



# THE PELICAN POST

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2011 Weeks Bay Photography Contest Best of Show

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## From the Executive Director . . .



It has been a very busy summer. The Foundation held our annual Weeks Bay Kids Fishing Day, Weeks Bay Photography Contest, and the Bald Eagle Bash. All of these events were very successful, and would not have been so without the support of our members, donors, and volunteers.

I had the pleasure to speak to the Baldwin County Road Builders and the Mobile Bay Sierra Club this summer. Please contact the Foundation office if you would like me to speak to your organization about the Weeks Bay Foundation.

The Foundation continued working with Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., on a conservation easement that will encompass all of their birding preserves on Dauphin Island. This partnership will add an additional level of protection that will ensure that these preserves will be maintained in perpetuity in their natural, undeveloped state. We also received a generous donation of 26.1 acres of wetland property from a conservation donor.

We look forward to the upcoming Eighth Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest, scheduled for October 6-8. Please check it out on the Foundation's web site at [www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org), or visit [www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com) and register today. Remember that conservation is perpetual and we must continuously work to conserve our natural resources. Please consider donating a conservation easement or property to the Weeks Bay Foundation.

Working for Conservation,

*Walter*

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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:  
2011 Best of Show  
by Lisa Comer

Layout & Design by  
Kathy Hicks

## Stone Creek Donation

by Walter Ernest, Weeks Bay Foundation Executive Director

The Foundation recently received a 26.1 acre wetland donation from **181 Properties, LLC**. This parcel has frontage on Cowpen Creek and Highway 181. Cowpen Creek flows from near the City of Fairhope to Fish River. The Foundation has been working with the Reserve's Watershed Project to obtain funds to restore and create a riparian buffer on the creek. The buffer will protect critical wetlands and allow for improvement of long-term water quality conditions.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust, the Foundation has the ability to accept conservation and trade land donations of property. Conservation property is held for conservation purposes and trade land properties are non-conservation property donations that can be sold at a later date to fund future projects. Examples of trade land properties include residential and commercial properties. For more information about conservation options that are available when donating property to the Weeks Bay Foundation, contact **Walter Ernest**, Executive Director, at [walter@weeksbay.org](mailto:walter@weeksbay.org).



# 2011 Weeks Bay Photography Contest Winners



The Foundation's 12th Annual Weeks Bay Photography Contest had 73 beautiful entries, and it was recently conducted at the Arthur C. (Skipper) Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center. This year's sponsors were the Eastern Shore Art Center and the Mapp Family Foundation. The contest does a great job of raising public awareness of the great biodiversity of Coastal Alabama. The winning photos were displayed during the month of July at the Eastern Shore Art Center as well as on the Foundation's website, [www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org).

## Best of Show

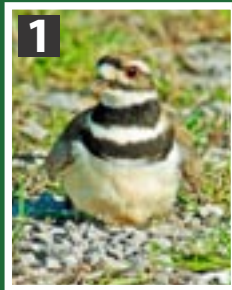
### Open Flora

- 1st: Lisa Comer
- 2nd: Sherry Stimpson Frost
- 3rd: Lisa Comer



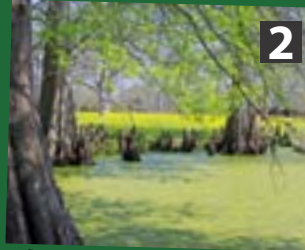
### Open Fauna

- 1st: Sherry Stimpson Frost
- 2nd: Ruth Spicer
- 3rd: Georgia Sims



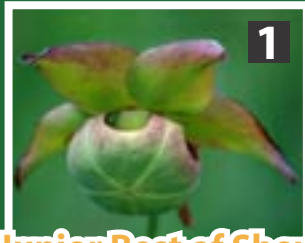
### Open Habitat

- 1st: Louise Childs
- 2nd: Sherry Stimpson Frost
- 3rd: Ruth Spicer



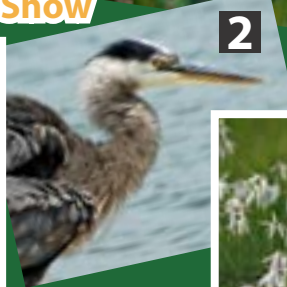
### Junior Flora

- 1st: Bess Diard
- 2nd: Bess Diard
- 3rd: Emily Kilgore



### Junior Fauna

- 1st: Bess Diard
- 2nd: Bess Diard



### Junior Habitat

- 1st: Bess Diard
- 2nd: Bess Diard



## Three Times a Charm

by L.G. Adams, Weeks Bay Reserve Manager

Weeks Bay Reserve and staff received three awards this year recognizing programs of research, education, and stewardship. As many friends of the Reserve know, Reserve staff work like superstars to pursue programs of excellence in conservation of coastal resources. From the Watershed Wagon exhibitions to summer estuary camps the staff utilize a variety of methods to engage the public, educate future generations, and learn more about estuaries through science. All of this effort is to be better stewards and assist best management decisions.

**Dr. Scott Phipps**, Research Coordinator, has for many years led the research program at Weeks Bay Reserve. His investigation of coastal topics assists transferring science to management in

making best decisions impacting conservation of coastal resources in a most positive way. In addition, Dr. Phipps facilitates other research groups and institutions to conduct research in the Weeks Bay Coastal Area. Scott's expertise and initiative to provide resources and direction to visiting researchers has gained recognition from many. In January of this year, the Reserve was recognized by receiving the **Outstanding Research Collaborator Award** from the University of South Alabama Faculty Senate. Congratulations to Scott and all those who make the research at the Reserve so outstanding.

**Margaret Sedlecky** greets school groups from coastal Alabama day to day, week to week, throughout the school year. Her coordination and facilitation of education at the Reserve has gained recognition far and wide. As Education Coordinator, Margaret teaches students from local schools and fills a national role coordinating programs at Weeks Bay with those around the nation at the other 27 National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR). Over the last few years, Ms. Sedlecky implemented the Grasses in Classes program where students grow plants for restoration and go into the field restoring acres of wetlands. All these achievements have been recognized by the Environmental Law Institute presenting Margaret Sedlecky with the **2011 National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach**. Congratulations to



Eric Brunden, Dr. Scott Phipps, and Margaret Sedlecky with Weeks Bay Reserve awards

Margaret and all those volunteers and staff assisting the educational programs at Weeks Bay Reserve.

**Eric Brunden** wears quite a few hats at Weeks Bay Reserve. As Stewardship Coordinator, his main role is to evaluate on the ground needs for resource protection and restoration. This involves habitat mapping, review of human impacts, combatting exotic and invasive species, grant writing, and planning and implementing restoration projects. In addition Eric is the certified captain providing boat trips, he performs monthly nutrient sampling as required by federal grant funds, evaluates coastal lands for acquisition, and interacts with other Stewardship Coordinators in the NERR System. Mr. Brunden also applies for AmeriCorps volunteers to support the many program needs of conservation at the Reserve. To be successful, applications must meet certain requirements that give the volunteers a well-rounded experience. In recognition of Eric's lead, Weeks Bay Reserve recently received the **Sponsor Innovation Award from AmeriCorps**. This highlighted the Reserve for engaging AmeriCorps NCCC members (National Civilian Community Corps, Southern Region) in enriching service opportunities and learning experiences, addressing community needs through innovative approaches, and overall promotion of volunteerism and National Service. Congratulations to Eric Brunden and all those supporters that contribute to stewardship at Weeks Bay Reserve.

## The Herbarium Revisited

by Maureen Nation, Weeks Bay Reserve Volunteer Coordinator

Since it was featured in the Spring 2003 issue of *The Pelican Post*, the herbarium at Weeks Bay Reserve has continued to grow in size and in importance as a research tool. During those eight years, the herbarium, which is staffed and funded strictly as a volunteer project, has increased in size by 40 percent, from less than 1,100 plant specimens to around 1,800. These specimens are preserved and organized to document the plants that grow outside of cultivation in Weeks Bay Reserve and Baldwin County. Each dried and pressed specimen is mounted on acid-free paper, with a detailed label that describes the time



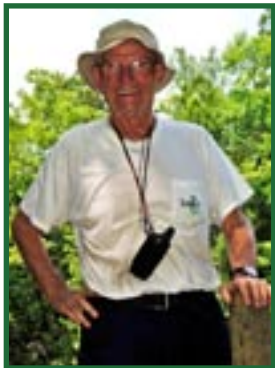
A rare species herbarium specimen: Yellow-fringed Orchid, photographed by Weeks Bay volunteer Richard Coram



and place of collection, and each one is entered into a database.

Expanded access to Weeks Bay's herbarium data has been dramatic in the past several years. Thanks to Reserve Education Specialist **Angela Underwood**, the herbarium is on-line! Researchers worldwide can use the internet to access the entire plant list, and there is a separate on-line listing of local plants of conservation concern. Weeks Bay volunteer extraordinaire **Richard Coram** used his own equipment and spent many long hours to capture beautiful images of actual specimens of some of the rare plants in the herbarium. These images can also be viewed and printed on-line. The website to view Weeks Bay's herbarium and images is [www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/statelands/weeksbay/herbarium](http://www.outdooralabama.com/public-lands/statelands/weeksbay/herbarium).

Since its beginning, Weeks Bay volunteer **Harry Larsen** has worked tirelessly to develop



Harry Larsen botanizing in the field

the herbarium. Dr. Larsen's comments, offered more than eight years ago, are clear, elegant, and relevant: "Even today, with all of our technical capabilities, dried specimens are still the best means for botanists and other researchers to document and verify the presence of plant species in a given area. A century from now, people will be able to

examine the specimens that we are collecting today, to confirm which plants were present in Baldwin County during the last days of the twentieth, and the early twenty-first centuries. Unfortunately, with our rapid development, many of these plants may disappear and their historical presence in Baldwin County will be established only by specimens in the herbarium at Weeks Bay Reserve."

## Feral Hogs

by Eric Brunden, Weeks Bay Reserve Stewardship Coordinator, and Angela Underwood, Education Specialist

Recently, visitors have noticed an alarming disturbance within the Weeks Bay Pitcher Plant Bog. This damage is caused by an alien species that not only threatens to destroy portions of our beloved bog but also other vulnerable natural areas within the Reserve. This threat is not a new threat, but because of the extended periods of drought, the invader has

moved to wetter wallowing grounds which include the bog area. What is this menace you may ask—it is none other than the feral hog.

The feral hog (*Sus scrofa*) in Alabama is a non-native invasive species that was brought to the Southeast centuries ago by Spanish and French explorers. Feral hogs degrade wildlife habitat and private property, compete with native wildlife for food, and can pose a threat to humans, pets, and domestic livestock through the spread of disease. Feral hogs generally travel in



Non-native feral hog that can cause damage to sensitive habitats like the pitcher plant bog

family groups called sounders, comprised normally of two sows and their young. The rooting and wallowing behavior of feral hogs contributes to soil erosion, reduces water quality, and damages agricultural crops and hay fields. The rooting behavior also destroys sensitive natural areas such as marshes, bogs, and springs, and can degrade or eliminate valuable habitats of threatened or endangered species of native plants.

Feral hogs are capable of breeding at six months of age provided there is good nutrition. Gestation is around 115 days with an average litter size of four to six, but under good conditions, a sow may have ten to twelve young. Feral hogs are capable of reproducing twice per year. This high reproductive rate translates into exponential population growth. Under ideal conditions a pair of feral hogs can, in a little over two years, produce a population in excess of 1,500 hogs!

Extensive damage resulting from feral hog invasion has been noted on numerous state owned lands within the Weeks Bay Reserve management area, specifically the Pitcher Plant Bog, Upland Trail, and Ogburn Tracts. These tracts contain critically imperiled habitat as well as threatened and endangered species. In house staff efforts to control the exploding population of feral hogs have proven less than ideal in reducing the feral hog population to a level where impacts are minimized. Currently deployment of additional traps is taking place in an effort to protect state owned natural resources, minimize risk of disease and agricultural damage, and enhance the visitor experience.





## A PARTY FOR PRESERVATION!

The second annual Bald Eagle Bash was a huge success. On the first Saturday in June, throngs of Weeks Bay Foundation supporters enjoyed hundreds of pounds of Alabama Wild Shrimp cooked in various ways by the chefs of some of Baldwin County's finest restaurants. Many folks also enjoyed dry Spanish sangrias, wine, beer, and soft drinks. The Locust Fork Band provided the music, and the view along the north shore of beautiful Weeks Bay was an enchanting reminder of what we came together to preserve.

We saw old friends of the Foundation and made new friends that understand the importance of preserving the habitat for birds and fish as well as making sure that the beauty of our coastal environment is passed on to the generations that will follow us. It was an event that was hard to beat, a fun party with great food in a beautiful location.

Thanks to all the restaurants and sponsors who helped to make the Bald Eagle Bash a tremendous success.

Remember to put the third annual Bald Eagle Bash on your calendar on June 2, 2012, and join us for next year's Party for Preservation!



Photos courtesy of Kathy Hicks



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Special thanks to the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division, for allowing us to host the Bald Eagle Bash at the Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center



## Thanks to Our Donors May to July

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Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
 National Estuarine Research Reserve Association

NOAA Coastal Services Center TogetherGreen  
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 Weeks Bay Volunteers

**Become a part of the Weeks Bay Foundation! Join us by returning the enclosed envelope or look for the link on our home page at [www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org).**

### Giving Levels

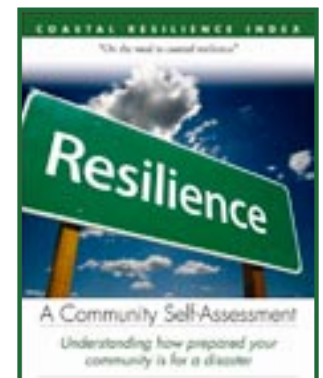
Legacy Circle	\$5,000 and up
Sustainer	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Steward	\$ 500 - \$999
Supporter	\$ 250 - \$499
Friend	\$ 100 - \$249
Member	\$ 35 - \$99

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## *Helping Local Communities Prepare for Disasters*

by Amy Gohres, Regional Coastal Training Coordinator

With the start of the 2011 hurricane season and recovery from last year's Gulf oil spill still underway, sustainability amid crisis is more important than ever. In partnership with the Foundation's Regional Coordinator, Weeks Bay Reserve's Coastal Training Program is using the **Coastal Resilience Index** to assist local communities in preparing for storms, disasters, and a changing climate. The purpose of the Resilience Index is to provide a simple, inexpensive method for community leaders to assess their community's ability to bounce back from disasters. In April, Weeks Bay Reserve worked with the Town of Magnolia Springs to complete the Resilience Index for the community. Results and possible next steps were then discussed during a Town Council workshop session. The project was so successful that the Reserve repeated the exercise with the Town of Perdido Beach. As a result of this work, both towns are becoming more prepared for storms and disasters.



### *In support of Kid's Fishing Day*

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## *ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program*

by Walter Ernest, Weeks Bay Foundation  
Executive Director



The Weeks Bay Foundation received a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation in order to employ a college intern for eight weeks. The goal of the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program is to familiarize college students with the operations of a non-profit organization and encourage non-profit service among students.

**Chase Mannich** of Fairhope was selected as the Foundation's 2011 summer intern. This fall, he will be a sophomore at the University of South Alabama, majoring in pre-medicine. Chase is a third generation native of Fairhope and previously attended Faulkner State Community College. When asked what was his favorite activity, Chase replied, "I enjoyed all of the activities; it was a treat to be able to work with the Reserve and the Foundation on many different projects. My favorite activity was working with the children during the Squeaky Sneakers summer camp. I also enjoyed stream profiling. I did not realize the work involved in the field of natural resource management and how a non-profit organization like the Foundation works so closely with state and federal agencies." The Weeks Bay Foundation thanks the ExxonMobil Foundation for allowing Chase to serve as the 2011 ExxonMobil Weeks Bay Community Summer Jobs Intern. We wish him well in the rest of his course studies at the University of South Alabama.



being done in the state to benefit rare and declining bird species.

"We're very pleased that Eric agreed to be our main speaker this year," said BirdFest Nestkeeper **Fran Morley**. "He's a popular BirdFest guide, very entertaining and informative, and his Friday night talk will be the same." This year's Friday night Seafood Social and Barbecue has a new location, the Fellowship Hall at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Fairhope. "Other than the location, everything else about the night will be the same, and the doors will open at 5:30 with great music."



Eric Soehren, keynote speaker for Alabama Coastal BirdFest

As manager of the Elhew Field Station, located on the Wehle Forever Wild Tract near Midway, Alabama, Eric's responsibilities include conducting field surveys for rare and poorly known faunal species, performing numerous non-game monitoring and research projects, and coordinating conservation outreach at the Wehle Center.

One of BirdFest's most in-demand guides, Eric currently serves as President of the Alabama Ornithological Society, is a state coordinator for the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, holds a Master Permit to band birds through the USGS Bird Banding Lab, is a member of the Board of Directors for the Inland Bird Banding Association, and assists with a migration banding station at Whigg Meadow, Tennessee, in the Cherokee National Forest.

Another change for this year is the \$15 registration fee required for all BirdFest attendees registering for any tour or the Friday night dinner. "In keeping with what other festivals around the country do, and to help pay for BirdFest, we have initiated this new fee," Morley said. "With that \$15 fee, our guests may attend the Wednesday night Preview/Reception (no reservation required) and they'll get a copy of this year's poster. In all, that's a \$40 value, so it's a pretty good deal." Advance



Eric Soehren guiding a Birdfest field trip

## *2011 BirdFest*

by D. Fran Morley, BirdFest Nestkeeper

The keynote speaker for this year's Alabama Coastal BirdFest is a familiar face. **Eric Soehren**, a zoologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's State Lands Division, will speak on the great diversity of birds found on the Alabama Gulf Coast and about work

registration is required for all trips as well as the Friday night dinner. To register, visit [www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com](http://www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com).

“We strongly encourage everyone who can to register on-line,” Morley said. “There is a small service fee, but on-line registration is fast, safe, and efficient.”



BirdFest artist Sherry Stimpson Frost with John Borom and this year's poster

## *CTP Workshops* by Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay Reserve Coastal Training Coordinator

Weeks Bay Reserve Coastal Training Program (CTP) with Grand Bay Reserve and Auburn University hosted workshops to improve coastal planning using powerful computer tools and to reduce development impacts. With **Avia Huisman**, Grand Bay Reserve Training Coordinator, **Mike Shelton** hosted two workshops on computer-based planning tools at the Estuarine Education Center in Gautier, Mississippi.

The first, ***GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning***, was a four-day course taught by NOAA Coastal Services Center and The Conservation



Low Impact Development workshop participants develop designs for constructed wetlands to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff

Fund. It taught students how to apply geographic information system (GIS) tools, methodologies, and analyses to strategic conservation planning using a “green infrastructure” approach. GIS technicians and coastal planners developed conservation priorities and strategies in a series of realistic conservation scenarios in the classroom. On the heels of strategic planning workshop, came the one-day ***Habitat Priority Planner*** workshop. The GIS-based tool is used to help in making better decisions about land use, conservation, and restoration. Again, students applied the tool in different scenarios to answer basic questions about the landscape like locations of endangered species, wetlands, and already protected lands. Using the tool to examine this accumulated data, resource managers can make better decisions on how new restoration projects fit into the environment.

In addition to the GIS workshops, Weeks Bay Reserve CTP with Auburn University conducted a series of four one-day workshops on Low Impact

Development (LID) practices. LID practices are designed to reduce negative effects on the environment by reducing stormwater runoff or remove pollutants contained in runoff water. The workshops were developed for consultants, engineers, and planners to provide them with the skills to install the innovative practices and to use them in new construction and retrofits. **Katie Dylewski** and **Jessica Roberts**, Auburn University Extension Specialists, led lectures and design activities on permeable paving, bioretention, engineered swales, and stormwater wetlands. Students developed technical designs on realistic project sites to demonstrate proficiency with the LID tools.

## *River Cleanup: Still Going at 15* by Mike Shelton, Weeks Bay Reserve Watershed Coordinator

On the second Saturday in May without fail, volunteers congregate at the mouth of Fish River to give something back to a place about which they care. They do not come for the door prizes, the t-shirts, or the free lunch. They come because they know Weeks Bay and the rivers and creeks that flow into the bay are worth keeping clean. Several volunteers at the annual Weeks Bay Area River Cleanup have come to most if not all of the 15 years the Weeks Bay Reserve and the Weeks Bay Watershed Project have



Lydia Miller; Morghan Ray, 10 yr cleanup veteran; Dax Lopez; Malachi Ray and Amanda Edwards (l to r) show their spirit at the 2011 Week Bay Area River Cleanup

hosted the event. **Morghan Ray** and mother, **Aletha**, made it for ten straight years in 2011. The **Holts**, the **Allens**, the **Perkins**, the **Wilkes**, the **Nelsons**, and **Phillip Hinesley**, all veteran volunteers, did their part to collect over 2,000 lbs of trash from shorelines and bridge crossings around the creeks that feed Weeks Bay. New to this year's cleanup was **Katie Brayer**, **Patsy Cochran**, and members of **Fresh Air Family**, a group which offers a variety of outdoor activities for individuals of all ages. Many thanks go out to the volunteers that picked up trash and to those that helped organize and conduct the event. **Casey Stephenson**, **Harry Anderson**, and **Tom Luscombe** of the Weeks Bay Volunteers, and **Sara Johnston** and **Maureen Nation**, Weeks Bay Reserve, worked very hard to make River Cleanup run smoothly.



In addition to the cleanup, volunteers were treated to a paddling safety demonstration by **Harriet King-Ingraham** and **David Kellet** of the Fairhope Boat Company. The Coast Guard Auxiliary was onsite conducting boat inspections and a knot tying class. Our sponsors provided generous support to the Weeks Bay Area River Cleanup. Alabama Power's Renew-Our-Rivers program, the Baldwin County Commission, **Jim Ransom** of the Solid Waste Department, the Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, **Greer Radcliff**, and the Weeks Bay Foundation contributed mightily to our success. **Craig Brayer** and Zapps Potato Chips added extra spice to our volunteer lunch. Celebrating the actions of our cleanup volunteers and event sponsors is wonderful, yet the fact remains that trash and debris in local waterways is a serious pollution problem. Everyone can use the efforts of volunteers at the Weeks Bay Area River Cleanup as an example. Keep trash stowed away when boating and don't toss trash or junk over bridges. River Cleanup will be back on the second Saturday in May 2012; come help us keep Weeks Bay clean.

*Reserve Boardwalk Gets Facelift*  
by L.G. Adams, Weeks Bay Reserve Manager

**Mark Cooper**, Weeks Bay Reserve's Maintenance & Repair Supervisor, recently tackled a repair project on the overlook at the end of the Reserve boardwalk. This portion of the boardwalk has been exposed to direct sun over the last 18 years. The wood had become dried out with severe cracking and warping. Knowing that this repair and replacement of wood needed attention, Mark scheduled this over summer. He put a crew together to remove damaged wood, added new timbers to beef up the underlying joists, and replaced the surface with new decking. Mark is a master carpenter with skills and talents most people only dream of having. Next time you are walking the boardwalk at the Otilie Halstead Visitor Center, be sure to admire the face lift at the end around the pavilion. It's the handi work of Mark and his crew, **Michael Henry**, state employee, and **Chase Mannich**, the Weeks Bay Foundation's intern funded by the **ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program**.



Mark Cooper pauses from work making repairs on the boardwalk

# FALL 2011 CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

5	<b>Labor Day Holiday*</b>
13	<b>Guest Lecture Series "Peru: Quest for the Marvelous Spatuletail,"</b> presented by <b>Bill Summerour</b> . 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.
14	<b>Weeks Bay Advisory Committee Meeting.</b> Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center, 2:00 p.m.
17	<b>24th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup.</b> Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center, 8:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact the Reserve, (251) 928-9792.
24	<b>National Estuaries Day.</b> Learn more at <a href="http://www.estuaries.gov/getinvolved/home.aspx">www.estuaries.gov/getinvolved/home.aspx</a> .

## OCTOBER

6-8	<b>John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest.</b> For more information about tours and events, go to <a href="http://www.weeksbay.org">www.weeksbay.org</a> and click on Alabama Coastal BirdFest or go to <a href="http://www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com">www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com</a> .
7-9	<b>Weeks Bay Native Plant Sale.</b> Safe Harbor at Weeks Bay, across U.S. Highway 98 from the Reserve Visitor Center, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
10	<b>Columbus Day Holiday*</b>
11	<b>Guest Lecture Series "Exploring Wetlands in Botswana, Africa,"</b> presented by <b>Chester and Dorothy McConnell</b> . 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

## NOVEMBER

8	<b>Guest Lecture Series "Exploring Sanibel Island, Florida,"</b> presented by <b>John Borom</b> . 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.
11	<b>Veteran's Day Holiday*</b>
24	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday*</b>

\* The Visitor Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

19th Annual  
**WEEKS BAY NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday  
October 7, 8, 9 - 9am - 4pm

Shrubs - Perennials - Butterfly Plants - Trees - Hummingbird Plants - Wetland Plants - Dune Plants - More

Safe Harbor at Weeks Bay  
Across U.S. Hwy 98 from Weeks Bay Reserve



# Weeks Bay Foundation

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Photo by John Borom

Reddish Egret (*Egretta Rufescens*)

**"It has been my opinion that he who receives an Estate from his ancestors is under some kind of obligation to transmit the same to their posterity." - Benjamin Franklin**

## *Squeaky Sneakers Camp*

by Angela Underwood, Weeks Bay Reserve  
Education Specialist

The Eastern Shore Art Center and Weeks Bay Reserve partnered during the month of June with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to provide summer estuary art camps for students ages 7-18. The camp, named **Squeaky Sneakers**, gave students the chance to get their feet wet and explore the estuary while participating in outdoor activities. Squeaky Sneakers endeavors to help children foster a personal connection to the environment and become more literate stewards of threatened coastal resources.



A student shows off her artwork during the Squeaky Sneakers Camp

This camp provided many participants with important first-time experiences in nature. Led by experienced Weeks Bay Reserve education staff members **Angela Underwood** and **Nicole Kesterson**, the students participated in a number of activities including boat rides on the bay, collecting marine samples in the estuary,

exploring nature trails, learning microscope skills, and observing wildlife. **Nancy Raia**, Community Arts and Outreach Director at the Eastern Shore Art Center, then helped the campers to blend these and other science techniques with personal creativity through art. They worked with various media including watercolors, pen and ink, and acrylic paints. Among other art projects, they created a personal sketchbook to serve as an environmental journal during camp and after.



A student's sketch book and Squeaky Sneakers after a seining adventure in the bay

The camps culminated in an exhibition of art by Squeaky Sneakers participants at the Eastern Shore Art Center. Participants, their families, and friends were invited to a special reception to view the exhibition. The show was also on display for all Art Center visitors to see in July and August. We would like to thank the **Gulf of Mexico Alliance** for their support of this project through a \$5,000 grant and the **ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program** for providing an intern to assist with the camp.

