

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



Pam Williams, Editor

Summer Edition August 2012

Prez Says

Another successful Annual Meeting of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association was enjoyed. Many people need to be commended on hard work to make it such a success, raising funds for our community improvement, providing a forum for interaction with those who serve our community in various capacities (City Councilwoman Marie Robb, and Galveston Police Sgt. James Stewart), and providing an opportunity to interact with as many Bay Harbor neighbors as possible. John Halsey, Jessie Bradshaw, Bill Hand, Pam Williams, Betsy Redfield, and our secretary Gail Choate are just a few to be commended for meeting efforts. All who attended and brought side dishes or desserts to share enriched the meeting. Thank you! And, of course, to our "Bay Harbor Chef," Randy Choate, we must offer our thanks for his wonderful pork loin and varied sauces...they were delicious. The association is sending thank you notes to all who contributed an array of silent auction and door prize items. A large crowd enjoyed all the food, prizes, and camaraderie, and we look forward to next year!

A key issue being discussed in Bay Harbor is the Severance Coastal Lawsuit and the New Orleans' Fifth Circuit Court decision, and its ramifications. In a nutshell, the lawsuit will prevent the State from seizing property of beach owners after a storm, regardless of where the grass line recedes, and it has created controversy in regard to services the city should and should not provide along various parts of the beach. It seems the months the seaweed washes up get earlier and longer. It has been determined by researchers that seaweed should be left on the beach to help restore it, thus the City's decision to not clean seaweed from the beach along the west end where beach replenishment is needed, and a similar decision by the BHIA board, upon a request by a member for the association to consider cleaning the beach.

The county was called to deal with tree debris that created safety hazards in front of the county pocket park between Terramar and Bay Harbor, and the efforts of individual home owners and visitors along the beach have mostly taken care of the lumber debris washed up on the beach this year. The city recently cleaned all the fish from the full length of the beach for public safety, and we are all appreciative to see our beach becoming more pleasant to enjoy.

The Bay Harbor Improvement Association has repaired the lights at the fishing pier in our basin—yet again. We are working with Center Point to get a light which will be maintained by them at the boat launch. The weather and vandals play havoc on the lights at the pier. We know a lot of people enjoy fishing at night at the pier, and lights are key both to enjoyment and safety, so a BHIA priority has been maintaining that amenity as feasible.

At the end of June, we experienced one of the worst mosquito infestations ever in Bay Harbor, and West Nile virus deaths have increased in TX this year, so thanks to all working to keep your property mowed of tall grass in which mosquitos take refuge and clear of standing water in which mosquitos breed.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the loss of two of our neighbors, Don Redding and Jim Stautberg. Don was noted for being our "go to neighbor" when in need and for playing his beloved Marine Hymn down the canal on the 4th of July. Jim, his best friend in the community, was by his side. Jim, too, would help anyone in need. One could not be with Jim for any time without hearing a story or two. Don passed away July 25, 2012, and Jim passed a few short days later on August 1, 2012. We miss you guys and offer condolences and our support to their wives, Judy and Penny.

BHIA board meeting notices are posted on the Bay Harbor website, and the public is invited to join us at any of our meetings. Until next time, keep in mind, "A bad day in Galveston is better than a good day anywhere else."



**Bay Harbor Improvement Association
Board Members**

July 2012- June 2013

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

Website: WWW.BHIATX.ORG

**B.H.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING
June 09, 2012**

The Bay Harbor Association annual meeting was a great event with around 80 neighbors attending. Once again Randy Choate volunteered his "professional" cooking skills roasting pork loins and the duo of Gail Choate and Cathy Winsor helped to organize the side dishes. Many thanks to the neighbors who provided desserts and vegetables. Jessie Bradshaw presided over the silent auction and wheelbarrow raffle that resulted in a nice profit for our community projects. We owe many thanks to the neighbors and companies who donated the items. Annette Moore and Pam Williams assisted Gail with registration and Betsy Redfield assisted with the sale of Bay Harbor logo items.

President Charlie Winsor presided over the business meeting. After a quorum was established, new board members were voted upon resulting in the election of Rob Traugott, Pam Williams, Charlie Winsor and Bob Seay for another two-year term. Gail Choate continues as Secretary/Treasurer and Mark Bloom, Mike Garvin, Bill Hand, Phil Martin and Annette Moore round out the board serving their second year.

Cont'd. Page 3

***** **B.H.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING, con't.** *****

In a brief meeting after the annual meeting the new board elected Charlie Winsor to serve as President again and Bob Seay was selected as Vice President.

Charlie introduced our guests, Marie Robb, council representative for our district and Sgt. James Stewart of the Galveston Police Department. Marie Robb was quick to give her contact information with her cell number as 409-256-4518 and email as marierobb@cityofgalveston.org. She spoke briefly about her concerns for the infrastructure stating she had met with the city manager about the bond money designated for the sewer but to date had not received any further information. Ms. Robb also spoke about safety stating that 8 new officers have been hired. She answered a number of questions about beach access, public housing and the Severance ruling. Of note was the determination by the Park Board to cease cleaning beaches on the West End of Galveston.

Sgt. James Stewart works the 2p-10p shift in this district and advised to call 409-765-3702 for non-emergencies. He also provided Chief Poretto's direct number 409-765-3790 and the number of Captain Bryson Franklin 409-765-3629 who presides over all patrols. He requested that people should call the police to report any suspicious activity and to report all criminal activity in order to maintain the coverage needed on the west end of the island. All patrol cars now have laptop computers enabling dynamic reporting of all activity.

There were new neighbors that we look forward to getting to know better and hope everyone will feel welcome at all of our events which are held to promote community awareness but more importantly to just have some great fun!



TIM KURTIN G.M.B.
TPK-KFH@SBCGLOBAL.NET

KURTIN
FINE HOMES

5034 STEFFANI LANE
HOUSTON, TX 77041

PH. 713.466.4343
FAX 713.466.3159
CELL 713.254.8166

Bay Harbor Spring 2012 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

The weather and the fishing have been HOT so far this summer. The spring rains have provided the marshes and estuaries what they need to produce a good crop of shrimp and other forage for the game fish in West Bay. When the wind and the tides line up, fishing has been outstanding for Redfish, Speckled Trout, Sand Trout and Flounder. The bay is also full of big Gafftop and those pesky Ladyfish and small Sharks that constantly cut your line and steal lures. On a recent trip, we also caught several Jack Crevalle and a Spanish Mackerel.

While early morning and very late afternoon are usually the preferred time of day to fish during the heat of summer, don't dismiss the middle of the day as a good time to fish. It is all about tidal movements. When we have good strong to moderate tidal flow in the middle of the day, fishing can really turn on in spite of the high sun and heat. One thing you really need to watch for is the sea breeze squalls that pop up with little warning. Lighting is a real hazard with the squalls and you should head for a safe harbor before the clouds get to your location. Lightening can reach out far beyond the center of these little weather systems. The other weather issue we have been dealing with all summer is a south to southwest wind which tends to keep the bay water slightly off color and make the surf downright muddy. Most of this southwest wind is caused by high pressure that has been hanging out over the area for months. That same high pressure also acts as a "hurricane shield" in most cases, so we are not going to complain too loud about the wind!



As we start the transition into September and October start looking for Gulls working over schools of Speckled Trout and Redfish. A lot of this bird action takes place right behind Bay Harbor, so keep a sharp eye out before you travel too far from home.

Investing in a quality set on binoculars pays big dividends when trying to locate birds working schools of fish. Most of the birds are close to the surface when diving for Shrimp and Menhaden and not visible to the naked eye unless you are very near the action.

Until next time, enjoy what we have here in Bay Harbor and be careful out there on the water. Send us some fishing pictures for the *Heron!*

Tight Lines
Capt. Bill

3rd Annual Bay Harbor Fishing Rodeo held Memorial Day Weekend



This year's fishing rodeo and fish fry was a great success resulting in a profit of approximately \$500 thanks to our Director Dave Korkmas and those listed below!

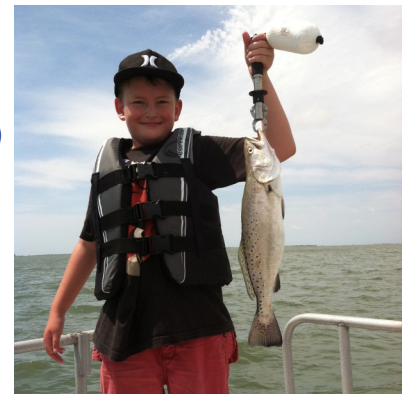
This year's winners were:

Small Fry Division

Jacob Sparks = Biggest Fish (Speckled Trout 2.11 lbs)
Hannah Registe = 2nd Biggest Fish (Sand Trout 12.5 oz)

Junior Division

Logan Bloom = 1st place for Speckled Trout (1.14.5 lbs)



Adult Division

Brent Hand = 1st place for Speckled Trout (3.6.5 lbs)
Bill Hand = 2nd place for Speckled Trout (3.3 lbs)
Jeff Gorski = 3rd place for Speckled Trout (3.1.5 lbs)
Gene Gansky = 1st place for Flounder (2.1.5 lbs)
Tim Kurtin = 2nd place for Flounder (1.6 lbs)



Thanks to those who helped with the event...

- ♦Registration: Karen Korkmas
- ♦Tent and site prep: John Halsey, Woody Boudreaux, Sammy Myres, Charles Khan, Gene Gansky, Betsy Redfield, May Bonno, Vickie Engler, Gail Choate
- ♦Fish fry event donations: Pat & Ed Jackson, Bill Hand, Penny Stautberg
- ♦Cooking: Bill Hand, Charles Khan, Betsy Redfield, Joellyn Moynahan

Bay Harbor Garden Club

The garden club met at the home of Theron and Annette Moore with 15 attending. John Campbell, attorney by day and palm tree aficionado on nights and weekends, gave a very entertaining talk about palm trees that grow well on our island. He provided a handout to help identify the various palms and told some great stories of his experiences in buying and growing hundreds of palms. John raises palms and donates them to various schools and charities. His recommendation for palm "food" was a 13-13-13 combination with Epsom salt added.

The "bunny lady" from Houston's Wildlife Refuge Rehabilitation Coalition came down to Bay Harbor this month to check out her babies new home and was welcomed at our meeting with a standing ovation.

All are welcome to the next meeting Saturday August 25th at the home of Pam Williams, 3917 1st Street. The entomologist of the county mosquito control division will be the guest speaker which is very timely with the west nile virus threat happening in the state.

Pam Williams, President



Oldest Subdivision on the West End of Galveston

By Susan Susan Gonzales, CKM Property Management, Inc.

Finding history on the oldest subdivision or homestead was not an easy task. Bay Harbor may be the oldest subdivision on the West End of Galveston Island. There are stories of Galvestonians taking horse and buggy to go to Bay Harbor to fish and hunt. There was a stagecoach that ran between west beach and Freeport, using a ferry at San Luis Pass. With that kind of transportation it would have taken the whole day; I wonder if they camped out on the beach or stayed at the Stewart Mansion.

Perhaps it is not Bay Harbor, that is the oldest, since history tells of the privateer Jean Lafitte arriving on the island in 1817 and making his home on the island and naming it Campeche. It became a village with huts, a slave market, a boarding house, shipyard, saloons, pool halls, gambling houses and Jean Lafitte's own mansion called "Maison Rouge". But here is the big question...where was this Campeche village located, since when Jean Lafitte left he burned the entire village to the ground? Population was 1000.

Now here is where the confusion starts as to where this village was located. There is a historic marker on Stewart Road, in front of Laffites Cove; there is also a marker at 1417 Avenue A. Both sites state the Fort and settlement were established here in 1817, both as the site of the village. Another historic marker is at the Junction of 12 mi Rd - Termini Rd - settled by the Karankawa Indians.

A study written by Kathy L. London for Ellen Beasley, Preservation Planning Consultant in Galveston, stated in her report that the earliest known site of occupation on the west end of the Galveston Island is the area adjacent to Lake Como, commonly known as the Stewart Property. While the Stewart Mansion is still standing it is questionable as to whether it was the original Mansion.

At the time of Jean Lafitte's occupation of the east end of the island in the early nineteenth century there were three groves of trees on the west end which were used by pirates or sailors as navigational aids. One of the groves is in the Laffites Cove Nature Society Preserve, one just west of Lake Como was destroyed, and the third is located on the Stewart Property.

Colonel Warren D. C. Hall (1788-1867) decided to settle on the property referred to as "Three Trees". Kathy London's research document included that a Texas Centennial Marker was placed 1 mile east of this site in 1936 with reference to the trees. Colonel Hall was associated with James Long and Colonel Henry Perry. Colonel Hall and Jean Lafitte were reported to be friends.

There is some confusion concerning when the "Stewart Mansion" was constructed. There were also reports that the original home was burnt to the ground. Colonel Hall sold the original home to Colonel Marcus Fulton Mott (1837-1906) as a summer home in 1874. His daughter named the home "Mottexas". In 1926, George Seale, Jr (1880-1944) purchased the present house. Seale commissioned architect Robert Ayres to build a two story Spanish style and called it "Isla Ranch".

In 1933 Maco Stewart traded property at Seawall Blvd and 53rd Street for the property that is still referred to as the Stewart Mansion. Maco Stewart Jr. made significant changes to the home in the 1940's. There was a stable and even a log cabin to the rear left of the home for guests. In 1944 the property was deeded to University of Texas to be used as a convalescent home for children. Since that time the property has been sold several times.

Bird Island Update - September 2012

By Phil Martin

As the accompanying pictures show, our community's efforts are paying great dividends on Bird Island. True to its name, the parcel has become a popular spot for just about every avian visitor to the West End of Galveston. The attraction is undoubtedly due in no small part to the amount of planting we placed there last year. With the increased rainfall this year, the flora has taken off. We encourage everyone to enjoy the island, preferably from a boat or the shore, especially during nesting season. It's pretty, but it is also fragile.



To that end, as was documented in the last issue of The Heron, The Galveston Bay Foundation in concert with the BHIA has proposed installing several reef balls in the gaps between the sand tubes. Reef balls, pictured

below, accomplish some amazing feats for lovers of nature. They will continue to stabilize the island, insuring that it remains intact for decades to come. But probably of greater interest to our community is the fact that the reef balls create an incredible environment for fishing as bait fish will hide in the structure and attract the larger species.



Our application is under review by The Texas General Land Office and The Army Corps of Engineers. We should have approval shortly. And while we already have secured some generous contributions to provide for the work to be done, we could always use more. As soon as we know for sure, we will publish details in The Heron on how to contribute.



**Bay Harbor
Island
July 2012**

**Here are some
recent photos of
our island taken
by Brent Hand in
late July.**



**Because we have had
some rain and have
stayed off the island
during the nesting
season, the island
is now rich with both
plant life and birds.**



**Bay Harbor Island
July 2012**



**Please continue to help
us preserve this jewel
that is right in our
back yard.**



Hello Bay Harbor, I just wanted to drop a line to everyone in the neighborhood and let y'all know I am still doing residential general contracting. I have also started a yard cutting service. The cooler weather is only a few months away now. That means we can open our windows but, don't forget that also means its mosquito time. Call me for any and all remodeling needs, yard mowing services, rescreening or making custom replacement screens. Looking forward to hearing from everyone. Til then, good hunting, good fishing or what ever it is that brings a smile to your face.



Mark A. Moynahan
 Moynahan Builders
 281-704-2743
mbincorp@yahoo.com



Heron Advertising Rates

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.

www.bhiatx.org

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

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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						

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1234567 89101111		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	

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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						

September

- 1 Galveston West Beach Lions Club Buccaneer Bash - Dinner/Fundraiser - Jamaica Beach Park 6pm
- 3 Labor Day
- 15 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club
- 20 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion

October

- 13 Bay Harbor Improvement Assn. Board Meeting 10a
- 13 Bay Harbor Fish Fry - Boat Basin
- 18 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion
- 20 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club
- TBA BHIA Halloween Party

November

- 10 Bay Harbor Improvement Assn. Board Meeting 10a
- 15 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion
- 18 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club
- 22 Thanksgiving