

# The Heron

## Bay Harbor Newsletter

*Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision*



Pam Williams, Editor

### *Spring Edition 2014*

#### *Prez Says*

I want to take this opportunity to express my sadness and that of others in Bay Harbor over the passing of an icon in the Bay Harbor subdivision. The memory of Randy Choate will live on and on in the area as he truly lived a full life. Randy's involvement in the neighborhood could not be matched and will be missed by all who knew him.

Please mark your calendars NOW for the **2014 Annual Bay Harbor Improvement Association Meeting**. The date for the meeting is **June 21, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M.** We are just in the planning stages but we wanted to get the date out to everyone. We're expecting a large crowd of residents and hope to develop different activities which some will involve the kids. So, don't forget, **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

The weather is improving each day and the fishing has been great. We make every attempt to maintain the marina area including the lighted pier. Please do not hesitate contacting someone with the Board whenever you observe a concern at

The marina i.e. lights out, boards missing, chain broken, locks not working, etc.

Several residents have erected Purple Martin houses and slowly but surely they have been arriving on the West end of the island. Following is a little research regarding Purple Martins.

#### **What do I feed martins to attract them?**

Nothing! Purple Martins eat only flying insects. They will not come to your feeder, bird bath or fountain. They eat and drink water on the fly.

#### **How high should the house be?**

From 10 to 12 feet high and martins will take residence. Many years ago it was believed that the pole should be at least 18 to 25 feet high. The ideal situation is to have it high enough for the birds to be comfortable but low enough for us to enjoy them. There have been cases where a house was only five feet off the ground and had plenty of martins. Our pole will extend 12 feet and telescope down to five feet for easy cleaning and maintenance.

**I had birds a few years ago, but they don't seem to be coming around anymore. Are there as many martins as before?**

Con't on Page 2



**Bay Harbor Improvement Association  
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**July 2013- June 2014**

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**" CALLING ALL RESIDENTS! "**

**BAY HARBOR  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21 AT 5PM**

**UNDER THE TENTS AT THE BOAT BASIN**

Come join your neighbors for a delicious meal along with an annual update hearing the latest news of the neighborhood and participate in the election of our new board members.

We'll also have a raffle and silent auction event of a few choice items.

Prez Says, con't. from Page 1

Yes, even more. Possibly you have a wooden or plastic house, because of the heat factor, the birds favor the cooler aluminum house. The characteristics of aluminum cause heat to dissipate, which keeps the compartments cooler. Many people associate metal houses with steel in a car body. The alternator in your automobile is made of aluminum, which protects the electronic components from the heat. Wood is an insulator and absorbs rays of the sun, making the house very hot during the long summer. The survival rate is much better in aluminum houses versus wooden structures. The lack of martin activity around your house may be from trees growing too close to the house.

Well, probably more information than you wanted but hearing and watching Martins swoop near the ground eating mosquitoes is very enjoyable.

I wish you all a great and healthy summer.

Charlie Winsor, President B.H.I.A.

## Bay Harbor Spring 2014 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

It looks like spring has finally arrived in West Bay following one of the coldest and windy winters we have had down here in a long time. The spring winds are hanging in longer than most of us would like, but the water temperature is getting right with each passing day of more sunlight.



The canals are full of small Shad (Menhaden/Pogies). There is also a good hatch of small shrimp in the canals, which will move into the bay and attract schools of Specks and Reds. Now is the time to start scanning the horizon for working birds homing in on the new hatch of small bait fish and shrimp. If early fishing is any indication of things to come, we are in for another crop of large Gafftop in the two to five pound range. They are fun to catch and some people consider them to be prime table fare. Be careful handling them, because they can cause you a trip to the emergency room if you get stabbed with one of their toxic sharp fins.

There have been some good reports and photos of catches of Specks and Reds showing up during the past few weeks. I fished earlier this week and caught some nice Specks and more Gafftop than I wanted to deal with. I could not find any Redfish, but I know they are out there somewhere.

You can't catch them if you don't get out there with them. I have never caught a Speck or Red setting in my easy chair watching TV or outside doing yard work. Good luck and be careful out there.

Hope to see you on the bay soon. Tight lines!.....Capt. Bill

# *Bay Harbor Annual Fishing Rodeo*

**labor Day Weekend ...stay tuned**



## BAY HARBOR GARDEN CLUB



The first meeting of the Bay Harbor Garden Club was held February 22, 2014, at the home of Ann Choate. If you missed it, you missed out on a delicious brunch served up by Ann. After we were all seated, we had an informal but informative, "G.A.T." Aka Garden Aptitude test. We all had some laughs and learned something.

One of the features of the garden club meetings this year is a "Show & Tell." "Show" consists of pictures of actual items from the member's garden that they are proud of and wish to share with the other members; "Tell" consists of any garden tip the member wishes to share with the club. Another feature of the club this year is a perfect attendance award, it will be awarded at the annual Christmas Party.



On Saturday, April 26, the Bay Harbor Garden Club took a road trip to Froberg's Farm in Alvin. As you can see everyone was anxious to get inside to grab up the great veggies, fruits, and other tasty items that were on sale there. After the shopping spree, we all headed to the B B Q next door.



The next meeting will be [June 28, 2014](#), at my house, [3924 4<sup>th</sup> Street](#), at [10 A.M.](#) It will be on the "cutting edge"! We are going to have a Veggie / Fruit carving party!

I plan to learn some techniques to demonstrate; and I hope that each of you will "google" or "u-tube" and find one you can share with the crowd. You can bring your master piece to the meeting; however, please bring a "uncarved" one to "demonstrate". There will be a prize for the item voted on as the "best" ( a relative term!!) Also, please bring a knife and any other item you need to make your "master piece".



Hope to see you there.

May





## Bay Harbor's Bird Island

As chairman of our Island Restoration Committee, I want to share the following email with everyone in Bay Harbor:

"WOW! The reef balls that were deployed between the gaps of the geo-tubes last May are doing fantastic! The erosion has ceased and sediment has accreted behind the domes. I am surprised how well the oysters are doing...really impressive!"

So said Scott Williams of The United States Fish and Wildlife Service. His sentiments are echoed by Colleen Roco of The Texas General Land Office and our friend Philip Smith of The Galveston Bay Foundation. Everybody here in Bay Harbor can take some credit. Whether you participated in planting marsh grass or contributed to the project itself, we can all be proud of the result.

As Heather Young of the national Oceanic and atmospheric Administration observed: "Thanks guys for seeing the initial problem and taking action to fix it. You guys are awesome."

And while it looks like the island is now well situated to withstand the bay's tidal forces, it seems that the area can use just a bit more sea grass. So get ready for Marsh Mania 2014. We will again be planting grasses, probably for the last time. So if you missed the fun before, mark your calendars for this September. The exact date will published soon, along with more details.

And as always, please remember to keep off the island during nesting season, and especially to not plant anything or add any objects (benches, signs, fences) to the island. According to our agreement with the State of Texas, it MUST remain natural.

See you in September!....Phil Martin



  
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## Your Board at Work

Bob Seay called the city Oct. 2013 about the potholes but received no response. He called again around April 1st and complained about no service, asking that this issue turned over to a supervisor. Subsequently, most of the potholes were repaired.

The lesson to be learned is that it appears that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Do not hesitate to either report an issue to one of the board members or call the city yourself if you notice any problem or see any property maintenance issue needing attention.

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## FOR SALE

Beautiful tuxedo style, custom made sofa (105 inches) for sell in Galveston. The sofa was recovered in a navy blue weave about 6 years ago. The back cushions are goose down and polyester and the seat cushions are foam and polyester.

Asking price is \$500.00 but any offer will be considered.  
Contact Susan Fister [lsfister@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsfister@sbcglobal.net)

**NEEDED: Dresser or chest of drawers, cheap or as a donation.**

**For details contact Gail Choate at 409-737-1707.**

## Heron Advertising Rates

Rate:	Per Edition	4 Editions get 1 Free!
Business card size (3.5 x 2)	\$25.00	\$75.00
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Full page (8.5 x 11)	\$115.00	\$345.00

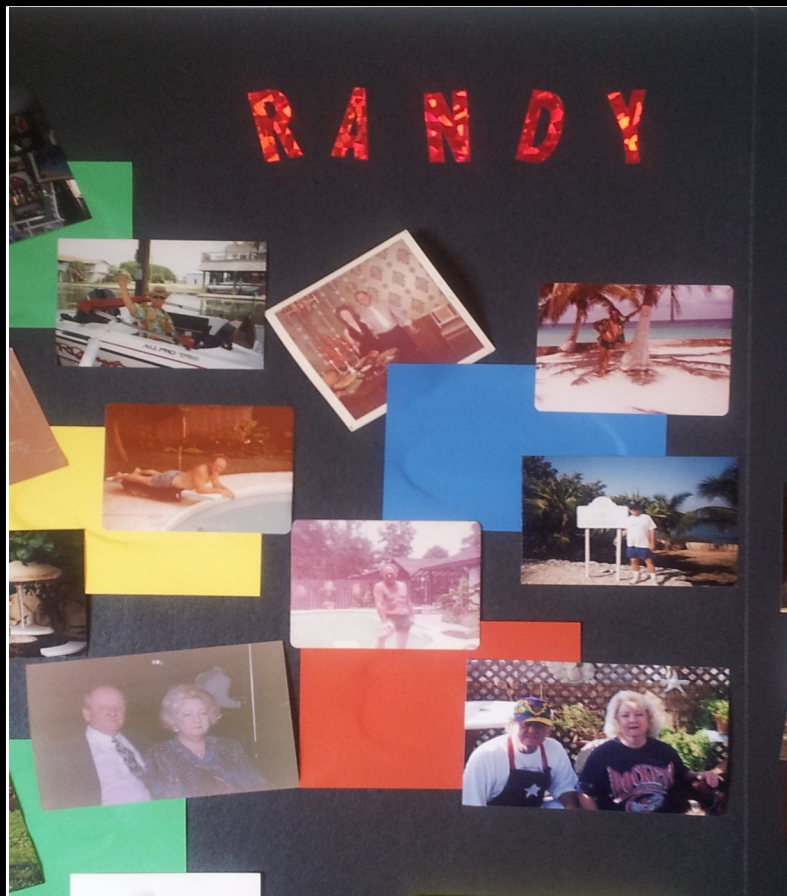
To place an ad, call or write Pam Williams or any BHIA board member.  
(713) 924-7647 or [pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net)

## Bay Harbor Classifieds

Rates: For a 2" wide, \$2.00 per line (minimum of 3 lines).



## IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND AND LONG TIME BAY HARBOR NEIGHBOR



### *David Randolph Choate*

David Randolph Choate, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away Thursday, April 3, 2014 in Houston, Texas. David Randolph, known to most as Randy, was born in Beaumont, Texas September 16, 1936, the oldest son of Owen David Choate and Anita Muriel Choate. He was preceded in death by his parents, Owen David Choate and Anita Muriel Choate, and by his brother Kent Owen Choate.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gail Kilgarlin Choate, his daughter Shannon Choate Chapman, her husband David and their children Angela Chapman and Patrick Chapman, by his son David Brian Choate, his wife Hollie and their children Tyler Randolph Choate, Cory Malone Choate, and Sean Brian Choate. He is also survived by his brother Jimmy Brian Choate, his wife Ann, and their son Royce Choate, his wife Angie and their daughter Haley Choate as well as niece Kristi C Choate and her partner Johnna Jenkins.

Randy graduated from Galena Park High School in 1955 and directly joined the United States Air Force where he served as jet aircraft mechanic from 1955-1966. His career with the Air Force gave him the opportunity to be stationed on many interesting bases around the world including North Africa, England, Alaska, and various other bases in the United States. These destinations spurred his lifelong love of hunting and fishing. On his weekends he became a hunting guide in Alaska guiding trips for bear and caribou. Upon his return to his home state of Texas, Randy became a tournament bass fisherman competing and garnering many tournament wins. He was a member of a Masonic Lodge where he received his 32nd degree, Scottish Rite, and Shriners. He and wife Gail were also involved in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for a number of years serving on the Corral Committee.

After his retirement from the Air Force, Randy went to work for a NASA contractor and was one of a few select team members on the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle and other projects. When the Lunar project ended he became Supervisor of Aircraft Maintenance for astronaut aircraft. Randy and his brother Jimmy later opened Choate Machine and Fabrication providing services to many Houston and BayArea businesses.

Randy and wife Gail retired to Galveston, Texas in 1990 and became active members of their close knit Bay Harbor community. Randy served as President of their Home Owners Association and he lent his cooking skills to heading up the Association BBQ's for almost 20 years. During his retirement Randy enjoyed many days of fishing with his brother, son, grandsons and nephew. Randy kept his technical and mechanical skills sharp by working part time in Moody Garden's IMAX Theater as a projectionist during its first years of operation. In recent years, he developed a talent for painting in his art room and crafting outdoor beach decor. He had a gift for turning a piece of driftwood into a work of art.

Randy and Gail always enjoyed hosting parties in their beach home, serving their community and friends. He loved to cook, share wine in the evenings on the deck, and ride on the beach with their beloved Irish Setter dogs. He also relished spending time at his son's ranch in Burton, Texas sitting around a camp fire, fishing or riding on an ATV.



## 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](http://www.bhiatx.org)

## *Upcoming Events*

### MAY

- 10 B.H.I.A. Annual Meeting Committee Meeting 10am, home of Charlie Winsor
- 15 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 17 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
- 26 Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 19 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 21 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
- 21 Bay Harbor Annual Meeting 5p at the Boat Basin
- 28 Garden Club Meeting 10a, home of May Bonno

### JULY

- 04 Independence Day
- 17 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 19 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club