

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



Pam Williams & John Halsey, Editors

Spring Edition May 2012

Prez Says

I want to first express my condolences to the LaBoeuf family for the loss of their grandson, Josh. Josh was known in Bay Harbor as being a person who would always lend a helping hand to a neighbor. He and I worked quite a lot at removing debris from the canal just days after hurricane Ike swept through. Josh was polite to everyone he met and always seemed to have a smile on his face. My prayers are with his family.

Please take notice of a new Bay Harbor sign located on 1st Street and FM3005. Now giving directions to individuals visiting will be a little easier. We have installed solar lights on both, the sign at 1st Street and the sign on 4th Street. I hope everyone has a chance to see the signs in the evening. Again, your membership in the Bay Harbor Improvement Association helped install the new sign and lighting.

The marina now has fully operating locks on the launches. There was a time when we experienced vandalism on the south launch but that has been repaired. Two light fixtures around the basin have been vandalized and they both need replacing. If you see individuals who are vandalizing please make

yourself visible and call the police. If you drive by and see the gate to the pier open with no one around please close and lock it for the safety of our young people. If you see the chain/lock on either side of the launch please take time to lock them as well. Replacing light fixtures, chains, locks, etc. takes money out of our treasury, money which could be put to better use. ALL of us need to enjoy all our facilities but also monitor them.

We have been fortunate to have experienced some awesome weather in Bay Harbor these past few weeks. The properties in and about Bay Harbor are being kept nice and everyone's plants are beginning to bloom. I have hummingbird feeders up as several neighbors do and am enjoying visits by many hummingbirds.

In closing, please consider attending our Annual Meeting coming in June. There will be good food and drink and all sorts of prizes. Mr. Randy Choate will be preparing Pork Tenderloin again this year....so when you ask yourself, "what can I bring,".....think pork loin. We're hoping to make this the largest attended annual meeting thus far. Hope to see you all at our meeting.

Charlie Winsor

Bay Harbor Garden Club Nature Report

Bay Harbor Improvement Association Board Members July 2011- June 2012

Charles Winsor, President 737-5913
281-488-7254
charleswinsor@sbcglobal.net

Gail Choate, Secretary/Treasurer 737-1707
gschoate@sbcglobal.net

Bill Hand 737-9418
281-557-2316
Cell 713-824-1067
bhand47@yahoo.com

Pam Williams 737-3733
Cell 713-924-7647
pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net

Robert Seay 281-487-6192
robseay1234@aol.com

Rob Traugott 737-9943
Cell 281-960-7098
rtraugott@lagunapools.com

Phil Martin 409-539-7250
713-529-8765
pm@pmartin-aia.com

Mark Bloom 713-775-1496
mbloom@sqmenergy.com

Annette Moore 737-5758
713-818-1858
tmoore7807@aol.com

Mike Garvin 737-4554
713-828-6122
Mike.Garvin@patenergy.com

Bill Aylor Cell 713-557-3427
713-436-3147

Jinny Gilliland jinnygilliland@sbcglobal.net

John Halsey jthalsey@sbcglobal.net

Website: WWW.BHIATX.ORG

Easter Sunday in Bay Harbor could have been in National Geographic Magazine this year. I saw a hawk tearing into one of our cottontail bunnies, but also saw healthy bunnies, maybe hiding the Easter Eggs. They may have been chicken eggs since I saw Black Bellied Whistling Ducks and Blue Teals with their ducklings, Sandhill Cranes (last month), Ibis, Curlews and heard of sightings of our Caracara.



My "bunny lady" from Houston's Wildlife Refuge Rehabilitation Coalition, is rehabbing the bunnies at her house and told me that she estimated giving Bay Harbor Garden Club 35 bunnies last year and 22 so far this year to release in Bay Harbor. She is coming down to Bay Harbor this month to check out her hand fed babies new home.

If you have old towels, sheets/pillow cases, please drop them off at my house so I can give them to the center. It takes a lot of supplies for the animals they rehab. The non-profit center rehabs a lot of different mammals and birds.

Annette Moore

(Editor's note: For more neighborhood sightings and help with your garden, all are welcome to the next Garden Club meeting June 23rd at 4117 2nd Street.)

Bay Harbor

Annual St. Paddy's Day Parade

3-17-12

This year's parade and party was one of the largest attended yet! Bill Hand provided plenty of his "daily catch" and other neighbors provided various side dishes and desserts. It was good to see some new faces in the neighborhood!



***** B.H.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING !! *****

June 09, 2012

5pm

Boat Basin

Please come join your friends and neighbors at our upcoming annual meeting. We will be extending invitations to our new mayor and council person once the election is decided. We will also invite the Director of Public works to join us to discuss the city's infrastructure build out plans. After neighborhood business is attended to we will be serving a nice meal of pork tenderloin accompanied by the spectacular side dishes and desserts that Bay Harbor is known for. We will also be conducting an auction to raise funds for community projects.

Donations are still needed for our raffle and auction!

Contact Jessie Bradshaw at jbradshaw@townandcountryins.com or 409-766-0350

And help with food is always welcome!

Contact Charlie or Cathy Winsor at charleswinsor@sbcglobal.net or 281-541-4877



**4th Annual
Bay Harbor
Fishing Rodeo**

May 25th and 26th 2012

Open to Bay Harbor families and friends

Three Fishing Divisions
Adult (17 years old and over) \$15
Junior (11 to 16 years old) \$10
Small Fry (10 & under) \$5

3 place prizes for Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder

Gift at registration

Tailgate fish fry

Bay Harbor Improvement Association



Small Community Restores West Galveston Habitat

By Betsy Redfield, Project Co-ordinator

Bay Harbor is quiet and relatively small. It was originally a fishing community located on the bay side of the west end of Galveston Island, three miles east of San Luis Pass. With the need to provide boater access into the bay, the Bay Harbor Habitat Restoration Project began as a typical maintenance dredging project. Guidance from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration changed the dredging to a habitat restoration and beneficial use project eligible for agency matching funds. The community took on this environmental project to restore bayside habitat and increase opportunities for the community's popular recreational activities of birding, fishing, and boating.

The project began in August 2006 filing an application for matching funds to the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA Cycle 5). From there the project took shape with the hiring of Gahagan & Bryant & Associates engineering who provided the needed description of the project and cost estimates. The north side of the eroding island became the one-acre pad rising four feet and extending to four acres of intertidal sheltered emergent marsh and bird nesting habitat. GBA provided surveys and permit application to the Army Corps of Engineers and Texas General Land Office. The contractor, JND Thomas Company dredged the existing channel a distance of 3,800 feet and installed 600 linear feet of Geotube® to protect the newly dredged channel and island pad from erosion. 15,000 cubic yards of material were recovered and used to fill the Geotubes® and raise elevations to protect up to eight additional acres behind the structure for future habitat creation.

To accomplish this costly project, the communities had fundraising events, block captain parties, sold t-shirts, cups, caps, a Fishing Rodeo, and solicited donations. Information on the project was provided through its newsletter, a printed brochure, e-mail, and a project progress board at the marina. Applications for matching funds were submitted to a list of agencies provided by NOAA. Bay Harbor's project was awarded grants from US Fish & Wildlife, NOAA, Galveston Bay Foundation, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Association of Counties, and Restore America's Estuaries. The Bay Harbor Habitat Restoration project also received wonderful support from Texas Parks & Wildlife, Galveston County, West Galveston Island Property Owners Association, and the Texas General Land Office. Coastal Beach & Bay Foundation, President Jeri Kinnear served as our financial administrator handling all grants and donations.

GBA officially declared the project completed as of December 21, 2010. On February 26, 2011, the Galveston Bay Foundation and NRG Energy coordinated native vegetation planting with Bay Harbor residents and over 25 Boy Scouts to participate. A second planting was held on March 8th with GBF, NRG, USF&W and over 60 students from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri participated in the planting under an "Alternate Spring Break Program".

USF&W periodic monitoring shows encouraging increases of migratory birds. The vegetation has suffered from storms and high tides but should show signs of recovery come spring. Some of the commercial fishery species expected to benefit from this project include brown and pink shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus* and *F. duroraum*), white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*), black drum (*Pogonias cromis*), southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*), sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) and spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*). Additionally, mullet (*Mugil sp.*) and Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulates*) are valuable finfish species used as bait by recreation fishermen. The long-term goal is to see an increase return of bait fish to attract these sport fish. The additional elevation is to encourage bird nesting and migratory return of local and transient wildlife.

An aerial photograph provided by LightHawk outlines the increased area compared to the eroding island at the start of the project. The residents are aware that the island is fragile and must be protected from human traffic to allow birds and fishery to return for nesting. The community looks forward to more boating activity with the open access channel. The completion of this project will provide better opportunities for the public to participate in recreational fishing, birding and water sport activities in the West Galveston Bay for years to come. Making beneficial use of materials has limited impact on the environment but results in a tremendous benefit to the public. For complete information on the effect of bird population, contact U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office.

Bird Island 1954-2012 and Beyond

By Phil Martin

Summer is just around the corner, and those boat owners who are also members of BHIA will be cruising out the channel and past our very own Bird Island soon, if they haven't done so already. As a community we continue to express our gratitude for the individual volunteers and various organizations who were instrumental in preserving, expanding and deepening our channel, and in creating Bird Island. This was a Herculean effort, and has increased the viability of our community in so many ways.

If



you haven't done so yet, catch the aerial view on Google Earth. Then, in the upper left hand corner, slide the selector bar back and forth to view the island (and your lot for that matter) at any time from 1954 to the present. The most obvious change is from right after Hurricane Ike to the present. The island is at least eight times larger, and the channel is now clearly visible.

But the same forces of winds and waves that affected the bay before are still in play. At some point we will need to re-dredge the channel, although it will be a maintenance operation as opposed to the massive effort of 2006 to 2011. And to keep the island intact, at a minimum, we will all need to keep off it, especially during nesting season. Already, we have had some minor erosion around the geo tubes. So with the assistance of the Galveston Bay Foundation, we are beginning to consider ways to protect the island and foster even more sand and plant retention.

Their idea, which is being explored at present, is to install some reef balls in the affected areas. Like you, I couldn't imagine what this device was, but the accompanying picture tells the story: perforated concrete spheres about 4' in diameter. Environmental experts are enthusiastic about these devices. They stop erosion and the underwater openings create a great fish nursery and habitat. They are carefully placed so as not to impeded navigation. Our focus will also be on placing the reef balls in the geo tube gaps, to help reduce erosion and hopefully allow more marsh grass to take root in those areas.

So watch The Heron for an update, and feel free to make a contribution if you can. More details as they become available. Safe Boating!

On the web-

<http://www.reefball.org/> And <http://googleearth.com/>



Bay Harbor Spring 2012 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

Due to the lack of a "winter", the transition of winter to spring fishing did not change much this year. Most of the fish like Speckled Trout and Redfish that spend the winter in the bay did not move too far from their summer homes. Fishing has been great all winter and that is continuing into the spring which considering we are in early May seems more like summer already!



The canals and the bay are loaded with Menhaden which have fattened up the Specks and Reds. Most of the fish are very healthy and look like a football because they have plenty to eat. If you are fishing the canals at night, you need to "match the hatch" which means that whatever you are using for bait looks like what the fish are feeding on and is about the same size and color. It is also critical that you are fishing when the feeding starts, because they fill up fast once the bite starts. Compare notes with your neighbors to determine best fishing times.

I have heard a lot of good reports over the past few weeks from our end of the bay. Most of these reports are coming from less than three miles from Bay Harbor. Live shrimp is almost always a sure thing this time of year. It is hard for a Speck or Red to turn down an active shrimp flipping around under a popping cork. The next best thing to live shrimp is the three inch Gulp shrimp tail.

My favorite color is "New Penny" fished about 18 inches under a Cajun Thunder rattling popping cork. I have caught just about every type of fish that swims in the bay on Gulp baits.

As soon as we get some good SE wind for a few days to clear up the surf, get ready; because the water temperature is perfect for things to break wide open on the beach.

We will be looking for many of you at our Annual Bay Harbor Fishing Rodeo on Saturday May 26, 2012. This is always a laid back family event and is great fun for the kids and adults as well.

I'm posting a few websites again that have some excellent information on fishing weather around Bay Harbor. By accessing the internet, you open up a vast base of information on current and future weather conditions. Some of my favorites are the following:

NOAA Galveston Bay Forecast

<http://weather.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/fmtbltn.pl?file=forecasts/marine/coastal/gm/gmz335.txt>

Current Conditions at San Luis Pass (TCOON)

<http://lighthouse.tamucc.edu/overview/526>

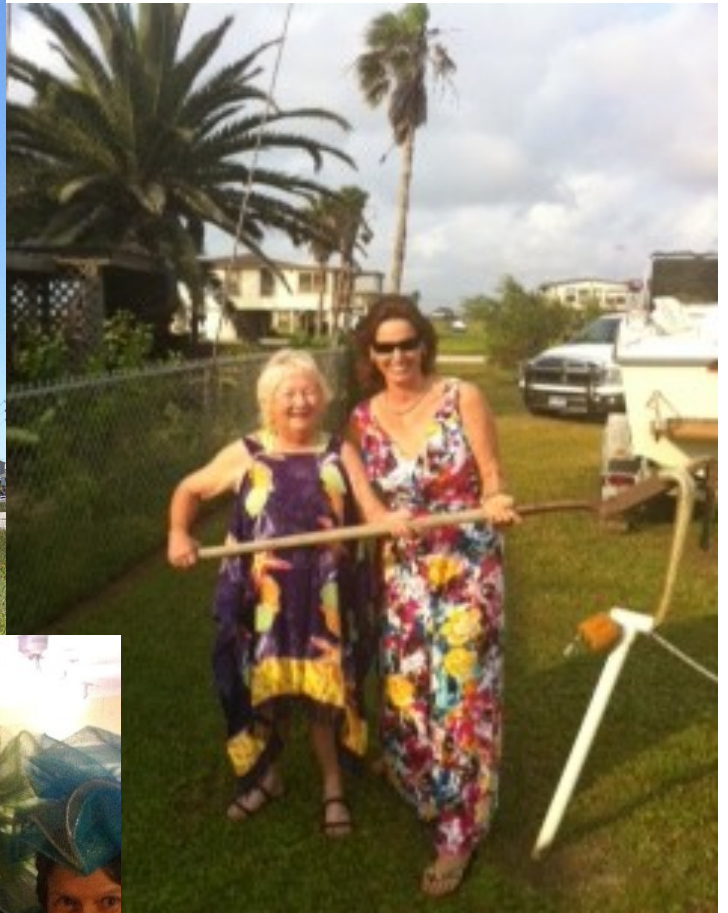
Galveston Bay Operational Wave Predictions

http://www.tamug.edu/mase/Wave_file/Galveston.htm

Tight lines and be careful out there on the water.



Capt. Bill



Around the neighborhood...your board at work...new resident, Barbara Aksamit helping Gail Choate with a mighty rattlesnake...tutus at the Halsey's international dance party...Bill Hand's grandson, Jacob Sparks, with a big Gafftop.

Editor's Note
For more pictures, go to our website
version of the Heron at
www.bhiatx.org



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Rate:	Per Edition	4 Editions get 1 Free!
Business card size (3.5 x 2)	\$25.00	\$75.00
1/8 page (2.75 x 5.5)	\$45.00	\$135.00
1/2 page (5.5 x 8.5)	\$80.00	\$240.00
Full page (8.5 x 11)	\$115.00	\$345.00

To place an ad, call or write Pam Williams or any BHIA board member.
(713) 924-7647 or pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net

Bay Harbor Classifieds

Rates: For a 2" wide, \$2.00 per line (minimum of 3 lines).
Runs one time for these rates, and on the website for 1 month.



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Bay Harbor Improvement Association

Bay Harbor, Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul-Orner, BeeGee Bay

Route 4, Box 190 B26

Galveston, Texas 77554



Visit our website at www.bhiatx.org

Upcoming Events

June 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May

19 BHIA Board Meeting 10am at 4117 2nd St.
25/26 Annual Bay Harbor Fishing Rodeo

June

09 Bay Harbor Improvement Association Annual Meeting
21 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
20 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
23 Garden Club Meeting 10am at 4117 2nd St.

July

04 HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!
18 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
21 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club

August

15 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
18 WGIPOA meeting 9am Galveston Country Club