

# Coastal Markers



Volume 13, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Spring 2010

## 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference May 12-13

Celebrate the culture and heritage of the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference on May 12-13, 2010. Hosted by the DMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning, Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area and conference partner the Gulf Coast Business Council, the conference will be held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi.

The first day of the conference will feature keynote speaker Quentin Snediker, director of Mystic Seaport's Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard. Snediker will discuss the use of live oak timber from trees downed during Hurricane Katrina to restore the National Historic Landmark vessel Charles W. Morgan. Other topics include "The Mississippi Seafood Industry: The Foundation of Heritage and Culture"; "The Gulf Coast's Heritage

Assets: Opportunities and Challenges"; "The Evaluation Process on Historical Properties"; "Tourism's Encouraging Future for the Mississippi Gulf Coast"; an update on the City of Ocean Springs' recovery efforts; and "The Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards."

Following conference sessions on May 12, the Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program will host the Great Mississippi Seafood Cook-Off. Some of Mississippi's finest chefs will compete to represent the state at the Great American Seafood Cook-Off in New Orleans. On the second day of the conference, attendees may participate in an optional field trip to Beauvoir, Lynn Meadows Discovery Center and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.



This multidisciplinary event draws elected officials, city and county staff, contractors, developers, bankers, planners, zoning officials, real estate agents and appraisers, engineers, landowners, industry, students, federal and state agencies, boards of supervisors, lawyers, private and corporate entities, environmentalists, resource managers and others committed to rebuilding the Gulf Coast.

Real estate agents can earn 10 hours and appraisers can earn four hours of continuing education credit by attending the 11th annual Coastal Development

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Children learn to fish on Bayou Heron Pier at the NERR.

### Grand Bay NERR receives the B-WET education grant

entitled "Connecting Kids to Coastal Watersheds" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

See page 8 for full story.

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[www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov)**



Director's Notes

*Dr. William Walker*

Spring is here and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Artificial

Reef Program has restored Mississippi's inshore artificial reefs to 100 percent of their pre-Hurricane Katrina state.

About 90 percent of Mississippi's inshore and offshore artificial reefs were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Prior to Katrina, there were 44 inshore artificial reefs, and as of early 2010 there are 67 around boat ramps, fishing piers and deepwater markers within a half mile of the shoreline. About 65 percent to 70 percent of offshore reefs have been rebuilt.

The Mississippi Gulf has no natural reef habitat, and the reef fish depend on the artificial reefs to thrive. The inshore reefs were created using crushed concrete and limestone. Since Katrina, more than 43,000 cubic yards of material have been deployed to restore and build Mississippi's inshore reefs.

The inshore reefs provide excellent habitat for fish species such as speckled trout, white trout, flounder and redfish.

This artificial reef recovery project is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Emergency Disaster Recovery Program and through a partnership with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks.

Locations of Mississippi's artificial reefs can be found on the DMR Web site at: [www.dmr.ms.gov/Fisheries/Reefs/artificial-reefs.htm](http://www.dmr.ms.gov/Fisheries/Reefs/artificial-reefs.htm).

Fishing is such an important part of life on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and these reefs allow fishermen a way to have a great catch without going offshore.

For those fishermen who are venturing offshore, our DMR Marine Patrol along with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks are offering free boating safety classes. Pre-registration is required for these classes. For a list of upcoming classes, please see Page 4 in this issue of Coastal Markers.

**Executive Director**



**MARINE PATROL CITATIONS**

**JANUARY 2010 — APRIL 2010**

Shrimp-0  
Crab-6  
Oyster-53  
Live Bait-1  
Net Fish-8  
Fishing-34

Miscellaneous Seafood-0  
Boat and Water Safety-47  
Marine Litter-5  
Miscellaneous-16

**TOTAL-170**

**2009 DMR  
ANNUAL REPORT**

DMR's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009 to the Governor and the Legislature is available at the following link:

[www.dmr.ms.gov/publications/publications.htm](http://www.dmr.ms.gov/publications/publications.htm)

**Thanks!**

**Thanks to all those who  
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of Coastal Markers**

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Scott Gordon  
Richard Cooley  
Sandra Moore  
Jennifer Buchanan  
Marty Jones  
Ali Leggett  
Christine Murrell

# Walker honored for community leadership

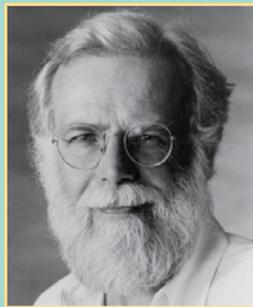
DMR Director Bill Walker was named by the Sun Herald and the Journal of South Mississippi Business as one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's Outstanding Community Leaders for 2010. Walker received the award at the ninth annual Outstanding Community Leaders and Top 10 Business Leaders Under 40 breakfast March 19, 2010, at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino.

"I was truly honored to be selected for this award. I was proud to accept it on behalf of my staff at the Department of Marine Resources, our partners at the Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the other state and federal agencies who work with us to allow economic development and environmental stewardship to move forward together in coastal Mississippi. By working together, we sustain and improve the outstanding quality of life that we all enjoy on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Walker.

Walker was named as the director of DMR by Gov. Ronnie Musgrove in 2002.

"As director, he has succeeded in bringing a businesslike and customer-oriented approach to this governmental agency and successfully balanced environmental protection with economic development," said the South Mississippi Business Journal.

Prior to his appointment as DMR director, Walker served as professor and assistant director of the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab for 28 years and worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Sen. Trent Lott. Currently, he represents Mississippi interests on the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Management Committee, a non-regulatory, inclusive partnership to provide a broad geographic focus on the major environmental issues in the Gulf. He is a member and former president of the board of directors of the Gulf Coast YMCA, a member of the Gulf Coast Business Council and the Ocean Springs School Board. In 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration presented him with the prestigious Julius A. Stratton Award for leadership in environmental stewardship and regional governance in the Gulf of Mexico Region.



## Keynote Speaker Quentin Snediker to talk about heritage project, Beauvoir's fallen oaks

Following the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, Quentin Snediker, director of Mystic Seaport's Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard, was invited to visit the Mississippi Gulf Coast to salvage live oak timber blown down by the storm. As keynote speaker of the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Snediker will tell the story of this salvage effort, the history and importance of live oak as a shipbuilding material and its use today in the Charles W. Morgan Restoration Project at Mystic Seaport.

Since 1989 when Hurricane Hugo hit coastal South Carolina, the museum has been collecting storm-damaged live oak to be used in various Maritime Preservation projects. In the age of wooden ships, live oak was the best available ship timber in North America. Today live oak is protected in most of its range and simply not available through conventional timber sources. While a tragedy for the region, the salvage of these beloved live oaks for historic preservation provides a small measure of emotional compensation for residents of the region.

Nearly 300 tons of this valuable wood was collected with the cooperation of local individuals, municipalities, communities and contractors. Today this wood is being custom sawn and installed as new frames (ribs) in the National Historic Landmark vessel Charles W. Morgan, originally built in 1841.

Snediker is director of Mystic Seaport's Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard, where a combination of seasoned professionals, apprentices and volunteers work year-round to preserve, restore and maintain the museum's more than 500 historic vessels, the largest collection of its kind in the world. He has supervised the construction and maintenance of, as well as captained, traditional sailing vessels for most of his 57 years. He holds a bachelor of science in marine transportation from the State University of New York Maritime College and a master of arts in historic preservation from Goucher College.

### Continued from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Strategies Conference, and receipts will be provided to all other professions—such as engineers, teachers and architects—to submit for credit to their respective organizations.

The registration fee will be \$155 (until May 11) and on-site registration is \$175. Conference fees include breakfast, refreshment breaks, lunch, field trip and conference materials.

For information on how you can be a sponsor of the event, call Susan Perkins at 228-523-4124 or Leslie Young at 228-523-4123. Registration information can be downloaded at [www.dmr.ms.gov/CMP/CRMP/Conference/10/conference.htm](http://www.dmr.ms.gov/CMP/CRMP/Conference/10/conference.htm).

# May 22-28: Boat and water safety week

We thought winter would never leave us, but we're finally settling into spring and barreling toward summertime. It's the perfect time of year for Coast boaters to prepare for summertime fun on the busy bays and bayous with a boat and water safety class. The Department of Marine Resources' Marine Patrol and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks have teamed up to offer boat and water safety classes to residents of all three coastal counties. The summer class schedule began in early April and will continue through mid-September.

The free courses are designed to effectively introduce topics such as boat registration, navigation rules, trailering, first-aid response and weather watch into a comprehensive one-day class.

"In 2009, we saw a significant increase in boating accidents, while enrollment in regularly scheduled boater safety classes was down," said DMR Marine Patrol Lt. Richard Cooley. "Participation in the class can be a very effective tool for boaters."

If you'd like to register for a boat and water safety class in your area, please call DMR Marine Patrol or MDWFP to register prior to the class. If the class is instructed by MDWFP, call 601-928-3720; call DMR Marine Patrol dispatch at



**Naturalists enjoy a boat ride on Davis Bayou during the Earth Day celebration in April 2010 at the Gulf Islands National Seashore.**

228-523-4134 to register for a class instructed by Marine Patrol or to have Marine Patrol conduct a class at your school.

## Did you know?

- In order to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC) in Mississippi, those born after June 30, 1980, are required to successfully complete an approved boating safety course and to have a certificate of completion in their possession while operating a motorboat or PWC.
- In Mississippi, it is against the law for anyone under 12 years old to operate a motorboat or PWC unless they possess a certificate and are accompanied by another person who is at least 21 years of age.
- A life jacket is required onboard for all persons on boats in Mississippi waters.
- Anyone riding or operating a PWC in Mississippi waters must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type 1, 2, or 3 Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- Anyone who has not reached their 13th birthday must wear a PFD at all times when underway in a vessel under 26 feet.

### **DMR Marine Patrol Class Schedule:**

*To register for the following classes, call DMR Marine Patrol at 228-523-4134.*

- June 19 – Biloxi, Bolton State Office Building, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- July 17 – Biloxi, Bolton State Office Building, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- July 24 – Bay St. Louis, Mississippi Power Company, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- July 31 – Gautier, MGCCC Estuarine Education Center, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Aug. 14 – Bay St. Louis, Mississippi Power Company, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Aug. 21 – Biloxi, Bolton State Office Building, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Aug. 28 – Gautier, MGCCC Estuarine Education Center, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sept. 18 – Biloxi, Bolton State Office Building, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

### **Miss. Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks class schedule:**

*To register for the following classes, call MDWFP at 601-928-3720.*

- May 15 – Biloxi, Bolton State Office Building, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
- May 22 – Kiln Library, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
- June 4 – Pascagoula Wildlife Management Area Headquarters, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
- June 26 – Kiln Library, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.



## DMR prints Vietnamese, Spanish translations of pocket guide to “Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing Size and Possession Limits”

DMR has printed Vietnamese and Spanish translations of its “Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing Size and Possession Limits” pocket guide. The wallet-sized, water-resistant guide provides a size and bag limit chart for some of the most popular sportfish found in Mississippi waters.

The translations and English version of the pocket guide are free and available at the DMR office at 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, or on the DMR Web site at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov) under the publications menu.

Please be aware that size and possession limits are subject to change. Please contact the DMR at 228-374-5000 for the most current limits. Not all fish species are listed on this card.



DMR Executive Director Bill Walker presents Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd the Mississippi Recycling Coalition award.

### Shrimp and Crab Bureau wins recycling award

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau’s Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program received a Special Recognition award from the Mississippi Recycling Coalition (MRC) Environmental Hero Program.

The Environmental Hero awards are presented annually to honor outstanding environmental efforts in business, education, local governments and state/federal agencies. Nominees are judged by a panel of MRC members based upon how each nominee works to create a better community by promoting recycling, continues efforts instead of just completing a one-time project, increases awareness of environmental stewardship, and improves community waste handling and environmental practices.

The Mississippi Recycling Coalition is a consortium of recycling companies, local governments, state agencies and other interested organizations in the State of Mississippi.

### Celebrate the Gulf was a huge success with over 3,000 attendees



DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson assists artist Marty Wilson as he signs copies of the poster “Saltwater Fish Common to Mississippi.”



Volunteer Kip Posadas, Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas and the Finfish Bureau’s Sally Richards run the booth at the Seafood Technology and Marketing tent.

## Coastal Program earns high marks from NOAA

Section 312 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 requires NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) to conduct periodic evaluations of the performance of states and territories with federally approved coastal management programs. In March 2009 an evaluation team examined the operation and management of the Mississippi Coastal Program (MSCP) for the period from January 2005 through March 2009.

The MSCP, approved by NOAA in 1980, comprises a network of agencies with authority in the coastal zone. The DMR, through the Office of Coastal Ecology, serves as the lead agency. The DMR is governed by a Commission on Marine Resources appointed by the governor. The primary authorities guiding the Coastal Program are the federal CZMA and the state Coastal Wetlands Protection Act, which includes a wetlands plan designating the allowable uses of the state's tidal wetlands. The Mississippi coastal zone includes the three coastal counties as well as all adjacent coastal waters and the barrier islands of the coast.

Significant accomplishments of the MSCP noted by the evaluation team included improving customer service, developing and implementing new wetland regulations, increased employee retention rates, improving coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting staff by providing them with local office space, helping local governments understand and adopt smart growth principles, partnering with numerous organizations to remove large amounts of debris and control invasive species after Hurricane Katrina, working collaboratively with the Grand Bay NERR, and enhancing regional coordination.

The evaluation team concluded that DMR is successfully implementing and enforcing its federally approved coastal management program, adhering to the terms of the Federal financial assistance awards, and addressing the coastal management needs identified in section 303(2)(A) through (K) of the CZMA.



### Grant to help restore Deer Island shoreline

The DMR has received a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) to help fund part of the Deer Island Restoration Project. The \$20,000 grant was awarded to fisheries scientist Marty Jones and will be matched by the DMR. The funds are being used to create approximately 800 linear feet of breakwater. The breakwater will help protect the northeast corner of the island from erosion as well as provide suitable substrate for an intertidal oyster reef.

The breakwater is being constructed with wire mesh bags filled with recycled oyster shells. The bags will be staked down with wooden rods to prevent lateral movement from the constant wave energy. The wooden rods are biodegradable and the wire mesh will rust away in a few months leaving the habitat free of all debris. Once the breakwater is in place, live oysters from surrounding reefs will be deployed along the base of the shells. The recycled oyster shells will provide suitable substrate for oyster spat (small oysters) to settle and create an oyster reef. The oyster reef in turn will attract fish and create a habitat for small marine plants and animals.

Construction of the mesh bags began in late February and deployment of the bags began in early March. The Shellfish Program is working in conjunction with the Coastal Preserves Program to complete the project. The site will be monitored for oyster spat recruitment, water hydrology, and erosion control success/retention of shoreline.

**Deer Island is the closest barrier island to Mississippi's shoreline and is located less than 3 miles south of Biloxi.**

### Researchers to evaluate Deer Island plants, birds

In 2004, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the DMR constructed a 49-acre marsh site on the northeast corner of Deer Island. The purpose of this project was to use dredged material to create marsh and wetland habitat along the Mississippi coast. Matt Lang, a graduate student with the University of South Alabama, will conduct an assessment of the plant distribution and spread as they relate to dredge material quality and the hydrology of the site. Additional information will be collected from the adjacent natural marsh for comparison. The results are expected to provide guidelines for future construction and restoration plans in marine aquatic habitats.

In additional research, Margo Zdravkovic, director of the Coastal Bird Conservation Program (CBCP), has begun an ongoing survey of non-breeding shorebirds within the restoration area and island, as well as the newly constructed "Katrina" fishing reef located south of the island. The CBCP is a field-based, science-driven program to enhance conservation of coastal bird populations through research and promotion of standardized methods of management.

# DMR hosts U.S. NERRS coordinators

The NERR Education and Stewardship Coordinators from across the United States met earlier this month at Gulf Hills Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean Springs for the 2010 NERR EC/SC winter sector meeting. Of the 27 reserves in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), 24 reserves were represented at the annual conference, which was held March 9 through March 11.

Every winter, sector coordinators meet to discuss their programs and share ideas for future projects. This year the education and stewardship sector coordinators combined their conferences in an effort to achieve higher efficiency through planned integration. The two groups of coordinators held joint and individual sessions during which they discussed such topics as restoration science, climate change, environmental education and stewardship.

"This meeting gave the educators and stewards from the NERR system an opportunity to highlight what their reserve is doing," said Grand Bay NERR Education Coordinator Jennifer Buchanan. "It's also very helpful for us to

network and gather ideas for future programs."

During the conference, the stewardship sector conducted a two-day habitat restoration training with noted restoration scientist, Dr. Andre Clewell. According to Grand Bay NERR Stewardship Coordinator Will Underwood habitat restoration is an integral component of stewardship within the reserve system and Clewell's training will be instrumental in further projects.

"Habitat restoration is practiced on a variety of scales at various reserves," said Underwood. "Dr. Clewell provided us with a cohesive framework for restoration and outlined the values that should be associated with our restoration efforts."

The coordinators' sector meetings were very effective, but the conference wasn't all business. In addition to hosting a crawfish boil, an evening social at the Walter Anderson Museum, several Southern-inspired lunches and dinners, and optional guided kayak and boat tours were also offered to conference attendees.

"We tried to incorporate eco-tourism

opportunities into the schedule," said Buchanan. "We really wanted to showcase Mississippi's diverse coastal resources."

Most of the three-day conference took place at Gulf Hills Hotel and Conference Center, but on day two, visiting coordinators took a field trip to the Grand Bay NERR's new facility in Moss Point, where they spent the morning exploring and the afternoon carrying on with the business of the meeting. The Grand Bay staff led a walking tour through the new Coastal Resources Center and a boat tour of Bayou Heron.

"Of course the highlight of the conference was showcasing our new 'green' building and the aquatic and terrestrial habitats of the Reserve," said Buchanan. "This was the first opportunity that our staff has had to show our new facility and our unique coastal habitats to most of our counterparts within the system."

**During the national 2010 NERR Education and Stewardship Coordinators winter meeting, hosted by the Grand Bay NERR in March, conference attendees took a tour of the new eco-friendly Coastal Resources Center and the Grand Bay NERR grounds, along with a boat tour of Bayou Heron.**





## Unusual dolphin species strandings discovered at NERR

Over the past two years, strandings of two unusual species of dolphins have occurred at the Grand Bay NERR. The first species, an adult striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), was found in September 2008 on the northern shore of Point aux Chenes Bay. The second stranding occurred in January 2010 and was a small, subadult male Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*). These two species are normally found in oceanic waters near the continental slope of the Gulf of Mexico. Both of these animals were in advanced stages of decomposition, indicating that they probably died offshore with currents carrying them into coastal waters. Scientists from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Grand Bay NERR examined the animals and collected appropriate samples.

According to NMFS stock assessment reports, there were nine reported strandings of Risso's dolphins from 1999 to 2006—three from Texas and six from Florida. None have been previously reported from Mississippi. Additionally, four strandings of striped dolphin from the Gulf of Mexico have been reported from 1999 to 2006, none of which occurred in Mississippi. Relatively little is known about these two species of dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico, and currently there is not enough information about the status of the stocks to determine population trends. Neither species is presently listed as threatened or endangered.

Cookie-cutter shark bites were found on the body of the Risso's dolphin at the NERR. These bites are quite interesting, but not uncommon. They are perfectly round holes where plugs of tissue have been excised by the shark. Cookie-cutter sharks (*Isistius brasiliensis*) are small, deepwater sharks that grow only to 50 centimeters in length. They are known for their unique feeding habit as an ectoparasite upon larger fish and marine mammals where they use their bandsaw-like teeth to cut out chunks of flesh by rotating their body 360 degrees.

**NOAA Fisheries and Grand Bay NERR scientists investigated the strandings of a Risso's dolphin (top) in 2008 and a striped dolphin (bottom) in 2010 at the Grand Bay NERR.**



## B-WET grant to send fourth-graders into field

The Grand Bay NERR recently received a \$63,512 grant entitled "Connecting Kids to Coastal Watersheds" from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This NOAA Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program project will introduce Moss Point fourth-grade students to field experiences in coastal habitats and will emphasize stewardship of their coastal environments. The program will allow children to visit and learn three different habitats in Jackson County. Educators from the J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, the Grand Bay NERR and the Pascagoula River Audubon Center will lead students to the Mississippi Sound, NERR pine savannas and the Pascagoula River during the 2010-2011 school year. Curriculum development and professional teacher development will be coordinated with the Moss Point School District. Primary objectives of the program are to get the children outdoors in a natural setting; show children how different segments of local watersheds are connected; and teach children about the risks that can impact watersheds. The project will begin July 2010.

## Old Fort Bayou Blueway's a natural treasure

Much deserved attention has recently been given to Old Fort Bayou in Jackson County as well as its surrounding natural areas, including properties managed by the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, the DMR's Coastal Preserve Program, the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge and the Nature Conservancy. After many years of effort by the Land Trust and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Old Fort Bayou Blueway is established and seeing frequent use.

In addition to guided tours and self-explored trips, the first annual blueway race, Battle on the Bayou, was held there in March 2010. To enhance the experience on the bayou, markers along the shore steer paddlers to points of interest, including the 30-acre Twelve Oaks property, which has recently been enhanced to include additional trails, overlooks and signage. Other points of interest include cultural sites, restaurants and public launches. Visit the Land Trust Web site at [www.ltmcp.org](http://www.ltmcp.org) for a printable Old Fort Bayou Blueway brochure.

## Prescribed fire on Deer Island makes way for new growth

Approximately 30 acres of coastal pine forest from Grand Bayou to the east end of Deer Island were burned Feb. 10, 2010, in a prescribed fire conducted by the DMR's Coastal Preserves Program.

The purpose of the controlled fire was to clean up underbrush and dead vegetation left behind by Hurricane Katrina so that the land can be seeded and replanted. The ash that results from the burn also helps fertilize the soil, which spurs the re-growth of native vegetation and natural wildlife habitat.



# Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis



Jessica Rankin

Seafood Officer Jeff Davis tests the strength of sanitizer solution to ensure it meets guidelines for proper sanitation control procedures.



Spring is here and the Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) is conducting its fourth-quarter inspections. Last quarter inspections are the most important inspections during the fiscal year. During this quarter, inspectors determine if seafood facilities will be recertified. Facilities and their Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) records are inspected for possible incompliance to the program. In order for a seafood facility to be recertified, certain HACCP and sanitation requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) must be met.

## HACCP requirements include:

- A dealer shall have an acceptable HACCP Plan approved by the Authority;
- Should have no critical deficiencies;
- Should have no more than 2 key (K) deficiencies;
- Not more than 2 other (O) deficiencies.

## Sanitation requirements state dealers can have:

- No critical deficiencies;
- No more than 2 key (K) deficiencies;
- No more than 3 other (O) deficiencies.

The number of deficiencies allowed shall include carryover deficiencies from an approved existing compliance schedule and new deficiencies identified during the certification renewal inspection. The STB staff reminds all certified seafood dealers and processors to check their refrigeration units and verify that these are maintained properly. Certain foods must be maintained at proper temperatures to avoid bacterial contamination. Oysters are required to be maintained at 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below. In case a refrigeration unit malfunctions or breaks down, it is good practice to have a backup unit available to safely store food products.

On Feb. 20, 2010, Biloxi's 22nd Arbor Day was celebrated with a 5K & 1 Mile Health Run/Walk/Roll and a festival at the Town Green. The proceeds from the marathon and the festival benefited the Disability Connection, an Internet resource center and directory of events and special services for people with disabilities. The STB brought seafood safety educational materials and shared information about Mississippi coastal waters. Sally Richards, Jessica Rankin, Ruth Posadas and intern Mary Capodice staffed the booth while Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell entered the 5K Marathon and won second in his category.

The STB Public Outreach Program has been involved in many events this spring. In April, the STB participated in the annual Celebrate the Gulf Festival in Pass Christian and a Stewardship field day at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs. The field day at GCRL was a free event and included activities in both the field and in the laboratory. Two of the activities were on research boats. Topics taught included water quality, harmful algal blooms, seafood safety and marine debris. During the same month, the 2010 Crawfish Festival was held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

In May, the STB will be attending the Shadowz Paranormal Investigation Wellness Expo at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. There will be health screenings by the health department and a symposium with many guest speakers. For more information or to volunteer for upcoming events, contact Jessica Rankin with the Seafood Technology Bureau at [jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov) or by phone at 228-523-4095.



The STB is proud to welcome an intern from the Jackson County campus of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mary Capodice, far right. Capodice is a science major and has many years experience working with kids. She will be a valuable asset to the STB this semester.



Seafood Officer Jessica Rankin explains the Fishy Prize Wheel game to a young participant at Biloxi's 22nd Arbor Day on Feb. 20, 2010, at the Biloxi Town Green.



# Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence



Kristina Broussard and Jessica Rankin with DMR's Seafood Technology Bureau learn about growing lima beans from a student at the Nativity BVM Elementary science fair.



Christine Murrell with DMR's Office of Fisheries tallies results at the Nativity BVM Elementary science fair.



Matt Carrell receives a certificate for volunteer hours worked as a Marine Patrol reservist.



Ali Leggett with DMR Coastal Ecology completed a course that certifies her as an interpretive guide.



Artist Joe Jewell signed the print above for all who entered the Biscuit Bowl.

## Biscuit Bowl whets appetite for worksite wellness

Stepping on a scale about five years ago and seeing the number glaring back at him, Finfish Bureau Director Buck Buchanan jokingly exclaimed, "I'm just a biscuit away from 300 pounds."

In January 2006, Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell was sparked to initiate a weight-loss challenge for Fisheries Office employees, and thanks to Buchanan, he had the perfect name for the competition.

The Biscuit Bowl has evolved to include employees throughout the agency and is a great way to participate in the Governor's Worksite Wellness Program, which encourages employees to adopt healthy lifestyles through weight loss, healthier eating and regular exercise.

The 2010 Biscuit Bowl kicked off in January and finished in April. The fifth-ever competition saw its closest finish with only a 0.2 margin. The overall winner was Melanie Lane, with Jeff Grant finishing second.

Overall the men lost a total of 60.1 pounds, and the ladies lost a total of 46.3 pounds for a Biscuit Bowl record of 106.4 pounds.

In January 2010, 34 people—12 men and 22 women—signed up for the 90-day challenge. Prizes were awarded throughout the challenge, with the grand prize awarded at the final weigh-in. Among prizes were a month free YMCA membership, cash, T-shirts and mugs, and the grand prize, awarded to Melanie Lane, was an original 2010 Coastal Development Strategies Conference poster created and signed by Jewell.

## Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with DMR and the state of Mississippi. We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.

David Dollar.....	4/1/1989	Rudy Balias.....	6/1/2000
Bryce Gex.....	4/1/1998	Lauren Thompson.....	6/1/2000
Michael Yonce.....	4/1/1998	Robin Zantow.....	6/1/2002
Russell Doucet.....	4/11/1988	George Ramseur.....	6/1/2007
Walter Chataginer.....	5/1/1988	Timothy Broder.....	6/14/2004
Joyce Gagliano.....	5/1/2001	Christine Murrell.....	6/15/1990
Kristina Broussard.....	5/1/2006	Jessica Rankin.....	6/16/2008
Scott Saucier.....	5/1/2006	Michelle Shumake.....	6/16/2008
Shannon Rojas.....	5/1/2008	Rick Burris.....	6/20/2007
Darrin Stewart.....	5/1/2008	Jimmy Hester.....	6/24/1993
Jill Zednick.....	5/19/2008	Grant Larsen.....	6/25/2001
Melissa Faircloth.....	5/19/2009		



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**11TH ANNUAL COASTAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES CONFERENCE  
MAY 12-13, 2010**

***DMR Calendar***

**May 12-13**

11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. For more information contact Susan Perkins at [susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov) or 228-523-4124.

**May 18**

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

**May 22**

CCA Casting for Conservation Children's Fishing Rodeo  
Courthouse Road Pier, Gulfport  
8 a.m.-Noon  
Call Bert Alvarez at 228-323-2323.

**May 31**

Memorial Day  
DMR offices closed

**June 15**

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



**Go Green**

To receive your Coastal Markers via e-mail, contact [lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov)

***Doc's Fishing Tip***

Springtime for many fishermen means fishing live shrimp under a popping cork. Indeed, there is no easier way to hook up with a nice speckled trout than dancing one of these tasty morsels through the shallows. In fact, live shrimp are high on the menu list of red drum, Spanish mackerel, flounder, jack crevalle, and just about anything else that swims, so be sure to pick up a bucketful this season and give 'em a try yourself...— Dr. Fred Deegen



Illustration: Joe Jewell

***Mississippi Gulf Shrimp Etouffee***

- 5 lbs. Mississippi Gulf shrimp, peeled, deveined and chopped
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 onions, chopped
- 6 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 tbsp. garlic, chopped
- 4 tbsp. flour
- 1 cup mushrooms, chopped
- 3 tbsp. paprika
- Salt, black pepper, and red pepper flakes to taste



In a large skillet melt butter; saute onions, celery and garlic. Stir in flour and cook slowly for 5 minutes. Add shrimp and cook for 20 minutes. Add 2-3 cups of water and mushrooms. Stir in paprika and seasoning. Cook for 30 minutes. Serve over rice with hot French bread.

Reprinted from DMR's *Get Hooked on Mississippi Shrimp Recipe Book*  
Recipe by Linda Wakefield