

Coastal Markers



NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Volume 9, Issue 3

Winter/Spring 2006

Secretary of State presents Tidelands check

Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark presented the Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) with a check for \$7,668,453 to be used for Fiscal Year 2006 Tidelands Funds projects at a ceremony held Nov. 22 at the DMR office in Biloxi. The money is from tideland lease revenue collected on the Mississippi Gulf Coast last year.

The CMR disbursed the grants to tidelands fund recipients in upcoming months. Grants will be used for projects in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. The DMR oversees the progress of the projects. Fiscal Year 2006 Tidelands Projects include:

- City of Biloxi—Bayou Auguste Reclamation and Enhancement
- City of Biloxi—I-110 Boat Launch Project
- City of Biloxi—Hiller Park Piers Phase II
- City of Biloxi—Improvements to



Secretary of State Eric Clark presents the FY2006 Tidelands check to the Commission on Marine Resources. From left, CMR Vice-Chairman Mikel Gusa, State Sen. Billy Hewes III, Secretary of State Eric Clark, DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker, DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler, State Sen. Tommy Robertson and CMR Chairman Dr. Vernon Asper.

- Parker Creek Landing Boat Launch
- City of D'Iberville—Tchoutacabouffa Boat Launch
- City of Gulfport—Gulfport Small Craft Harbor Improvements Project (Pier #2)
- City of Long Beach—2006 Harbor Improvements
- City of Pass Christian—2006 Harbor

Improvements

- Harrison County Board of Supervisors—Biloxi River Park
- City of Bay St. Louis—Beach Boardwalk & Pedestrian Pathway
- City of Bay St. Louis—Waterfront Access & Improvements
- City of Waveland—Beach Blvd. Pedestrian Pathway
- City of Waveland—Pier/Marina Improvements
- Hancock County Board of Supervisors—Hancock County Seawall Restoration
- City of Gautier—City Park Community Center Phase II
- City of Moss Point—

- Audubon Interpretative Center, Phase I
- City of Pascagoula—The Point Development Phase II
- Jackson County Board of Supervisors—Lake Mars Boat Launch Parking & Access
- Jackson County Board of

See TIDELANDS, page 5

Governor unveils environmental restoration plan



DMR Marine Fisheries Director William "Corky" Perret (right) greets Gov. Haley Barbour before the announcement of the governor's 10-year plan to restore 10,000 acres of critical estuarine habitat along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Gov. Barbour outlined his plan at a press conference held Dec. 5 in Moss Point. The DMR will partner with natural resource and conservation organizations, private industry and federal agencies to carry out the governor's plan.

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Coastal Markers is a publication of the

**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**

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www.dmr.state.ms.us

State of Mississippi

Haley Barbour
Governor

**Mississippi Commission on
Marine Resources**

Vernon Asper, Ph.D., Chairman
Nonprofit Environmental
Organization

Mikel C. Gusa, Vice Chairman
Charter Boat Operator

Shelby Drummond
Recreational Sports Fisherman

Richard Gollott
Commercial Seafood Processor

Oliver Sahuque
Commercial Fisherman

William W. Walker, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker



Six months have passed since Katrina unleashed its fury on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and the Coast has undergone a transformation since then. A hectic pace of debris removal has a rubble-strewn landscape looking better and better with each passing day. Planning for a bigger and better Mississippi Gulf Coast has also given rise to much optimism and hope among those who live in the storm-ravaged areas. Folks from Lakeshore in the west to Bayou Cumbest in the east have worked relentlessly to recover from the calamity that was Katrina as they strive to realize the vision of a brighter future for everyone who calls the Coast home.

The Department of Marine Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard have begun the difficult job of removing debris from below the watermark of ordinary high tide in an effort that will likely continue well into 2007. The Department also continues to applaud and support Governor Barbour's efforts to secure federal funding for restoration and renewal of hurricane-damaged oyster reefs, barrier islands, coastal wetlands and other coastal resources. This initiative will help ensure the success of all our hurricane recovery efforts and restore the beauty and functionality of our coastal environs.

Executive Director

Marine Patrol
Citation Totals

(Oct. 2005-Feb. 2006)

Shrimp	1
Crab	5
Oyster	2
Commercial Net Fishing	8
Live Bait	0
Miscellaneous Seafood	3
Recreational Fishing	54
Boat and Water Safety	37
Marine Litter	1
Miscellaneous	10

Celebrate



Earth Day
2006

April 22

Thanks to those DMR employees who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers: Dorothy Daniel, Amy Taylor, Dr. Fred Deegen, Marcia Garcia, Marian Dicas, David Ruple, Jennifer Buchanan, Jeff Davis, Ruth Posadas, Frank Wescovich.

Coastal Development Strategies Conference

SMART GROWTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Mark
your
calendar
today!

7th Annual Smart Growth Conference
May 2 - 3, 2006
Saenger Theater
Historic District, Biloxi, Mississippi

Conference brought to you by: The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. Working together, CRMP and the Coast Chamber will host this dynamic, practical and timely conference. We will provide you, the decision makers of Southern Mississippi, with the most successful smart growth and development tools, strategies, ideas and experiences from cities and leaders from around the nation.

Who should attend? Elected officials, planners, developers, bankers, public works directors, boards of supervisors, lawyers, designers, energy providers, builders, transportation officials, business owners, school teachers and citizens. In short, all of us who live and work with the decisions, both public and private, that are made every day and that affect our lives and our environment.

What is the cost? It is FREE. This year, because of the profound and widespread impact of Hurricane Katrina on our region the conference registration fee (\$125.00 last year) has been waived and there is no charge to attend the 7th Annual Smart Growth Conference. We do require you to complete registration forms, however, as they are required for meal plans and public accounting purposes.

Guest Speakers to include:

Key Note Speaker: Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor, City of Charleston, South Carolina

Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, Renewal: Ricky Mathews, The Sun Herald

National Heritage Development: John Cosgrove, Alliance of National Heritage Areas

Coastal Mississippi's Natural Resources: Vernon Asper, University of Southern Mississippi

Disaster Recovery: Tourism Cares for Tomorrow, Bruce Beckham

National Response: National Heritage Areas & the National Park Service, Brenda Barrett

How do I register? You can download a registration form at www.dmr.state.ms.us or call (228) 374-5022 and a form will be faxed or mailed to you. Return the registration following the directions provided. We look forward to seeing you!

2006 Sponsors include: Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Power, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Program, Gulf Hills Conference & Convention Center and DuPont. Call (228) 216-4201 or (228) 216-4202 to find out how you can become a sponsor.



The Premier Smart Growth Conference on the Mississippi Gulf Coast
A Coastal Decision-Maker Workshop

**7TH ANNUAL
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES CONFERENCE
SMART GROWTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
May 2 - 3, 2006 8 AM – 4 PM
Saenger Theater
Historic District, Biloxi, Mississippi**

This form may be duplicated for additional registrations. Please print in ink or type.
Return to: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Conference Registration
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530.

Registration Deadline: April 17, 2006.

Registration fees: Waived for 2006

Important – Please include complete information. If you have questions call (228) 374-5022.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
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Company Name (if applicable)	Title
-------------------------------------	--------------

Mailing Address (number and street or box number)

City	State	ZIP Code
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Business Phone	Home Phone	Fax
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Registration covers all sessions, breakfast, lunch, post-conference activity and materials.

Before Mailing

1. Complete all information
2. Fill in your preferred fax number, e-mail address and telephone number.

Send To

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Smart Growth Conference Registration
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

<p>2006 Conference Hosts</p> <p>Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP)</p> <p>Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce</p>

Fisheries group helps MS commercial fishermen

Christmas came early for a group of Mississippi commercial fishermen who were particularly hard hit by Hurricane Katrina. The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA), a fisheries group from Saco, Maine, donated \$25,000 to Mississippi commercial fishermen devastated by the storm. NAMA representatives presented the donation to the DMR Dec. 16 at a special ceremony held at Gulf Coast Community Federal Credit Union on Hwy. 49 in Gulfport. The DMR distributed the 25 checks to fishing families throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast who were hardest hit by the storm.

“Many of these families lost everything—their fishing boats, their homes, and their livelihoods. Considering the holiday season, we think it’s fitting to provide small grants to families so that they can



Craig Pendleton, far left, coordinating director of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA), a fisheries group from Saco, Maine, presents a check for \$25,000 to DMR Executive Director William Walker, second from left, Dec. 16 at a special ceremony held at Gulf Coast Community Federal Credit Union on Highway 49 in Gulfport.

buy presents, dinners, meet mortgage payments, make repairs, and other things that will bring a small sense of normalcy during this difficult time,” said Craig Pendleton, NAMA’s coordinating director.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit, NAMA organized some 18 fisheries organizations from across the country to raise money for Gulf Coast fishing communities affected by Hurricane Katrina. NAMA collaborated with the DMR to identify especially deserving commercial fishermen in Mississippi who were severely impacted by the storm.

“I want to personally thank the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance for its generosity toward our Mississippi commercial fishermen,” said DMR Executive Director William Walker. “These checks will be of great help to these recipients so devastated by Hurricane Katrina.”

NAMA is a non-profit alliance of fishermen, scientists and others dedicated to restoring and enhancing an enduring northwest Atlantic marine system.

TIDELANDS, continued from page 1

Supervisors—Racetrack Road Boat Launch & Recreation Park

- Mississippi Maritime Historical Foundation—Sailing Lugger Construction and “Island Bound” Program
- Ohr-O’Keefe Museum—Mississippi Sound Welcome Center Phase II
- Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum—Schooner Restoration Project
- Biloxi Bay Chamber—Golden Fisherman Park
- Land Trust—12-Oaks Acquisition
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College—Pascagoula River Basin Estuarine

Education Center

- Diamondhead Property Owners Association—Boat Launch Renovation Project
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation—Public Access to Turkey Creek, Phase I
- WRANPS
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources—GBNERR Construction Grant Match
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources—Habitat Creation Grant Match
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources—Derelict Vessel Program
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources—Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program

- USM College of Marine Sciences—Speckled Trout Management
- USM College of Marine Sciences—Management Projects
- Marine Studies and Project Initiatives
- Deer Island Bond Payment

The Tidelands Trust Fund Program consists of funds derived from the lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands. Revenues collected by the Office of Secretary of State are appropriated by the state legislature and administered by the CMR. All tidelands projects are reviewed, evaluated and recommended annually by the Commission on Marine Resources.



March 31 is the
17th Anniversary of the
Mississippi Public Trust Tidelands Act.



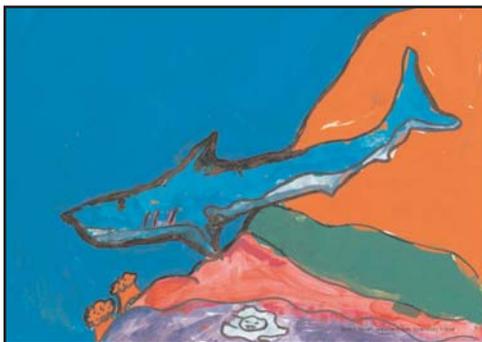
DMR announces winners of the 2006 M



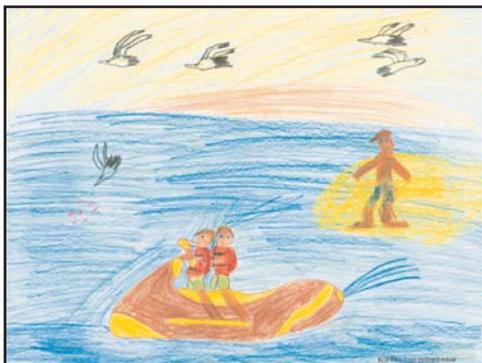
January



February



March



April

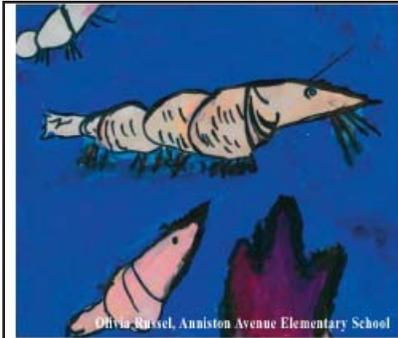
The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has announced the winners of the “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources” 2006 Marine Information Calendar art contest.

In an effort to generate an interest in and promote the awareness of the value of our coastal resources, the DMR held an art contest for third- and fourth-grade students in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. Students were asked to create artwork illustrating the contest theme: “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources.” The winning artwork appears in the 2006 calendar.

“This year’s DMR Marine Information Calendar features the artwork of third- and fourth-graders all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast,” said DMR Executive Director William Walker. “In spite of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, more than 340 students from 21 schools mailed in art contest entries, showing their continued interest in and dedication to the preservation and enjoyment of our coastal resources.”

The cover features winning artwork of:

- Olivia Russell, Anniston Avenue Elementary School;
- Aron McGuire, Three Rivers Elementary School;
- Caroline Spotswood, East Central Upper Elementary School;
- Michael McGill, Sacred Heart Elementary School;
- Trevor Watts, Coast Episcopal School;
- Chase Elsworth, Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School;
- Stevette Jackson, Anniston Avenue Elementary School;



Olivia Russell, Anniston Avenue Elementary School



Aron McGuire, T



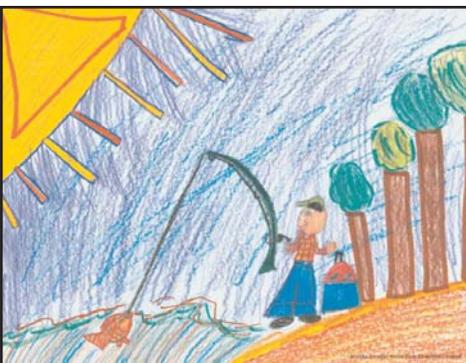
Michael McGill, Sacred Heart Elementary School



Trevor



The cover of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 2006 Marine Information Calendar features the artwork of six third- and fourth-grade students.

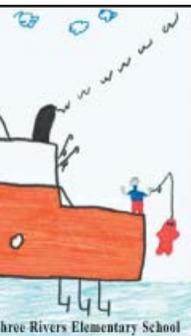


May



June

Marine Information Calendar Art Contest



Three Rivers Elementary School



Caroline Spencer, East Central Upper Elementary School



Watts, Coast Episcopal School



Chase Elsworth, Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School

Mississippi's Coastal Resources Calendar of Marine Resources Information Calendar

in Limits • Reef Coordinates • MS Saltwater Fishing Records • Boating Safety

resources 2006 Marine Information Calendar features artwork

•**Kayla Neal**, Lake Elementary School; and
•**Pierce Boddie**, Coast Episcopal School.

The calendar also features the winning artwork of:

•January: **Hannah Lake**, Coast Episcopal School

•February: **Emma Holland**, Coast Episcopal School

•March: **Daniel Mooney**, Anniston Avenue Elementary School

•April: **Reed Riley**, Coast Episcopal School

•May: **Aricelia Arcadia**, Pecan Park Elementary School

•June: **Antonio Lepoma**, Vancleave Upper Elementary School

•July: **Mary Kathryn O'Connor**, Coast Episcopal School

•August: **Sarah Jenne**, East Central Upper Elementary School

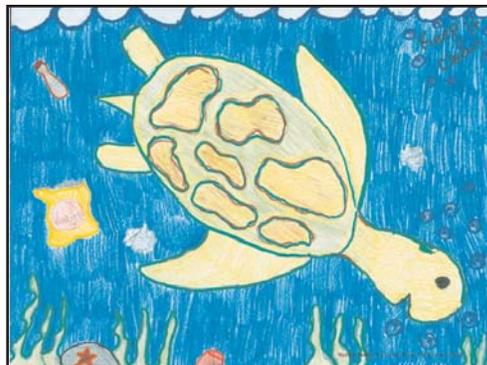
•September: **Madilyn Holden**, East Central Upper Elementary School

•October: **Dillon McBride**, Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School

•November: **C.J. Perry**, Resurrection Catholic Elementary School

•December: **Maggie S. Russell**, Bayou View Elementary School

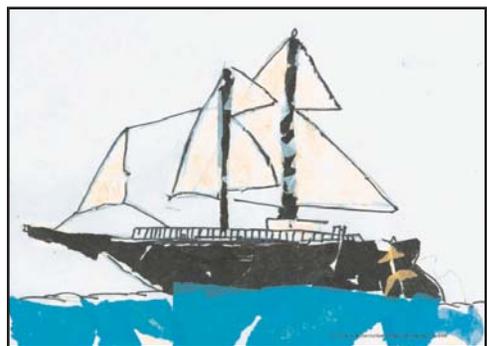
The calendar highlights DMR programs and contains tide information, sunrise and sunset times, moon phases, reef coordinates, size and possession limits, boating safety information, Mississippi saltwater fishing records and marine debris information.



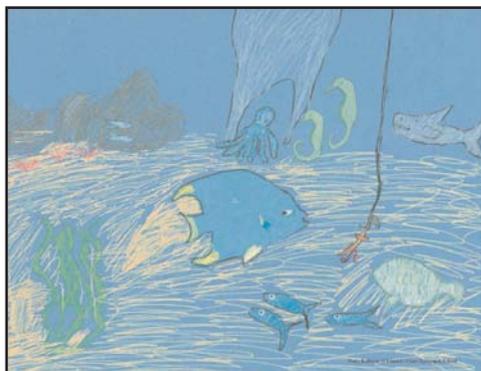
September



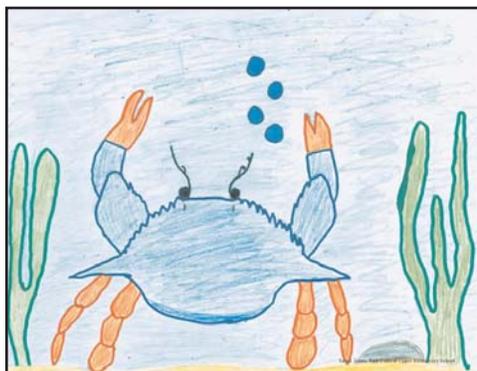
October



November



July



August



December



GOMA hosts meetings to discuss health of Gulf

The Mississippi Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) hosted two information exchange meetings designed to inform stakeholders and gain local perspectives on critical issues related to the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Strategies for reducing nutrient loading, improving water quality, restoring coastal wetlands, identifying critical Gulf habitats, and providing environmental education were discussed at the meetings, which took place January 31 and February 1 at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center (CREC) in Biloxi. About 140 people participated in these meetings over the two-day period.

GOMA hosted the meetings in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR); the DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research



Attendees of the GOMA stakeholder meeting on Feb. 1 prioritize key issues by placing blue stickers next to items of personal concern.

Reserve (GNDNERR); the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ALDCNR), State Lands Division, Coastal Section; Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Coastal Services Center (CSC).

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance

(GOMA) was formed in response to the U.S. Ocean Commission Report (September 2004) and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan (December 2004). These reports noted specific ocean-related problems nationwide and, among other solutions, called for a regional collaborative approach to improve the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Information gathered during the stakeholder meetings will be incorporated into an Action Plan that will be presented at the State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas in March 2006.

For specific information about the results of the Mississippi-Alabama meetings and others that have taken place across the Gulf Coast, please visit the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Web site: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Plans for new facilities construction under way



Though disrupted by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, progress continues on the planning documents for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve facilities in east Jackson County. The architect design team of Studio South of Pascagoula and Lord

Aeck and Sargent of Atlanta, anticipate construction documents to be completed in March and construction to begin in July 2006.

Reserve staff continues to work with the exhibit team from Taylor Studios Inc. of Rontoul, Ill. on plans for the facilities

exhibit hall, an interpretative area that will reflect the great diversity representative in Grand Bay coastal habitats and past and present changes to these resources. The new facilities will also house classrooms, research labs and office space. The facilities will be shared by staff from the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. United States Green Building Council criteria are being used to meet certain sustainability standards.

A public information meeting will be held at March 21 at 6 p.m. at the East Jackson County Community Center to discuss the draft Environmental Assessment for the project and the final facility design. The public is invited to attend. Call 475-7047 for more information.

Volunteers pitch in to clean up coastal shoreline

In February and March, the Department of Marine Resources assisted Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties in organizing and conducting volunteer efforts to collect marine debris along beachfront areas from mean high tide to 100 yards out. The cleanups were held in winter to take advantage of low tides. About 900 volunteers from military, government and non-profit organizations used everything from shovels and rakes to Bobcats and front-end loaders to remove more than 1,500 cubic yards of storm debris embedded in the shoreline and shallows of the Mississippi Sound.

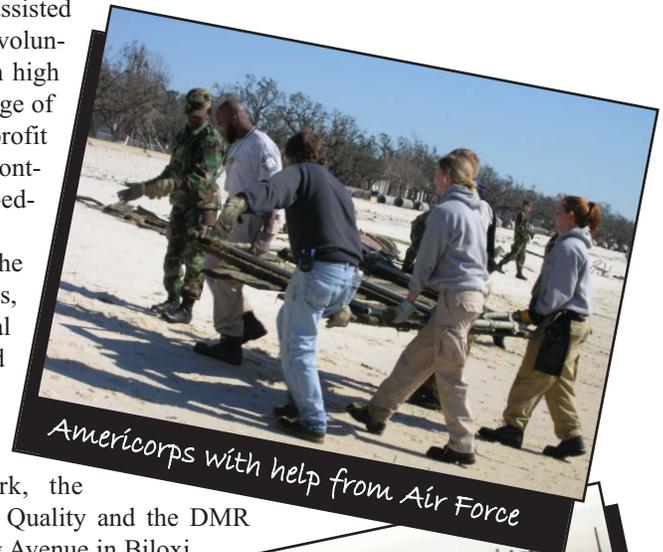
On Feb. 10, more than 250 volunteers from Keesler Air Force Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, Calvary Baptist Mission in Bay St. Louis, Americorps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality and the DMR cleaned sites at Cedar Point near Bay Waveland Yacht Club, Washington Street to Coleman Avenue, Coleman Avenue to Bayou Caddy and St. Stanislaus.

At the Feb. 13 cleanup, about 200 volunteers from Keesler Air Force Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, Americorps, Hands On Network, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality and the DMR cleaned sites at the shoreline in Harrison County, starting at Rodenberg Avenue in Biloxi and going east and the shoreline starting at Courthouse Road and going west.

On March 2, as part of the national kick-off of the Great American Cleanup, more than 300 volunteers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 from the Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, the U.S. Coast Guard, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi Air National Guard - CRTC, Americorps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality and the DMR along with students from SUNY Oneonta in New York and South Nashua High School in New Hampshire, cleaned about two miles of shoreline starting at Edgewater Mall in Biloxi and going east and west.

On March 10, about 150 volunteers from Keesler Air Force Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Americorps, the Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection Agency, DMR, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center took advantage of the low tide to scour the beaches of Jackson County at Front Beach in Ocean Springs from the Hwy. 90 bridge east to the Ocean Springs Harbor and East Beach in Ocean Springs.

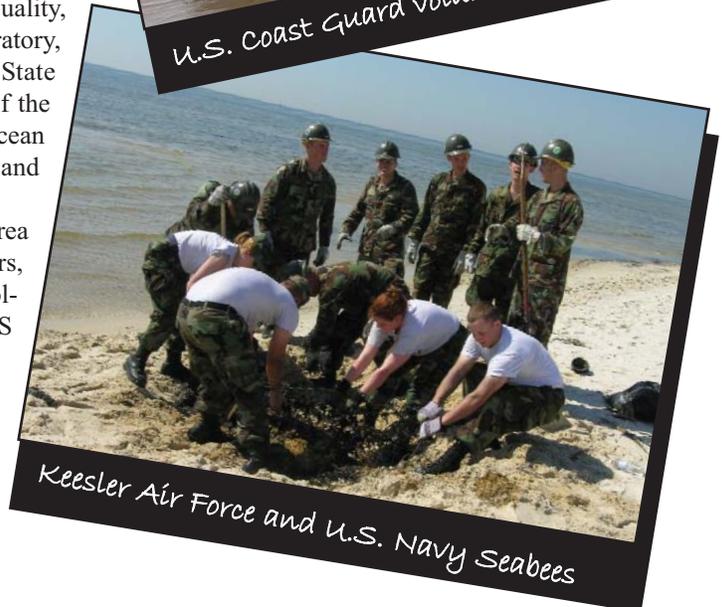
Volunteers found racks of clothes from a local department store, area rugs, bottles of wine and liquor, microwaves, box springs, tables, chairs, restaurant equipment, metal roofing, a go-cart frame, two dead dolphins, appliances, car batteries, tires, telephones, music CDs, VHS tapes, and various remnants of houses and businesses.



Americorps with help from Air Force



U.S. Coast Guard volunteers



Keesler Air Force and U.S. Navy Seabees

A Very Special Thanks

(In-kind donations): Hancock County Board of Supervisors, Hancock County Roads Department, Harrison County Sand Beach Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jackson County Road Department, BFI, Portable Services, City of Biloxi, Keep Mississippi Beautiful/PAL, Harrison County Beautification Commission, Waste Management, Glad Products Company, Georgia-Pacific Corporation, Pepsi-Cola Company, Keesler Air Force Base, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and Edgewater Sunrisers Rotary Club.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped make the Mississippi Gulf Coast a cleaner place!



Seafood Safety Corner

The New Year has arrived and the Seafood Technology Bureau is geared up to face another year of regulatory, technical assistance and research work to better serve the Mississippi seafood industry and the state of Mississippi.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi had a total of 49 certified seafood dealers

and processors. After the storm, more than half of the seafood facilities in the industry were destroyed; however, a majority of the dealers with affected facilities are

planning to rebuild. DMR seafood officers visited each facility and documented the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, collected water samples, and conducted the third quarterly sanitation inspections.

The bureau staff also assisted in the economic impact surveys of commercial fishermen and seafood dealers and processors to determine the levels of damages sustained as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many participants that were interviewed lost nearly all their possessions in the storm; consequently, two non-profit organizations volunteered their assistance to help meet the needs of fishermen. The first organization in Saco, Maine called Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) raised \$25,000.00 in grant money and distributed twenty-five checks worth \$1,000 each to fishermen. The second organization called Fish for the Future Foundation located in Alexandria, Virginia also assisted fishermen in all Gulf States.

The Fish for the Future Foundation is an organization that accepts support from individuals, groups, and corporations interested in ensuring that the need to balance conservation and use of marine fisheries is understood by the public. Forty-seven thousand dollars in grant money was made available for Mississippi fishermen and 47 checks worth \$1,000 each were distributed to fishermen and other members of the seafood industry who sustained damages from both storms. The foundation selected the names of those who would receive checks.

Recently, the Seafood Technology Bureau was awarded a research grant titled "Consumer Market Research of VAP and PHP Oyster Products to Increase Gulf Oyster Consumption and Reduce *V. vulnificus* Related Illnesses." The purpose of this grant is to promote seafood safety and to increase awareness of consumers on oyster post harvest processing technologies and value added products for the purpose of increased oyster consumption through a market research approach. The grant period will start this year, January to December 2006.



Jeff Davis



DMR Seafood Technology Bureau staffers assist Mississippi fishermen, seafood dealers and processors with filling out economic impact surveys.

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



I'd like to advise everyone to please exercise extreme caution this season while boating in our coastal waters because of the

tons of debris washed into the Gulf by Hurricane Katrina's accompanying storm surge.

Plans are in the works to institute a cleanup, but that will be a daunting task. Just looking out over the waters you can see all types of debris ranging from trees to refrigerators. What you see on top of the water is just the tip of the iceberg. The danger really lies in what you can't see.

Some of it will be found when someone actually runs their boat upon it. Based on a side-scan sonar survey done after Katrina, most of the main channels are clear enough to operate. However, drifting objects may find their way into the channels. Be cautious no matter where you are operating your vessel.

Also, be aware that many navigational aids were destroyed or moved off their charted positions by the storm. Work is being done to get the waterway marking system back in the shape it was in prior to the storm. We expect the public to get out on the water and have an enjoyable time this year, but please take the time to do so safely.

Be on the lookout for visible hazards and operate your boat with utmost caution. Throttle back and operate at a slower speed. When you inadvertently strike an object in the water, speed greatly increases the amount of damage. The amount of damage usually equates to the extent of injury. Ease off on that throttle, sit back and relax and take it slow and easy this year. Caution and safety have always been our watch-words, but they took on a whole new meaning after Katrina.

Remember: Wear your life jacket. Life jackets save lives. Safe boating is no accident.

Lt. Frank Wescovich oversees the DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program. He can be reached at (228) 374-5021.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

SAME names Buchanan 2005 Outstanding Educator



Jennifer Buchanan

The Southern Association of Marine Educators (SAME) presented Jennifer Buchanan, education coordinator at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, with the Outstanding Educator award in November at their annual conference at Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Mobile, Ala.

SAME is made up of colleagues from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and northwest Florida. It brings together those interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water.

Marine Patrol officers graduate from academy



Will Freeman



Christina Young

Will Freeman and Christina Young attended the state law enforcement academy in Pearl, Miss. and graduated in November 2005. Freeman and Young were certified Mississippi law enforcement officers through a nine-week basic academy.

Community Outreach



DMR employees Jeff Davis (pictured at right) with a student from Escatawpa Elementary, Brittany Breazeale, Jennifer Buchanan, Traci Floyd, Christine Johnson, Ruth Posadas and Jan Welker volunteered to serve as science fair judges at two local elementary schools. The DMR provided four judges for the fair at Escatawpa Elementary on Jan. 26 and Jan. 30 and four judges for the fair at Reeves Elementary on Jan. 31.

Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with the Department of Marine Resources and the state of Mississippi.

(2/1/90) Tom Van Devender
(2/1/99) Jeff Clark
(2/12/04) Willa Henriksen
(2/25/02) Karen Carron
(3/1/90) Claude Pittman
(3/1/98) Amy Taylor
(3/1/02) Jeff Davis
(3/1/02) Janet Morgan
(3/1/02) Jan Welker
(3/12/01) Evelyn Thompson
(3/14/05) Jill Bockenstette
(3/15/04) Patrick Webb
(3/17/99) Leo Christie
(3/25/02) Debbie Belk
(3/26/01) Jimmy Sanders
(4/1/77) Dr. Fred Deegen

(4/1/89) David Dollar
(4/1/98) Bryce Gex
(4/1/98) Mike Yonce
(4/11/88) Russell Doucet
(5/1/88) Walter Chataginer
(5/1/01) Joyce Gagliano
(5/1/01) Jennifer Buchanan
(5/1/04) Bradley Randall
(6/1/00) Lauren Thompson
(6/1/00) Rudy Balius
(6/1/02) Robin Zantow
(6/6/05) Cheryl Kilpatrick
(6/14/04) Tim Broder
(6/15/90) Christine Johnson
(6/24/93) Jimmy Hester
(6/25/01) Grant Larsen

We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.

Visit the DMR online @ www.dmr.state.ms.us



Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources
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Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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National Safe Boating Week May 20-26

DMR Calendar

April 18

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

May 16

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, 9 a.m. Meeting location TBA. Call (228) 374-5000.

June 20

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, 9 a.m. Meeting location TBA. Call (228) 374-5000.

Register Now!

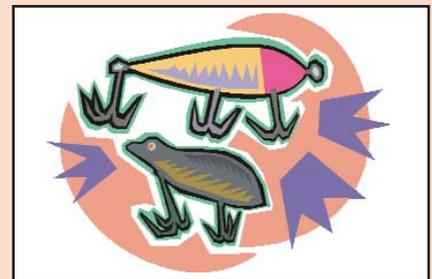
7th Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference

May 2-3

Biloxi Saenger
Theater

See pg. 3-4 for
registration information.

Doc's Fishing Tip



Finding a place to stash lures can be a real problem for a wade-fisherman chest-deep in the surf. After all, there are only so many pockets in your favorite fishing shirt. A Styrofoam pith helmet keeps the hot summer sun out of your eyes and can easily hold more than a dozen baits, all readily available when you need them.

— Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director