

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



Pam Williams, Editor

Spring Edition 2013

Prez Says

I want to extend a heartfelt farewell to a long time resident Mary Hurter. Mary stayed active in her life up until her passing a few months ago. Mary lived on Port Trinidad for many years and anyone walking past her home would be greeted by her small white puppy. She was a supporter of Bay Harbor and offered several times to assist where needed. I for one will miss her dearly.

By the time you read this all the locks at the marina will be changed to 2013 keys. If you are planning to use the facilities at the marina be sure to pay your dues and pick up a key at Gail Choate's home.

As you know we have experienced some unusually cool weather in the past weeks in Galveston. I am thinking you should enjoy it as you know how the summers can be blistering. Get out and enjoy the pleasant weather.

Please make note the bench which was placed on the island has been removed. The palm trees also have been removed. It was thought that since a bench was placed on the island that the island welcomed visitors. Reef Balls have been placed in order to slow the erosion of the island. Along with protecting from erosion the reef balls should guarantee a great habitat for fish. The island has been developed into a bird habitat and should be treated as such.

AT NO TIME SHOULD ANYONE VISIT THE ISLAND. At this time of year one can observe hundreds of birds nesting in the sands of the island. It's just as peaceful touring around the island quietly in a kayak or skiff and observing all the bird activity occurring on the island.

I personally have not heard of any security breaches in Bay Harbor for several months. Please, if you find ANY security breach, a theft, a break in, any kind of mischief in the area, report it to the police immediately. Whenever you find a security breach of any kind, share it with your neighbors. The more people who know about the situations the better off we'll be with providing security.

Again, I want to compliment all of you who have been keeping your property in great shape. Little things like cutting the grass, cleaning the drainage ditch in front of your home and keeping shrubs trimmed really make an overall difference. Keep up the good work. You know what they say about "one bad apple." I observed an individual stop his golf cart and walk over and remove some debris from a ditch. That action demonstrated how community minded he is and I know many of you do the same. I say thank you for wanting ALL of Bay Harbor to look nice. We look forward to seeing you all at the Bay Harbor Annual Meeting, June 8, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. Please mark your calendar and attend.

Charlie Winsor



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July 2011- June 2012**

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

June 08, 2013

5pm

Boat Basin



Please come join your friends and neighbors at our upcoming annual meeting. Hear the latest Galveston news affecting the west end, learn what your board has accomplished in the last year, elect new association board members then after neighborhood business is attended to the fun will begin starting with a delicious meal of pork tenderloin accompanied by a Ramen cole slaw, potato salad and yellow rice. As in the past, neighbors are encouraged to contribute sides and desserts. There will also be an raffle and auction to raise funds for community projects.

**Donations are still needed for our auction!
And help with food is always welcome.**

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

Bay Harbor Winter 2013 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

Fishing this winter has been very good if you can catch the right weather conditions. It seems like the wind is always blowing for the North or South except the few days following a cold front. The water temperature has generally been lower than last winter but it does not seem to have caused the fish to move very far from their summer hang outs.

I have found that the best tactics for winter fishing in West Bay is to focus on shell reefs in three to five feet of water. If you want to make the trip, there is lots of shell and good fishing around Green's Cut down by the Causeway. It is a long run and not a good place to be caught if the weather turns bad. There is also plenty of shell a lot closer to Bay Harbor in Chocolate and Christmas Bay.

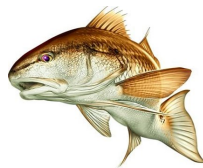
Some folks like to fish with lures like Corky's and sinking Mirro Lures this time of year. I occasionally will fish with top waters baits when the water is calm. My favorite is still the Gulp baits (pearl white) fished under a Cajun Thunder rattling cork. You need to fish this rig a little slower in the winter. Live shrimp almost always works if you can find it. It seems like the white flags for live shrimp have been out most of the winter.

This is a good time to run your boat engine if you have not done so for several weeks. There is almost nothing worse for your engine than letting it set for months and burning old gasoline. February and March are good times to change your filters and lower unit oil and get ready for spring fishing.

Be careful out there on the bay in the winter. This is not a good time to break down and you should always have a rain suit and some extra warm clothing just in case you have to spend the night on the bay.

Tight lines!.....Capt. Bill

Mark your Calendars for LABOR DAY WEEKEND



**5th Annual Bay Harbor
FISHING TOURNAMENT
Gifts, Prizes, Fish Fry**

Good News on Our Bay Harbor Island and a Reminder about Nesting Season



Lots of good news about our Bay Harbor Island Restoration Project. This project has become a “Jewel of West Bay” when it comes to habitat restoration projects. This is due to the commitment of many organizations and people here in Bay Harbor.

Please see the letter on page 5 from Philip Smith of the Galveston Bay Foundation to the Texas General Land Office describing the birds found on our island during a recent survey.

We are rapidly approaching nesting season on our island and it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we stay off the island from now until the end of the nesting season, which is usually around September. The birds use the island to lay their eggs on the sand and if disturbed they will abandon the eggs. The abandon eggs will literally cook in the hot sand. **PLEASE** remind your family, friends and visitors of the importance of not visiting the island during this critical time for our bird neighbors. These birds remember where they nested last year and if left undisturbed they will return every year to nest and rear their young.





February 28, 2013
Colleen Roca
Coastal Biologist
Texas General Land Office
11811 N D St
La Porte, TX 77571

RE: Bay Harbor SL2010003 lease fee

Dear Mrs. Roca:

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), with this letter is requesting a no fee surface lease on behalf of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association (BHIA) for the Bay Harbor Habitat Island Project creation. The construction of the waterbird nesting island and intertidal wetlands has proven to be a successful asset and resource benefitting ecological resources of the State of Texas. During its first year after creation an official colonial waterbird survey documented the following birds nesting on the island: 244 pair of black skimmers, 5 pair gull bill tern and 11 pair laughing gulls. BHIA and project partners are active in the continued adaptive management of the created habitat island. This is illustrated by the request to modify the existing lease to add additional breakwaters to help stabilize a portion of the island being impacted by continued erosion. The resulting stabilization of the island should allow the establishment of intertidal wetlands within these further protected areas. Additional wetland plant plantings are currently in discussion including the site hosting a GBF Marsh Mania volunteer planting event in the fall of 2013. BHIA has been very pro-active in the education of its residents on the purpose of the island being a habitat island and not a beach area for residents. This has included several outreach articles in the HOA newsletter and postings to the community website. Additionally, a state Game Warden was brought in to educate the board members regarding state and federal laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protect nesting birds. After these meetings, BHIA worked with GBF and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to post "*NO LANDING*" signs on the island during bird nesting season to discourage people from coming onto the island during critical times of the year.

Furthermore, the project was initially awarded \$100,000.00 of cycle 5 CEPRA funding from the General Land Office. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Ike the CEPRA funding was reallocated from this and most habitat projects within Galveston Bay area to be used for emergency projects on behalf of the state. This created a large void in funding for the project. BHIA remained committed to the project and was able to raise additional private funds to make up for the void left by the loss of CEPRA funds. GBF would like for the state to consider had the project went forward with CEPRA funds as scheduled, the surface lease and associated fees would most likely not have been needed, as CEPRA projects typically move forward under authorization of special document from the GLO in lieu of a lease.

In closing, GBF believes BHIA should not be required to pay a surface lease fee associated with SL2010003. The created island provides valuable ecological benefits to resources of the State of Texas. These ecological benefits provide for added ecotourism opportunities in the Galveston Bay area providing economic benefits to local economies. BHIA had been and continues to be fully engaged in the management of the island as a habitat island and is committed to fulfilling requirements of the lease. The Galveston Bay Foundation and its project partners will continue to work with BHIA to ensure that a successful project is delivered.

Regards,



Philip Smith
Director of Conservation



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Around the neighborhood...



Sandhill Cranes spotted on 1st Street.

2013 St. Paddy's Day Parade



Crawfish Boil and Oyster Fest!



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

May

- 16 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 18 BHIA Board Meeting 10am at 4117 2nd St.
- 25-27 **Memorial Day Weekend**

June

- 08 **Bay Harbor Improvement Association Annual Meeting**
- 15 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
- 20 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 29 Garden Club Meeting 10am, place TBA

July

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