

# Coastal Markers

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES



Volume 8, Issue 3

Winter 2005

## Miss.Gulf Coast named National Heritage Area

Local communities in the six-county area of Southern Mississippi have stronger ties today as a region because of the hard work and collaborative efforts of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) Bureau, stakeholders and our Congressional delegation, Senator Thad Cochran, Senator Trent Lott, Congressman Gene Taylor, Congressman Charles Pickering, Congressman Bennie Thompson and Congressman Roger Wicker.

On November 20, 2004, DMR Executive Director William Walker was notified by Senator Lott that the designation would occur. On December 8, the President signed into law P.L. 108-447.

The bill designates Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Stone, Pearl River and George counties as a National Heritage Area. The National Heritage Area program is designed to preserve the region's historical, cultural, recreational and natural resources. It will increase the public awareness of the significance of the Mississippi Gulf Coast nationally.

The landscape of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, a six-county



The Hancock County Historical Society is just one historical site found on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

area within the Mississippi Coastal Plain that borders the Gulf of Mexico, has been shaped by the natural coastal and riverine environment and a number of cultural influences, including those of early Native Americans and Spanish, French and English settlers. The area contains cultural and historical sites related to these cultures, including the first capital of the Louisiana Territory, in addition to natural, scenic and recreational resources. DMR Executive Director William Walker made the official announcement to the public during a CRMP Stakeholder meeting held December 9, 2004. The program will be administered through the DMR CRMP Bureau. The designation brings grant funds



The Ocean Springs Harbor is a natural, scenic and recreational resource located in Jackson County.

to local communities to showcase points of interest. The funding allocation for the entire program is \$1 million per year for 10 years.

See **HERITAGE**, page 3

## \$6.1 million distributed to Coast

*Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark presented the Commission on Marine Resources with a check for \$6,100,942 to be used for FY2005 Tidelands Funds projects at a ceremony held in November.*

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*Coastal Markers* is a publication of the

**Mississippi Department  
of Marine Resources**

1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101  
Biloxi, MS 39530  
(228) 374-5000  
[www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us)

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Haley Barbour  
Governor

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*Executive Director*

Fred Deegen, Ph.D.  
*Deputy Director*

**Coastal Markers is produced by  
the Office of Public Affairs**

Lauren S. Thompson  
Editor-in-Chief

Susan Lepoma Perkins  
Writer/Editor/Graphic Designer

Marti Schuman  
Writer/Editor

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**Director's Notes**

*Dr. William Walker*



Normally one might consider mid-winter to be a slow-paced time for marine resources management. Strictly from a fisheries perspective that might be true as the oyster season slowly begins to wind down and the fleet begins its preparations to gear up for the upcoming shrimp season.

Elsewhere, on the legislative front, however, things are quite abuzz with activity this time of year, with a strong possibility that newly proposed statutes could affect a regulatory agency's way of doing business in the coming year.

This is also a busy time for wetlands permitting since winter northers and the characteristically low tides they produce facilitate bulkhead and pier construction as well as many other permitted coastal activities.

In just a few short months, the drab grey and relative calm of winter will give way to a riot of color and activity as the azaleas bloom and the fish return to the flats.

Until then, we hope you enjoy the colorful transformation and new look of our newsletter, *Coastal Markers*.

**Executive Director**

*If you would like to receive Coastal Markers in the mail, 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](mailto:susan.perkins@dmr.state.ms.us).*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat and Water Safety  
Course Schedule  
(January-February 2005)**

*All classes are free. Preregistration is required. Class dates are subject to change. For details, call the DMR Boat and Water Safety Bureau at (228) 435-1332.*

- **Jan. 22**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Jan. 25-26**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **Jan. 29**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Feb. 3-4**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **Feb. 7-8**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **Feb. 12**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Feb. 19**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Feb. 24-25**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **Feb. 26**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**DMR  
Capitol Day  
Feb. 24, 2005**

**The Department of Marine Resources encourages legislators, Capitol staffers and visitors to stop by the DMR's exhibit in the rotunda.**

**Learn more about the DMR and its projects and programs and south Mississippi's coastal resources.**

Thanks to those DMR employees who contributed to this issue of *Coastal Markers*: Leah Bray, Joan Murphy, Marcia Garcia, Tina Shumate, Ruth Posadas, Joe Jewell, Frank Wescovich, Amy Taylor, Josh Rowell, Stanley Hamilton, Katie Rosetti, Irvin Jackson, Dr. Fred Deegen, Dave Ruple, Chris May, Jennifer Buchanan, and Brad Ogle.



# Secretary of State presents Tidelands check

Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark presented the Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) with a check for \$6,100,942 to be used for FY2005 Tidelands Funds projects at a ceremony held Nov. 22, 2004 at Moses Pier in Gulfport. The money is from tideland lease revenue collected on the Mississippi Gulf Coast last year.

The CMR distributed the grants to tidelands funds recipients in December and January. Grants will be used for projects in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. The DMR oversees the progress of the projects.

FY2005 Tidelands Projects include:

- City of Bay St. Louis – Property Acquisition & Improvements for Waterfront Access
- City of Gautier – City Park Community Center
- City of Gulfport – Courthouse Road Boat Launch Facility
- City of Gulfport – Cowan Road Boat Launch Facility
- City of Long Beach – Harbor Improvements
- City of Moss Point – Audubon Interpretive Center
- City of Ocean Springs - Highway 90 Boat Ramp
- City of Pascagoula – The Point Development
- City of Pass Christian – Harbor Improvements
- City of Waveland – Pier/Marina Improvements
- Jackson County Board of Supervisors – Lake Mars Boat Launch and Parking
- Jackson County Board of Supervisors – Racetrack Road Boat Launch & Recreation Park
- Hancock County Board of Supervisors – Pearlinton Pier
- Hancock County Board of Supervisors – Washington Street Waterfront Park



Secretary of State Eric Clark presents the FY2005 Tidelands check to the Commission on Marine Resources. From left, Commission on Marine Resources member Shelby Drummond, Commission on Marine Resources Chairman Dr. Vernon Asper, DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker, Secretary of State Eric Clark and DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler.

- Harrison County Board of Supervisors – Beach Park Improvements
- D'Iberville Port Commission – Fountain Beach Public Access and Habitat Learning Center
- Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum – Schooner Pier/Salt Marsh Creation
- Beauvoir – Reclamation of Bayhead Swamp and Public Access to Oyster Bayou
- Ohr-O'Keefe Museums – Mississippi Sound Welcome Center Public Plaza
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources – Derelict Vessel Program
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources – Ship Island Pier
- USM College of Marine Sciences – Speckled Trout Management
- USM College of Marine Sciences – Management Projects
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – Pascagoula River Basin Estuarine Education Center
- WRANPS Wildlife Rehabilitation & Preservation Society, Inc. – Pelican/Shorebird Aviary
- Deer Island Acquisition

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.

## HERITAGE, continued from page 1

The DMR/CRMP is developing a management plan for the Heritage Program, which must be approved by the National Park Service. Funds will be allocated through the U.S. Department of Interior upon approval of the management plan. DMR/CRMP will administer the funds locally.

"I appreciate very much the valiant efforts on the part of our Congressional delegation, elected officials in our six counties, various conservation groups and individual citizens to make this designation possible," DMR Executive Director William Walker said. "This program will bring increased federal funding to Coastal Mississippi to allow local groups and organizations to support projects which

highlight, preserve and enhance our unique natural, cultural and historical resources."

To learn more about the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, you are invited to attend the next CRMP meeting to be held February 10, 2005 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Bolton State Office Building located at 1141 Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.

# Festival of Trees benefits botanical gardens

The DMR Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) partnered with Beauvoir for the First Annual Beauvoir Festival of Trees and Lights—a fundraiser held Dec. 1-5 to help restore the Botanical Gardens at Beauvoir in Biloxi.

The festival kicked off with a Gala on Dec. 1 with 20 professionally designed trees auctioned to the highest bidder. The trees remained on display to the public until Dec. 5 and were packed and transported by local moving companies to the new owners. More than 100 businesses and more than 200 volunteers participated in the event.

“The festival was a success,” said CRMP’s Joan Murphy, co-chair of the festival. “The community showed overwhelming support to restore these historically and ecologically important botanical gardens. We look forward to an even more successful event this year.”

Historically, the grounds of Beauvoir have supported habitats for woodland

animals, marine life and migratory birds. Funds raised during the Festival will go toward restoring the gardens once found on the 52-acre estate.

Major sponsors of the event were Allen Beverages, Roy Anderson Corp., Blossman Gas, DuPont, Garden Park Medical Center, Grand Casino Biloxi, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hewes, Hancock Bank, Holiday Inn-Airport, Knight-Abbey Commercial Printing & Direct Mail, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Plan, Mississippi Power Company, Murray Consulting Services, Pat Peck Nissan/Pat Peck Honda, Sawyer Real Estate, Specialty Contractor & Associates Inc., Yellow Book USA, Mardi Gras Productions, Wal-Mart, Beau Rivage and President Casino.

**The Second Annual Beauvoir Festival of Trees and Lights will be held Nov. 22-27, 2005.**



The “Heavenly Angels” tree was one of 20 trees on display at Beauvoir. This tree was designed by DMR staffers Joan Murphy, Marcia Garcia, Barbara Synowiez and Tina Shumate.

## NAAEE conference attendees work on Deer Island project



Hundreds of environmental educators from around the world attended the 33rd Annual Conference of The North American Association for Environmental Education last November in Biloxi. Conference participants were invited to help blaze a low-impact, cross-island trail and construct an outdoor learning “ring of fire” on Deer Island as part of a Deer Island Community Service Project. (Each year, the conference hosts an environmental education service project in the community that sponsors the conference as a way of thanking the community for hosting the event.) Several mornings during the conference, volunteers were ferried back and forth from the island to help with the project. These volunteers under the direction of the staff of the DMR’s Coastal Preserves Program, cut vegetation along the trail, picked up trash blown onto the site during Hurricane Ivan and helped prepare the site for the ring of fire.

## White Pelicans Stop by Reserve



During the winter of 2004-2005, hundreds of American White Pelicans have been seen throughout the many estuaries, bayous, and bays of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), located in eastern Jackson County. Recent observations have produced near record accounts of this species. Franklin Leach and Brad Ogle, seasonal research biologists at the GBNERR, have observed up to 1,200 white pelicans in one day. Though it is not fully understood, this abrupt spike in numbers may be related to the fish kill that occurred as a result of the frigid temperatures over the holidays, producing a feast of easy-to-catch fish.



# Marker Madness set for March

Marker Madness, a coastwide storm drain marking program is getting geared up to take place March 19 at J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi. CRMP has gained additional Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds as part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Stormwater Management Toolbox to assist the cities and counties with the implementation of their respective stormwater management plans through the marker project. Storm drain inlets will be marked with a stenciled design (See illustration above.)

Contrary to popular belief, most storm drains are not connected to treatment systems. Whatever enters the storm drains is discharged directly—untreated—into our local waterways.

Each time it rains, water washed over our streets, yards and driveways pick up pollutants along the way. Where does it go? It flows directly into our storm drains. This runoff may contain pollutants such as pet waste, cigarette butts and other litter, lawn chemicals, oil and other toxins, which can pollute our water, clog culverts and pipes, and lead to flooding.

For more information about Marker Madness and how you can participate, call Marcia Garcia at (228) 374-5000.

Here's how you can help prevent



stormwater pollution:

- Never dump anything down stormwater drains.
- Use fertilizer sparingly, and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste.
- Avoid pesticides.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.

## Marine Patrol Citation Totals

(October-December 2004)

Shrimp	4
Crab	6
Oyster	72
Commercial Net Fishing	0
Live Bait	4
Miscellaneous Seafood	0
Recreational Fishing	49
Boat and Water Safety	35
Marine Litter	2
Miscellaneous	5

## Boat and Water Safety Statistics

(October-December 2004)

Classes held	3
Students certified	46
Outreach events	3
Presentations	1
Boat inspections	15
Boating accidents	7
Fatalities	0

## Sound Advice

*Lt. Frank Wescovich*



In this issue of *Coastal Markers*, I will focus on some equipment requirements for the recreational boater. The basic requirements that

I will outline here are some that you will need to meet to be in compliance with state and federal regulations while boating in our coastal waters.

### Personal Flotation Devices

First, I will discuss Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) or what are more commonly known as "Life jackets." Statistics have shown for a very long time that wearing your lifejacket can and will save your life. The majority of drownings from recreational boating accidents are the result of someone falling overboard. If you are wearing a life jacket when you fall overboard, your chance of survival increases dramatically.

The basic Personal Flotation Device requirements for recreational boating are as follows:

Every vessel shall have onboard one wearable Type I, II, or III Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person onboard. This device should be of the proper size for the intended wearer. Every person twelve (12) years of age or younger onboard a boat that measures less than twenty-six (26) feet in length shall wear the personal flotation device when the boat is underway.

Proper personal flotation devices shall be worn by all persons riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft.

In addition, vessels sixteen (16) feet and over in length are required to have onboard a Coast Guard approved Type IV personal flotation device which is a throwable cushion or ring buoy.

### Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are required on all

See SOUND ADVICE, page 9

## Commission approves multiple point hook use

The Commission on Marine Resources approved a revision to Ordinance 7.027 at its October meeting to allow fishermen the use of treble, or multiple point hooks when fishing with live, dead or cut bait. The change went into effect Dec. 1, 2004.

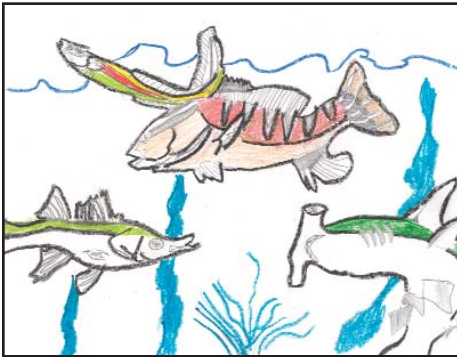
The change eliminates Section 11, which states: "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use a multiple point hook (e.g., double or treble hooks) when fishing with live, dead or cut bait within the saltwaters under the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi. This section shall not be construed to restrict the types of hooks which may be used on artificial lures."

# Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi

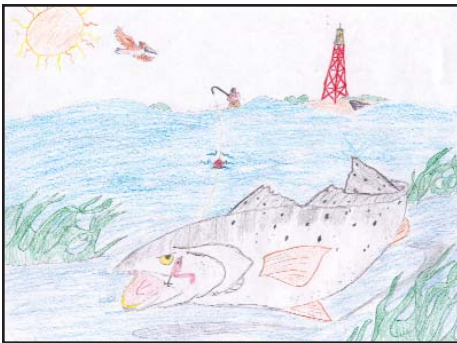
## DMR announces winners



January



February



March



April

The DMR has announced the winners of the "Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi's Coastal Resources" 2005 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 fifth- and sixth-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 DMR received more than 200 entries from schools in the three coastal counties. The winning artwork appears in the 2005 Marine Information Calendar.

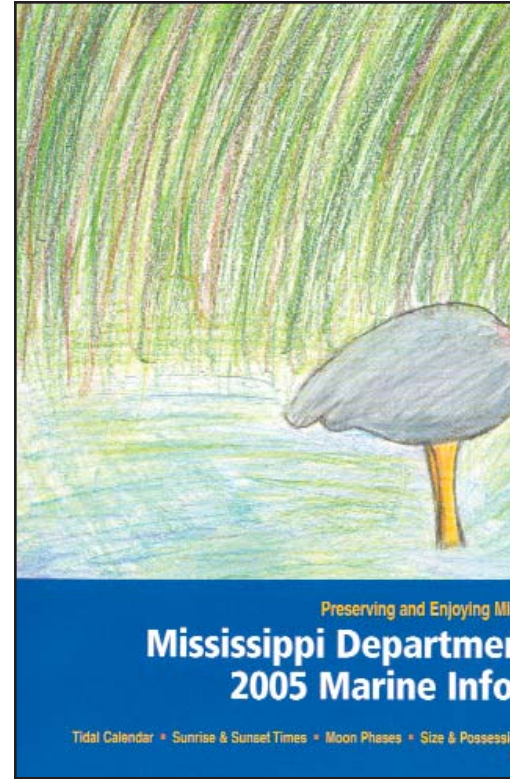
"The student artwork featured in this calendar shows a genuine appreciation of our coastal resources and an understanding of the importance of wise stewardship," said DMR Executive Director William Walker. "That awareness is a tribute—not only to the excellent schools and dedicated teachers that these students represent—but also to the educational efforts of the department, the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and all the many other organizations that work toward increased community education and heightened public awareness of our valuable marine resources."

Winners of the calendar art contest are:

- The artwork of Taylor Trippe of Our Lady of Fatima School is featured for the month of January and on the front cover of the calendar.
- The artwork of Brandon Farmer of Anniston Avenue Elementary School is featured for the month of February.
- The artwork of Austin Herold of Bayou View Elementary School is featured for the month of March.
- The artwork of Vincent Nguyen of D'Iberville Middle School is featured for the month of April.



May



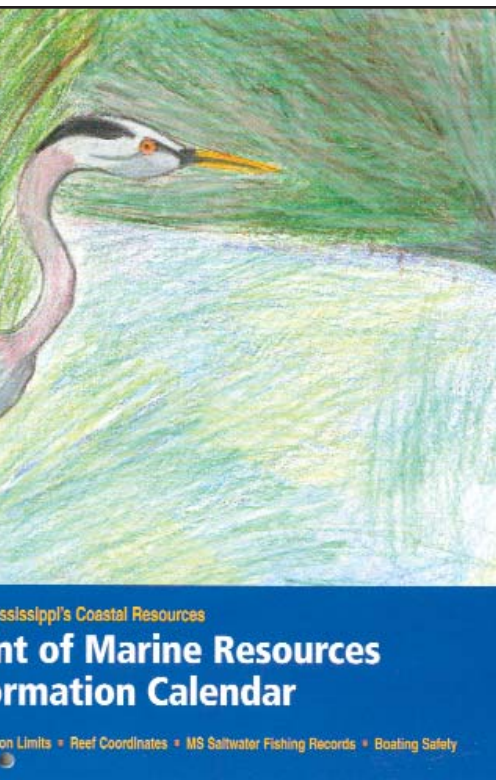
The cover of the 2005 calendar features the artwork of Taylor Trippe.



June



# Mississippi's Coastal Resources of calendar art contest



Work of Our Lady of Fatima School student, Taylor

- The artwork of Nicholas Myrick of Coast Episcopal School is featured for the month of May.

- The artwork of Ashlyn Torricelli of Our Lady of Fatima School is featured for the month of June.

- The artwork of Stephen Brauchle of Our Lady of Fatima School is featured for the month of July.

- The artwork of Ashley Libys of Coast Episcopal School is featured for the month of August.

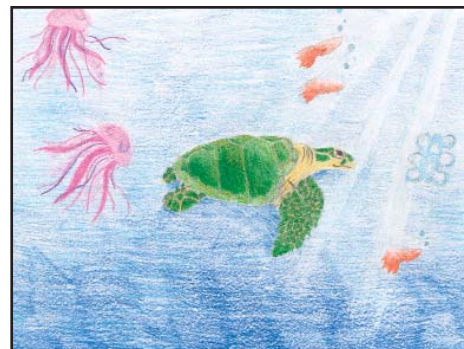
- The artwork of Sara Lydia Tuell of Coast Episcopal School is featured for the month of September.

- The artwork of Tenille Bradley of Coast Episcopal School is featured for the month of October.

- The artwork of Ethan Bartoleme of Coast Episcopal School is featured for the month of November.

- The artwork of Diana Le Trinh of D'Iberville Middle School is featured for the month of December.

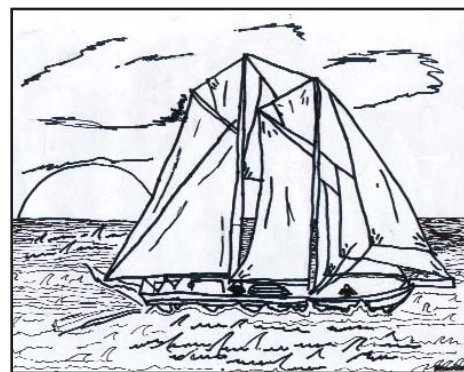
- The artwork of Jaelyn Lombard of Anniston Avenue Elementary School appears on the calendar's back cover.



September



October



November



July



August



December



## Facilities construction planned to begin this summer

Last summer the architect team of Studio South from Pascagoula and Lord Aeck & Sargent from Atlanta, Georgia began design work on permanent facilities for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) located in eastern Jackson County. Funding for the project was provided to the Department of

Marine Resources through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Estuarine Reserves Division. The new facilities are planned to be located on Bayou Heron Road on property owned by the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed building complex will house the research, education and administrative functions of the Reserve and the Refuge.

The building complex will consist of



An artist's rendition of the new permanent GBNERR facilities.

classrooms, an interpretative area, research labs and office space. The principle design team of Lord, Aeck & Sargent has worked with Reserve and Refuge staff to develop a workable design, incorporating many sustainable building technologies and sustainable building materials into the design. It was felt that if an aspect of our educational message is sustainable living, then our

facility should be a sustainably designed facility. United States Green Building Council criteria are being used to meet certain sustainability standards. These "green" building features will also contribute greatly to helping reduce the long-term operational costs of maintaining the building.

Taylor Studios of Rantoul, Illinois is working with the Reserve and Refuge staff on exhibit design for the interpretative area, which will reflect the great diversity represented in Grand Bay coastal habitats and past and present changes to these resources.

Construction of the new facility is scheduled to begin this summer.

## Grand Bay NERR intern practices scientific method

GBNERR intern Paul Parker enjoys his Thursday afternoons peering into PVC pipes and looking under logs on the reserve. GBNERR is participating in the 2004-2005 Intern-Mentor Program coordinated through the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center. The purpose of this program is to introduce interns to a professional work environment and to provide exposure to research techniques and technology. Paul is participating in the program as part of his honors biology course at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier Campus.

Stewardship Coordinator Christopher May and Reserve Manager David Ruple, Paul's mentors, have been guiding him through the scientific method, which involves developing a hypothesis, designing an experiment, collecting

and analyzing data, and reporting results. The scientific method is used to solve problems logically, and the method can be used to solve problems in any area of life, not just science.

Paul's project addresses the question: Does forest thinning affect treefrog diversity and abundance? One goal of GBNERR is to restore the historical pine savanna ecosystem of the site. One technique used to achieve this goal is to thin forest patches that currently have high tree densities. Chris and Paul are sampling treefrogs in forested areas. Half the areas will be thinned in the spring while the other half will remain intact. PVC pipes are being used to sample the treefrogs because the frogs use the PVC as daytime refugia, or areas protected from weather and pred-

ators. Chris and Paul shake the treefrogs out of the pipes, identify each treefrog, measure and weigh each one, and place them back in the pipes. They have "captured" green treefrogs (*Hyla cinerea*), squirrel treefrogs (*Hyla squirella*), and pine woods treefrogs (*Hyla femoralis*). After the forest thinning is complete, they will look for changes in the species and numbers of treefrogs at thinned sites to provide some insight into whether forest thinning has any effect, positive or negative, on treefrogs.

Paul will be presenting the details of the project and preliminary results at the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, which will be held February 16-18 in Oxford, Miss.





# Seafood Safety Corner

Water quality monitoring is a bi-annual service provided by the DMR's Seafood Technology Bureau to all licensed and certified Mississippi seafood processing facilities. The Gulf Coast Research Laboratory analyzes the water samples including the verification samples collected by the Seafood Technology Bureau. Most Mississippi seafood processing facilities have at least one water source, and every water source has to be sampled and tested before it can be used for processing seafood.

## Regulations

The Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) has issued changes in the Model Ordinance regulations under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). [For a complete list of these changes, contact the Seafood Technology Bureau at (228) 374-5000.] The Seafood Technology Bureau is currently assisting Mississippi seafood dealers with the required changes and in the implementation of these changes affecting their processing operations.

State Standardized Officers (SSO) Clay Boulet and Ron Jordan are available to provide the needed technical assistance to all facilities that are ready to do their back-out studies for new processing procedures. Any dealer who is ready to make changes in their processing procedures needs to notify the seafood officers to affect the necessary changes on the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan for their operations. Verification studies are necessary for the certification of their procedures. Seafood Officers Jan Welker and Jeff Davis are assisting the SSOs in the documentation of these new changes.

Changes to the Model Ordinance do not go into effect as requirements until a new Model Ordinance is issued. However, knowing what possible changes we can expect from the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) can help processing facilities plan for the future. The next ISSC meeting will be hosted by

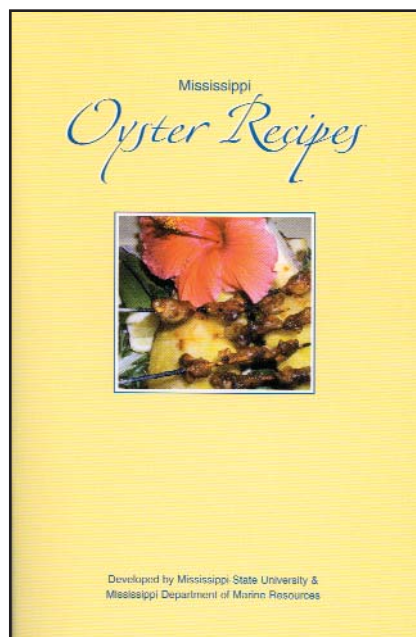


Ruth Posadas

the state of Alabama in August 2005. The conference is held every two years.

## Training

In November, I attended the Plant Identification Class taught by Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, of Biotech Consultants, Inc. The class was offered by the DMR's Coastal Preserves Program to those wanting to learn about the different wetland species of plants native in Mississippi. One of the mandates of the Seafood Technology Bureau is to assist any individuals who are interested in aquaculture. Therefore, we handle certain requests of technical assistance from the aquaculture industry.



## Education and Outreach

The Seafood Technology Bureau in collaboration with Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center (MSU-CREC) recently developed an oyster cookbook as part of a research effort. The cookbook, "Mississippi Oyster Recipes," is a compilation of the oyster recipes developed by Dr. Linda Andrews, a Research Associate Professor of MSU-CREC Seafood Experimental Laboratory and by Dr. Patty Coggins, a Research Assistant Professor of the Department of Food Science and Technology, MSU Garrison Sensory Evaluation Laboratory.

## SOUND ADVICE, continued from page 5

boats that have gasoline engines with permanently installed fuel tanks and is also required if the boat is of closed construction with spaces above or below deck where flammable fuel vapors may accumulate. It is highly recommended that you carry a fire extinguisher, even if it is not required for your boat. I have seen firsthand where fires on boats have been extinguished by other passing boaters providing a fire extinguisher. The extinguisher must be U.S. Coast Guard approved and carry a Coast Guard approval number on its label.

## Navigation Lights

You must display the proper navigation lights for your type and size of boat between the hours of sunset and sunrise or at other times of reduced visibility.

Remember, these are only the *basic* requirements and you should try to outfit your boat with more than just the very basic items. For a complete description of requirements for operating a boat in Mississippi waters, pick up a free copy of the DMR's "Mississippi Boater's Guide" available at the DMR office at 1141 Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.

**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) 432-2820 or (228) 435-1332.*

This cookbook has been published to promote increased oyster consumption and to provide assistance to the Mississippi and the Gulf oyster industry. Moreover, this is also to provide alternative ways for consumers to eat oysters. These different oyster value-added products are part of the post-harvest processes being promoted to the general consuming public.

**For your free copy of the "Mississippi Oyster Recipes" cookbook, please stop by the DMR office at 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi.**

# Governor recognizes Marine Debris Task Force

## *Marine Debris Task Force receives 2004 Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award for Mississippi Coastal Cleanup*

Governor Haley Barbour honored the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force with a 2004 Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award. Robbie Wilbur, State Director of Take Pride in America, presented the plaque to the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force during the October meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources.

"Mississippians are known for their generosity and their volunteer efforts on behalf of others. I am proud of the work the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force has accomplished in cleaning up our coast. Their hard work and their spirit of cooperation deserve being recognized by receiving the 2004 Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award," said Governor Barbour.

Take Pride in America honors outstanding volunteer efforts through a variety of awards, including recognition by elected officials. The Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award is presented by Governors to the group or individual volunteer in their state that best promotes the mission of Take Pride in America.

"The cornerstone of Take Pride is the belief that individuals need to be engaged to take responsibility for improving their community environment," said Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. "One by one, exemplary individuals, like recipients of the Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Awards, are turning this philosophy of cooperative conservation into action."

A partnership of 25 government agencies, military, academic and environmental organizations and businesses, the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force sponsors the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties. Through its coordination of this event, the task force raises awareness and educates the public on the detrimental effects of marine debris on marine and coastal wildlife. Held in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, which is sponsored by The Ocean Conservancy, the annual event draws more than 4,000 volunteers. In 2003, Mississippi ranked sixth in the nation in number of volunteers participating in this worldwide cleanup effort on behalf of the marine environment.

The DMR chairs the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from BFI; Cellular South; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Disposall Inc.; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hancock Insurance; Harrison County Beautification; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Home Depot; Jackson County Solid Waste; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC - Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Gulf



**Pictured from left: Front row, Cherie Schulz, Naval Construction Battalion Center; Diane Cantrell, National Marine Fisheries Service; Ellis Cuevas, Sea Coast Echo; Betsy Ashman, Hancock Insurance; Pamela Piper, The Home Depot; Middle row: Cindy Simmons, Harrison County Beautification; Victor Gonzalez, Naval Construction Battalion Center; Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force Chair Lauren Thompson, Department of Marine Resources; Susan Perkins, Department of Marine Resources; Cheryl Oliver, Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC - Gulfport; Ronda Powell, Jackson County Solid Waste. Back row: Jo Ann Casey, Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC - Gulfport; Marti Schuman, Department of Marine Resources; Dave Burrage, Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Darlene Underwood, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Take Pride in America State Director Robbie Wilbur, Department of Environmental Quality; and Christine Johnson, Department of Marine Resources.**

Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; National Marine Fisheries Service; Naval Construction Battalion Center; Naval Station Pascagoula; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; Outback Steakhouse; and Sea Coast Echo.

"Volunteers across the country are taking the Take Pride message to heart," said Marti Allbright, Take Pride in America executive director. "I'm delighted to join Governor Barbour in applauding the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force's service to our public lands."

Take Pride in America is a national partnership that recruits, supports and recognizes volunteers who work to improve our public parks, forests, grasslands, reservoirs, wildlife refuges, cultural and historic sites, beaches and shorelines, and other recreation areas. With 100 Charter Partners, Take Pride involves federal, state and local governments; conservation, youth and recreation groups; and top national corporations and organizations. For more information visit: [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov) or for more information on the Mississippi effort, visit: [www.TakePrideinMS.org](http://www.TakePrideinMS.org).

**The 2005 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 17. For more information, visit [www.coastalcleanup.ms.gov](http://www.coastalcleanup.ms.gov).**





# Take a Bow

*Recognizing employees commitment to excellence*

## DMR Staff honor troops with home-cooking



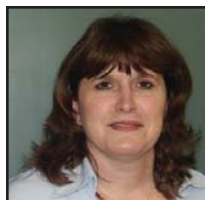
Front row, from left: Dr. William Walker, Joe Ziegler, Irvin Jackson, Jude LeDoux, Frank Wescovich and George Wright. Back row, from left: Jan Boyd, Scott Gordon, Corky Perrett, Jimmy Sanders, Mike Brainard, Alan McArthur and Wesley Devers.

DMR staffers honored Mississippi troops prior to their departure to Iraq during ceremonies held at Camp Shelby on Dec. 22, by cooking up a taste of home—Mississippi Gulf seafood. Congressman Gene Taylor's Office coordinated food donations from local businesses.

Other participants included Beau Rivage, Golden Gulf Coast Packing Co., Inc., Mary Mahoney's Old French House, Hancock County Board of Supervisors, Biloxi Fire Department, Harrison County Board of Supervisors, Biloxi City Council, Hancock Bank, and the Biloxi Bacon Brigade.

"Many expressions of appreciation were received from the troops and their families," said DMR Staff Officer Irvin Jackson. "Sometimes the best gift of all is giving and keeping our troops in our hearts and prayers."

## CRMP staff attend national workshop



Tina Shumate



Marcia Garcia

CRMP staff members Tina Shumate and Marcia Garcia attended the Coastal States Organization's (CSO) Healthy Coasts and Strong Communities workshop in Washington, D.C., in December.

Representatives from federal and state agencies met to discuss growth management in the coastal areas. Topics included population growth, water quality, transportation, affordable housing and public health issues.

## DMR Hosts Blood Drive



A Red Cross nurse assists DMR Projects Officer Linda Bullard (right) during a Red Cross blood drive, hosted by the DMR, on Dec. 7 at the Bolton State Building in Biloxi. About 32 people participated, including DMR employee volunteers, the general public and other state agencies in the building. Twenty-one pints of blood were collected.

## 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	(2/1/89) Steve Breland
(1/1/91) Clay Boulet	(2/1/90) Tom VanDevender
(1/1/95) Doug Drieling	(2/1/99) Jeff Clark
(1/1/95) Rita Duvernay	(2/14/04) Willa Henriksen
(1/1/95) Kerry Endris	(2/25/02) Karen Carron
(1/1/95) Olin Gunter	(2/25/03) Roy Lipscomb
(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) Richard 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	(3/15/04) Brock Bowan
(1/1/03) Jamie Herring	(3/15/04) Patrick Webb
(1/10/00) Diane Roth	(3/17/99) Leo Christie
(1/15/98) Jan Boyd	(3/17/04) Dennis Woullard
(1/16/85) Donnie Armes	(3/25/02) Debbie Belk
(1/29/01) Wesley Devers	(3/26/01) Jimmy Sanders
(1/29/01) Ruth Posadas	

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



**Mississippi Department  
of Marine Resources**  
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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## **6th Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, May 16-18**

# **DMR Calendar**

### **February 10**

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

### **February 15**

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

### **March 15**

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

### **April 14**

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

### **May 16-18**

6th Annual Coastal Development  
Strategies Conference, Grand  
Casino Biloxi Bayview Convention  
Center. For more information, call  
(228) 374-5000.

**Earth Day is  
April 22nd!**



## **Doc's Fishing Tip**



Try your luck with sheephead for some dependable fishing this time of year. You can find these gamesters around any deep-water, barnacle-encrusted pilings where their contrasting black stripes make them easy to spot.

To catch one, just rig up a hook with a small piece of shrimp, squid, fish or other market bait and lower it down near the fish. Set the hook on the slightest hint of a take as these sneaky slabsiders are notorious for their bait-stealing ability. Contrary to what you might think, their flaky, white flesh is excellent table fare.

*Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director*

Sheepshead illustration by Joe Jewell.