habitats and once again a new exotic is under investigation in the Reserve. Traps were set to sample for the presence or absence of the exotic redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). This small beetle has been found in other south-



Dana McReynolds of the Alabama Forestry Commission inspects traps set for the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle

eastern locales and can lead to the destruction of various trees, in particular the redbay. Ambrosia beetles can introduce a fungus into the tree that can eventually lead to its death. The Reserve has been fighting an ongoing battle to keep various terrestrial and aquatic exotic species from invading local habitats. This most recent effort is an attempt to monitor for the potential introduction of this beetle into our area. The effort was led by Dana

**McReynolds**, Forest Health Coordinator of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

A little background information may assist in understanding the potential threat of this exotic beetle. In 2003, redbay trees started dying around coastal South Carolina and Georgia. It was soon discovered that a fungus was causing the mortality. After close examination, researchers concluded that a non-native ambrosia beetle vectored this fungus



A) lateral view

B) dorsal view

into the tree. This ambrosia beetle is originally from Asia and generally attacks trees in the laurel family. The most susceptible tree is redbay, but sassafras, pondspice, camphor, and avocado trees are also susceptible. This beetle is currently present in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and is spreading at a rate of

20 miles per year. The beetle (actually the fungus) causes mortality to the host tree. Presently, there is no control method. The redbay ambrosia beetle is not known to have spread to Alabama yet, and the Alabama Forestry Commission wants to confirm that conclusion. It is believed that if the beetle is present in Alabama, it would have been introduced at the Port of Mobile in wood packing material (because that is how the beetle was introduced into Georgia). One can find more information about Laurel Wilt Disease by going to the following websites:

[www.gfc.state.ga.us/ForestManagement/LaurelWilt.cfm](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/ForestManagement/LaurelWilt.cfm)

[www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/x.glabratus.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/x.glabratus.html)

Dana set traps during September and October. The results of this project did not show the presence of the ambrosia beetle. Another sampling is planned for the spring of 2008 to sample again for this beetle, as well as other non-native species of beetles. Confronting the invasion of exotic species has been found to be most effective when dealt with soon after introduction is determined. This coordination with the Reserve is an example of the ongoing effort to continually monitor for exotic species here and in the surrounding region.

# Charitable Trusts

by Eric Nager, of Southern Capital Services in Daphne

It's always the season of giving, but what if you could support a worthy cause and potentially realize three different types of tax savings? Happily, the laws of our land allow you to do just that through establishing a charitable trust. A charitable trust is a legal instrument that allows you to set aside a gift, realize tax savings on that gift, and receive a current income from that gift for life.

Such a trust works best with an appreciated asset, such as property. As an example, let's suppose an individual has an unimproved, appreciated piece of land that is generating no current income. He hesitates to sell it because the capital gains taxes would be high. So he decides to set up a charitable trust naming a qualified charity such as the Weeks Bay Foundation as the beneficiary. The land is deeded to the trust and the trust sells the property. The donor then realizes the following benefits:

1. He gets a current year tax deduction for a portion of the gift.
2. He avoids all capital gains taxes when the property is sold.
3. He avoids potential estate taxes on the property since it is now out of his estate.
4. He gets a lifetime annual income for himself and his spouse established at a minimum of 5% of the value of the gift.
5. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he is helping the charitable organization continue its important mission through wise stewardship of funds.

Upon the decease of the donor and the spouse, the remainder goes to the named charity. Such a trust can also be set up whereby the current income goes to the charity and the remainder to a family heir. Either way, all parties benefit from such an arrangement which shows that it's possible to give and receive at the same time!

To explore whether such an instrument is a good fit for you, you should consult with your accounting and estate planning legal professionals.

For more information on charitable trusts or other planned giving options, contact the Foundation office at (251) 990-5004.

# Cell Phone Recycling

The Foundation is collecting cell phones for recycling. This is a way you can recycle your old cell phones and help support ongoing projects. Cell phones can be deposited in collection boxes at the Reserve, the Foundation office and the Fairhope campus of Faulkner State Community College. Pace Butler Corporation will purchase the recycled phones from the Foundation. For more information, call (251) 990-5004.

# Winter '07-'08 Calendar

## December

- 6 **Invasive Species Workshop “Ecology and Practical Control.”** Weeks Bay Auditorium, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Mike Shelton** at the Reserve, (251) 928-9792.
- 11 **Guest Lecture Series.** “Ethiopia: the Gift of the Nile” presented by **John and Beverly Winn.** Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7 p.m. Bring a friend and a plate of your special holiday goodies (finger food only) to share around the Wassail Bowl.
- 13 **Weeks Bay Advisory Committee Meeting.** Weeks Bay Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.
- 14 **Weeks Bay Reserve Holiday Open House.** Open House with refreshments, Interpretive Center, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 25 **Christmas Holiday.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

## January

- 1 **New Year’s Day Holiday.** 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.** “Grand Canyon National Park, June 2007” presented by **John Borom.** Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 21 **Martin Luther King and Robert E. Lee’s Birthday Holiday.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

## February

- 5 **Mardi Gras Day.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.
- 12 **Guest Lecture Series.** “Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, July 2007” presented by **John Borom.** Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 18 **President’s Day.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.
- 18-19 **Baldwin County Water Festival.** Daphne United Methodist Church, Main Street, Daphne, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Mike Shelton** at the Reserve, (251) 928-9792.

## Did You Know?

by John Borom

The Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) is commonly seen in parks and gardens as well as open country where wildflowers thrive. The name comes from the fact that migrating flights are sometimes seen over the Gulf of Mexico. It is not a true fritillary but one of the longwings, a group of mostly tropical butterflies whose forewings are often twice as long as they are wide.



The larva feed exclusively on various species of passionflower, which are toxic. This toxin stays in the larva, making it poisonous to predators. The cover photograph and the one above were taken on the Kurt G. Wintermeyer Boardwalk.

# Thanks to Our Donors...

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Bald Eagle  
(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Photo by Marlene Casten

When the bird and the book disagree, always believe the bird.  
- Birdwatcher's Proverb