

Coastal Markers



Volume 6, Issue 4

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Spring 2003

Conference highlights smart growth efforts

Learn how you can shape the future of Coastal Mississippi at the 4th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, May 12-14 at Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis. (A golf tournament and victory celebration will be held for conference registrants on May 12.) The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is hosting the event.

"Local and national speakers at this year's conference will be talking about how we can thrive economically while protecting the coastal resources important to us as a community," said DMR's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan Director Tina Shumate.

This regional conference is designed for landowners, developers, boards of supervisors, mayors, city council members, lawyers,



Speakers at the 4th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference will discuss how to ensure sustainability of valuable coastal resources, like this Hancock County marsh site, while enabling a community to grow economically.

mortgage lenders, planners, landscape designers, federal agencies, state agencies, local and county governments, private and corporate entities, home sellers, home

buyers and concerned citizens—basically everyone.

Some topics to be discussed by local and national experts at the conference include: Incorporating Sustainable Designs into Public Facilities; Environmental and Economic Participation in Your Community; Storm Water Management; Eco-Tourism and Habitat Restoration in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve; CRMP GIS Data: Practical Applications; Hancock County Greenways Project—Smart Growth; and Using Our Historical and Natural Resources.

Cost of the conference is \$125 (\$75 for students) and \$65 for optional golf tournament. For more information or to register for this year's conference, contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000 or visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

Coastal Preserves gains 462 acres in Harrison Co.

The DMR joined Secretary of State Eric Clark, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and DuPont at a press conference on March 28, 2003, to discuss the importance of the acquisition of 462 acres on the north shore of the Bay of St. Louis for preservation.

The DMR and Secretary of State's Office partnered with TNC to purchase the land from DuPont for \$1.2 million (about 68 percent of its appraised value). The purchase was funded by boundary settlement agreements negotiated by the Secretary of State's Office and a \$500,000 grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, held by the DMR.

More than 14,000 acres have been acquired through TNC for the Mississippi Coastal Preserves, a program administered jointly by the DMR and Secretary of State's Office. The DMR manages the 30,000 acres in the Coastal Preserves.

CMR approves new crab trap requirements

The Commission on Marine Resources approved new regulations for the taking of crabs at its January 21 meeting.

- Beginning **March 1, 2003**, **crab trap buoys must be attached by non-floating or weighted float line.** This will help prevent trap lines from being clipped by boat propellers and contributing to the problem of lost traps.

- Effective **January 1, 2004**, a **permanent stainless steel, aluminum or plastic trap tag identifying the licensed fisherman must be attached to all crab traps.**

For more information, contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000.

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Coastal Markers is a publication of the



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Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker



As spring makes its landfall on southern breezes here along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, each morning seems more aglow than the last with a cacophony of mockingbirds, cardinals and other songbirds. Fragrant narcissus and subtle-hued redbuds will eventually give in to the spectacular riot of color that is the Formosa azalea. Such magical transformations of spring are not just shore-bound though.

The shimmering waters of the Mississippi Sound too are undergoing seasonal changes as shrimp post-larvae begin their arrival, bringing along with them an entourage of trout, redfish, Spanish mackerel, flounder and other predators eager to take advantage of the smorgasbord provided them. With each passing day, the shallow waters of the Sound become more teeming with activity as water temperatures continue to rise enticing fish ever closer to the shore in search of an easy meal.

And, before long, shrimp boats and sports fishermen will be plying these same waters in search of their quarry. The former will be trawling the bottom for the brown shrimp that are the mainstay of the Coast's seafood industry, while the latter will be prospecting barrier island sand bars and offshore oil and gas structures with brightly colored feathered jigs for lemon fish, among the first of the salt-water game fish species to annually arrive in state waters. From Bay St. Louis to Biloxi, wade fishermen too will be testing the early morning waters for trout and reds. And in a few short weeks, our 27-mile-long beach will be aglow with sun-burnished students and tourists who have come to enjoy the rites of spring.

You can almost smell the pungent aroma of boiled shrimp and crabs lingering in the warm evening air... Spring is indeed a wondrous season, full of pleasant surprises; and no where is it more wondrous than here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Executive Director

Boat and Water Safety Course Schedule (April-June 2003)

- **April 19**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **April 21-22**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **April 23-24**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **April 26**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 1-2**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **May 3**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 7-8**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **May 10**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 17**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 19-20**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **May 24**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **May 26-27**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **June 3-4**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **June 7**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **June 9-10**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **June 14**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **June 17-18**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **June 21**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **June 25-26**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **June 28**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call the DMR Boat and Water Safety Bureau at (228) 435-1332 for more details. All classes are free.

A very special thanks to the following employees who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers: Leah Bray, Jennifer Buchanan, Linda Bullard, Dorothy Daniel, Monica Fragello, Marcia Garcia, Stanley Hamilton, Irvin Jackson, Christine Popwell, Ruth Posadas, Dave Ruple, Amy Taylor, Brady Trahan and Frank Wescovich.

Volunteers spruce up trail

Volunteers from Mississippi Power Company, the National Marine Fisheries Service and DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Citizens Advisory Committee spent the day on February 19 helping the DMR staff clean up and blaze a new coastal birding trail located in the reserve and adjacent wildlife refuge, which are in eastern Jackson County.

Volunteers removed two trailer loads of trash, constructed footbridges and removed fallen vegetation that was blocking the trail.

The Oak Grove Trail passes through an important feeding and resting habitat for birds migrating back and forth across the Gulf of Mexico during the spring and fall. These trans-gulf migrants often stop over in the oak grove and the associated underbrush to "refuel" before they continue on their long journey across the Gulf of Mexico. A few of the birds that you might be able to encounter seasonally in this wooded area include Blackburnian Warblers, American Redstarts, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Peregrine Falcons.



A branch of the new Oak Grove birding trail

Future plans for the trail include enhancing the trail's surface, identifying and interpreting the common native plants such as Bayberry as well as the exotic species such as Cogon Grass that are found within the site and adding bird profile signs for many of the most commonly seen species of birds found within the grove.

For more information on the trail or for directions to the site please call the reserve at (228) 475-7047 weekdays.

New Bayou Heron boat launch, pier to improve public access

The new pier and boat launch, located within the DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), will be used extensively by local fishermen and GBNERR research and educational programs.



Construction of a double boat launch and handicap-accessible fishing pier began in early January on Bayou Heron, located within the DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The ramp and pier will provide much improved access and will replace the existing unimproved launch site used for years by local fishermen.

The ramp is located at the end of Bayou Heron Road in eastern Jackson County. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Tidelands Trust Fund and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Estuarine Reserve Division provided funding for the ramp and pier construction.

"While this project has been a long time in coming, I am pleased to no end that the reserve is playing a role in improving public access and providing benefits to the community," said local fisherman Clyde Brown. The project was a partnership, combining funds from a variety of sources, coordinated by the research reserve and constructed on land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dantzler Tree Planting



Members of the Nature Club, a 4-H club in Jackson County, help to plant 200 trees on Dantzler Nature Preserve in Gautier on Feb. 18. The tree planting was part of the DMR's Coastal Preserves Program's education and outreach efforts to schools in the community. Eventually, 400 acres of pine savanna will be restored on the preserve.

DMR removes derelict vessel



The DMR removed the vessel "Rough Times" from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County Feb. 19. Nine derelict vessels have been removed from the area in the past year.

The DMR removed a 65-foot wooden shrimp boat from Bayou Caddy in Hancock County on Feb. 19 in its ongoing efforts to clean up the area. The "Rough Times" is the ninth derelict vessel to be removed from the Bayou Caddy area over the past 12 months.

Clean-up efforts are continuing with three more derelict vessels planned for removal within the next three to six months.

The DMR has met with the New Orleans Coast Guard Pollution Response Division and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to discuss cleaning up and eliminating the improper disposal of fuel, oil and other debris in the Bayou Caddy area.

MP Dive Team helps clean up waters

The DMR Marine Patrol Dive Team joined forces with the Biloxi Police Department Dive Team Feb. 19 to remove marine debris north of Petit Bois Island. The underwater cleanup of a salvaged wreck—coordinated by Gulf Islands National Seashore—served as a training exercise for the DMR's Dive Team.

Formed in July 2002, the Marine Patrol Dive Team has spent over 650 hours training together. The team's primary

responsibility is the search, rescue and recovery of drowning victims and evidence and victim retrieval when boating accidents occur. The Marine Patrol Dive Team also assists local agencies as the need arises.

"The goal of the dive team is to provide increased services to the public," said Cooley. "Since our dive team was formed



The DMR Marine Patrol Dive Team and the Biloxi Police Department Dive Team assist the Gulf Islands National Seashore with the removal of marine debris from a salvaged wreck north of Petit Bois Island.

we've been able to collaborate with other agencies on various underwater operations."

The team has already participated in drowning victim searches with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department Dive Team and Biloxi's Police Department Dive Team and an underwater evidence search with Biloxi's Dive Team.

Command post to aid in search and rescue efforts



The DMR Marine Patrol Dive Team, from left, Bill Stover, diver; Glen Wieck, diver, Richard Cooley, dive leader and Tommy Jennings, diver, are suited up and ready to go.

The DMR Marine Patrol Dive Team has purchased a dive trailer and command post to support divers during extended dive searches, boating accident investigations and related missions.

The dive trailer will carry extra dive gear, along with communications equipment, food, water, generators and search lights. The trailer also serves as a mobile command post, equipped with radios, giving divers the ability to communicate with other agencies while in the performance of search and rescue missions.

Marine Patrol Citation Totals

(January-March 2003)

Shrimp	2
Crab	7
Oyster	76
Commercial Net Fishing	0
Live Bait	1
Miscellaneous Seafood	6
Recreational Fishing	35
Boat and Water Safety	51
Marine Litter	3
Miscellaneous	5

Boat and Water Safety Statistics

(January-March 2003)

Classes held	18
Students certified	143
Outreach events	3
Presentations	24
Boating accidents	3
Fatalities	0

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



Spring is upon us, and here we go with yet another boating season. Let's get started on the right foot this time to make it a safe one.

If your boat has not been used since last fall, or has been dormant for possibly even longer, you have some maintenance to do.

The number one culprit of boating usually lives within the fuel system. If you didn't winterize your fuel system prior to winter lay-up, you will need to start by checking the contents of your fuel tank. Remember to work safely around your fuel system, as one cup of vaporized gas has the potential explosive power of three sticks of dynamite. Try not to spill any, and be sure to promptly clean up any spills that do occur.

Any sediment in the tank that resembles chocolate milk is probably water in the fuel caused by condensation. If you encounter this, the tank must be totally drained, and the contaminated fuel must be properly disposed of. Be sure to flush your fuel lines, especially those including the primer bulb on outboard tanks.

Now is the perfect time to replace your fuel filter, too. Remember some engines have more than one fuel system filter. Another water collection point is in the fuel bowls of the carburetor. Some fuel bowls have a handy drain plug in the bottom so that the sediment can be easily drained away. Simply place a piece of clean cloth or some clean paper towels under the fuel bowl and remove the plug. You will usually be surprised at the amount of sediment that will come out of the bowl.

You are now ready to test run the engine. This should be done in the relative safety of your driveway by using a flushing attachment on a garden hose. Your first tank of gas should also have some fuel treatment added to help clean the fuel system and remove any residual traces of water. Be careful not to add too much fuel treatment, as it could cause dilution of the fuel/oil mixture in the en-

See SOUND ADVICE, page 6

DERELICT CRAB TRAP CLEANUP:

More than 1,400 derelict traps collected along MS Coast

From Jan. 21-25 the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) and volunteers from all along the Coast removed a total of 1,405 abandoned crab traps from Mississippi's marine waters.

"It was a very successful first effort. We had excellent cooperation from the fishermen," said DMR Fisheries Biologist Bill Richardson.

Mississippi's first closed season for crab traps began Jan. 14 at 6 a.m. and reopened Jan. 26 at 6 a.m. Licensed recreational and commercial crab trap fishermen were allowed to remove their traps from the water during the first seven days of the closure. After Jan. 20, any traps remaining in public waters were considered abandoned and subject to removal.

DMR, GCRL and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission biologists spent Jan. 21-25 collecting and surveying the derelict traps, collecting bycatch information and returned 1,488 live crabs to the water. Other species found in the wire mesh cages used to catch crabs included mullet, flounder, toadfish, red drum, gray snapper, sheepshead, diamondback terrapin, cormorant, stone crabs and a rat.

Mississippi's first volunteer Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Day was held Jan. 25—the final day of the Mississippi closed crab trap season. Despite the extremely cold temperatures and low tides, 38 volunteers from Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana used 18 vessels to scour the marine waters and deposited 533 traps at the three derelict trap collection sites.

At the Bayou Caddy Launching Ramp site in Waveland, eight traps were collected by two volunteers; Ocean Springs Harbor site

Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Stats

(The following data was recorded for 1,111 of the 1,405 traps collected.)

Baited traps	96
Non-baited traps	1,015
Traps with floats	756
Dead crabs in traps	167
Live crabs released	1,488
Traps with crab bycatch	410

Other species found in traps:

Mullet, flounder, toadfish, gray snapper, red ear turtle, sheepshead, diamondback terrapin, croaker, lion's mane jellyfish, cormorant, clapper rail, stone crab, pinfish.

Source: Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

in Ocean Springs brought in 83 traps by eight volunteers and at Tucei's Fishing Camp in Gautier, 442 traps were collected by 29 volunteers.

The Mississippi Soft Drink Association donated bottled water for volunteers.

Crab traps were removed from the open Mississippi Sound and the following areas:

Jackson County

- East and West Pascagoula River
- Graveline Bayou and Lake
- Davis Bayou

Harrison County

- Biloxi Bay

Hancock County

- St. Louis Bay
- Bayou Caddy
- Heron Bay

Recovered traps were taken to a recycling facility by the DMR.

The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program, a joint effort of the DMR and GCRL, was funded by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality through the Mississippi Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). CIAP is a federally sponsored program that provides money for the state and counties to address statewide coastal issues.



DMR fisheries biologist Bill Richardson collects traps from Graveline Bayou.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped to make our derelict crab trap cleanup a huge success!



DMR marine fisheries technician Mark Holden retrieves a derelict crab trap from the marshes of Graveline Bayou.



DMR marine fisheries biologist Traci Floyd (center) distributes data cards to volunteers in Gautier.



DMR employee Rudy Balius, left, maneuvers a boat to help Buddy Goff, center, and Doug Drieling remove a derelict crab trap from the West Pascagoula River.



Seafood Safety Corner

Spring is a welcome respite to the cold wintry season. It is the time when routine and follow-up inspections are made early during the quarter to meet the April 30, 2003 recertification deadline. The DMR Seafood Technology Bureau has doubled its ef-



Ruth Posadas

forts in visiting and inspecting facilities of all permitted Mississippi seafood dealers including the coolers, transport and storage trucks and other ancillary facilities.

The Seafood Technology Bureau is reviewing the 2002 records and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans during the quarter to note whether there have been any changes made during the year.

The Seafood Technology Bureau joined the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center (MSU-CREC) in holding sensory evaluation surveys on post-harvest treated oysters in Biloxi, Long Beach and Jackson. The purpose of the sur-

vey was to determine the preferences and awareness of consumers of post-harvest treated oysters using the hot/cold pasteurization, high hydrostatic pressure and individually quick frozen processes. More than 250 people participated in the surveys.

The Seafood Technology Bureau also helped host Basic HACCP and Sanitation Control Procedures Training courses in conjunction with the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States and MSU-CREC. HACCP training is a requirement for every permitted Mississippi seafood facility dealer or representative. Hosting such courses on the Coast provides needed technical assistance to dealers in our area.

Annie Nguyen, a biologist in the DMR Wetlands Permitting Bureau has begun cross-training with the Seafood Technology Bureau. She completed Basic HACCP and Sanitation Control Procedures training courses and has been serving as a Vietnamese interpreter, assisting us with technical assistance and educational efforts to Vietnamese seafood dealers.

DMR creates another new fishing reef

The DMR in cooperation with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks recently developed a new artificial fishing reef about one mile east of the southeastern tip of Cat Island, bringing the total number of reefs in state waters to a whopping 51!

The reef will provide a hard bottom to increase species diversity and richness and enhance fishing opportunities in Mississippi. TW Marine Construction, Inc. of Pascagoula deployed the reef material—1,800 tons of concrete rubble gathered from the demolition of buildings in the Pascagoula area.

The newly constructed reef will be monitored for two years to study fish assemblages as well as material stability and performance.

The artificial reef project was funded by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality through the Mississippi Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). CIAP is a federally sponsored program that provides money for the state and counties to address statewide coastal issues.

Go fish!

As warmer weather approaches, the small boat and shore angler will have many fishing opportunities on these newly constructed inshore reefs. So, break out your GPS and load up these numbers. Don't forget your fly rod, because there are many new state records to be broken.

Latitude	Longitude
American Legion Launch Reef 30° 17.890' N	89° 19.800' W
Central Avenue Reef 30° 20.892' N	89° 07.175' W
Joe Thornton Hull Reef 30° 23.205' N	88° 51.627' W
Belle Fontaine Reef 30° 19.503' N	88° 43.036' W
South Spoil Island Reef 30° 24.826' N	88° 51.577' W
Square Handkerchief Key 30° 16.249' N	89° 18.843' W
Keesler Harbor Reef 30° 25.223' N	88° 55.367' W
Pascagoula River Reef I 30° 22.887' N	88° 34.148' W

The latitude and longitude coordinates listed are the center points of these inshore reef sites. For a complete listing of inshore and offshore reefs, call (228) 374-5000.

Jackson Business Expo



Mississippi State University Research Associate Susan DeBlanc (left) and DMR Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas (right) conduct sensory evaluation surveys on processed oysters at the DMR exhibit during the Mississippi Business Expo, held Jan. 22-23 in Jackson. The DMR exhibit promoted seafood and recreational saltwater fishing in Mississippi.

Record Breaker!

Biloxi angler Brent Guice recently caught a 26-pound 11.2-ounce Red Drum while fly fishing Dec. 2, 2002 at the north end of Chandeleur Island, establishing a new state record. The previous state fly fishing record for Red Drum was 19 pounds, 14.4 ounces set in August 2002.

SOUND ADVICE, continued from page 4

gine. One ounce of fuel treatment per gallon should do nicely. Run the engine at various speeds, but not too fast for about one hour while on the flushing hose. Remember the engine is running with no load and could easily be over revved at this point. If the engine runs well during this test without stalling or loading up, you should be ready for your first trip on the water this season.

**Remember:
Always Wear Your Lifejacket.
Safe Boating is No Accident.**

Lt. Frank Wescovich oversees the DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program. He can be reached at (228) 432-2820 or (228) 435-1332.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Defensive Driver Training held at DMR

Steve Milner, Loss Control Manager for the State of Mississippi Tort Claims Board, presented "Driver Training for the Experienced Driver" on Feb. 20. All DMR personnel who use agency vehicles are required to complete this course. This is a certificate program that can also assist employees in reducing their personal automobile insurance premiums.

The following employees attended the Feb. 20 class: Bradley Ennis, Joyce Gagliano, Mark Holden, Franklin Leach, Annie Nguyen, Dave Ruple, Kevin Schultz and Dr. Mark Woodrey.

MP staff gets recertified in CPR

The American Red Cross provided Adult/Child CPR refresher training to DMR Marine Patrol employees on Feb. 5 and Feb. 19.

The following employees attended: Scott Anderson, Donnie Armes, Terry Bakker, Dennis Bankston, Judy Bosarge, Walter Chatagner, Gerald Chatham, Scott Chatham, Bill Collins, David Dollar, John Ewing, Bryce Gex, John Grimsley, Paul Grote, Olin Gunter, Stanley Hamilton, Jimmy Hester, Patrick Levine, Andy Ryals, Rocky Southern, Denise Stover, Amy Taylor, Chester Van Devender, Jessy Verges, Charlie Vyles, Frank Wescovich, George Wright and Mike Yonce.

Young Marine Scientists Receive DMR Excellence in Marine Science Awards

The DMR presented five local students with the Excellence in Marine Science Award at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held March 19, at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. Thanks to the following DMR staff who served as judges at local elementary and regional science fairs:

Christine Johnson, Traci Floyd, Rhonda Price, Tom Van Devender, Brady Trahan, Jennifer Buchanan, Dale Diaz, Erick Porche, Dr. Fred Deegen, Ben Bloodworth, Mike Walker, Jill Bockenstette and Lauren Bass.



Lindsey Manning (left) of Ocean Springs Middle School and Christopher Peterson (right) of Ocean Springs Middle School



Mary Beth Worrel (left) of Mercy Cross High School and Haley Moon (right) of St. John High School



Ashley McLaughlin (left) of Oak Park Elementary accepts her award from DMR marine biologist Dale Diaz (right).

Giving the Gift of Life



DMR staff members sport T-shirts received for participating in the DMR-sponsored American Red Cross Blood Drive, held Jan. 30 in the Bolton State Building. Eight state agencies participated in the blood drive, which drew 41 pints.

(Back row, from left: Joe Runnels, Lauren Thompson, Rachel Culp, Pat Daughdrill, Iris Lofland, Christine Popwell and Dale Diaz. Front row, from left: Linda St. Arnaud and Linda Bullard. NOT PICTURED: Clay Boulet, Jennifer Buchanan, Kerwin Cuevas, Dorothy Daniel, Russell Doucet, Ron Jordan, Alan McArthur, Linda McCarthy, Janet Morgan, Joan Murphy, Constance Owens, Bill Richardson, Diane Roth, Roxanne Russell, Gwynn Taylor, Charlie Vyles and Robin Zantow.)

Happy Anniversary!

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

(1/1/90) Dale Diaz	(1/18/02) Jessy Verges
(1/1/91) Clay Boulet	(1/29/01) Wesley Devers
(1/1/95) Gerald Chatham	(1/29/01) Ruth Posadas
(1/1/95) Phyllis Davis	(2/1/76) Chester Van Devender
(1/1/95) Doug Drieling	(2/1/89) Steve Breland
(1/1/95) Rita Duvernay	(2/1/90) Tom Van Devender
(1/1/95) Kerry Endris	(2/1/99) Jeff Clark
(1/1/95) Olin Gunter	(2/25/02) Karen Carron
(1/1/95) Rocky Southern	(3/1/90) Rusty Pittman
(1/1/99) Rhonda Price	(3/1/98) Amy Taylor
(1/1/00) Melanie Lane	(3/1/02) Jeff Davis
(1/1/00) R.T. May	(3/1/02) Janet Morgan
(1/1/00) Jeffery Payne	(3/1/02) Jan Welker
(1/1/00) Andy Ryals	(3/12/01) Evelyn Thompson
(1/1/00) Bill Stover	(3/17/99) Leo Christie
(1/10/00) Diane Roth	(3/25/02) Debbie Belk
(1/15/98) Jan Boyd	(3/26/79) Terry Bakker
(1/16/85) Donnie Armes	(3/26/01) Jimmy Sanders
(1/18/02) Denise Stover	

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



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DMR Calendar

April 15

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

April 17

Comprehensive Resource Management Plan meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 10 a.m.

May 12-14

Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Casino Magic, Bay St. Louis. Call (228) 374-5000 for details.

May 20

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

June 17

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

June 19

Comprehensive Resource Management Plan meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 10 a.m.

June 30

Mississippi saltwater sportfishing licenses expire

July 4

Free Mississippi saltwater sportfishing day

Doc's Fishing Tips

Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director

Fishing the front beaches for speckled trout and reds doesn't get any better than during the early part of the fishing season, and an angler has plenty of good choices for catching them this time of year: silver spoons, sinking and floating plugs, soft plastic jigs fished with or without a popping cork and flies like the Clouser Minnow are all effective.

If you did not receive this issue of Coastal Markers in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list, please fill out below and mail to: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Public Affairs, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530; call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5062; or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.state.ms.us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____