

# The Heron

## Bay Harbor Newsletter

*Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision*



Pam Williams, Editor

---

*Fall Edition* **November 2012**

---

### *Prez Says*

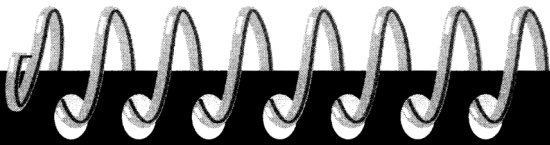
First I would like to say thank you to all of you who are maintaining your property(s). The community is looking very nice and everyone appreciates a nicely kept yard and home. I hope you have noticed the abandoned eye sore left by hurricane Ike has been demolished. That removal alone brightened up a huge part of Second Street.

Please notice the vegetation on the island when you visit next. The island is wonderful and during this past year there were record numbers of birds nesting and hatching. We must maintain the integrity of the island to promote the bird life which has adopted the island. Please notice also the "Do Not Enter" signs posted around the island. Truly, we wish no one ever to "visit" the island as it is so delicate and the home of many birds. It is great to travel around the island in a boat or kayak but to visit just disturbs the plant life and the wildlife. Please, enjoy looking but refrain from actually visiting the island.

We are hoping more and more residents/owners of property in Bay Harbor join the Improvement Association. The \$150 per year is a really small amount when compared to other association fees. Members of the association receive a key to the boat ramp and fishing pier along with the invite to various community functions throughout the year. The dues also help maintain the area in Bay Harbor which in turn protects your property value.

To my knowledge we have had no security issues these past few months. It is important that when or if you do experience a security problem that you share that with a board member. We want to alert everyone when any one of us experiences a security problem. Remember, "neighbors watching out for neighbors" is a great deterrent to vandals and other sorts of crime. Be aware and notice things when you're out walking for driving around the neighborhood.

I'll close by asking all of you to get involved with your association. Let us know what we should be doing or what we should stop doing. Give us suggestions for ways to improve our community.



**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

**Website: WWW.BHIATX.ORG**

Try to attend our board meetings which are held on the second Saturday of every other month at 10:00 A.M. The meetings are held at a different board member's home in Bay Harbor each meeting

If you have any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate emailing me at . [charleswinsor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:charleswinsor@sbcglobal.net) I promise to respond to your email within a very short time.

Charlie Winsor

### **Bay Harbor Garden Club**

The garden club met in September and shared stories from their gardens. The-ron Moore shared the story of source of the windchimes in his yard in Houston that are tuned to perfection. Also notable was the information shared by Barbara Aksamit about an organization that helps unprivileged and special needs children. One of the ways they do their work is through a honey bee farming project. Barbara has met a bee keeper and is looking into the possibility of buying a bee hive which would help pollinate our gardens! We're hoping that the bee-keeper, Shelly Rice, will attend one of our meetings in the near future.

## Seagrass returning to West Galveston Bay!

One of the more exciting bits of news on the ecological front is the rapid "regrassification" of our bay! I'm not an expert in the field, and my knowledge of the subject is limited to personal observations, a couple of phone conversations with TP&W biologists, and reading a few technical articles on the subject (I was a Marine Biology major at TAMU Galveston before I switched majors, back in the Dark Ages!)

The seagrass beds I'm referring to are those that live in the water column, and rooted in the muddy or sandy bay bottom, usually along shorelines in shallow water (I'm not talking about the Spartina marsh grasses that we planted on our island and that line our undeveloped bay shore). The seagrasses that live in Galveston Bay are known as shoal grass, widgeon grass, and turtle grass. Widgeon grass likes brackish waters and was originally present in areas around Clear Lake and upper Trinity Bay. I am unaware if any of these grass beds are rebounding. However, seagrass is becoming widespread in many areas of West Galveston Bay. This seagrass is shoal grass, and it is currently overspreading many areas that are consistent with it's distribution in the 1950's, as known from the historical record (see map). Bulkheading, non-point source pollution, canal dredging and spoil placement over the grass, as well as natural events such as Hurricane Carla in 1961, led to a rapid decline in the seagrass in the 1960's and 1970's. So for nearly forty years, Galveston Bay system seagrass was limited to shoal grass and turtle grass in Christmas Bay, as well as a few scattered areas of shoal grass in areas such as Dana Cove near Pirates Beach. In other words, at least 95% of the original seagrass distribution in the Galveston Bay system has been absent for a very long time.

Cont'd. Page 8



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

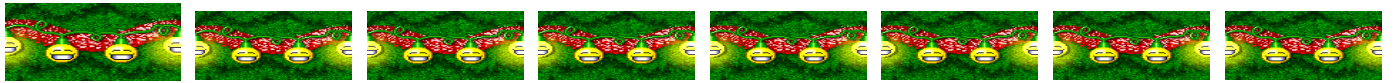
**KURTIN**  
FINE HOMES

5034 STEFFANI LANE  
HOUSTON, TX 77041

PH. 713.466.4343

FAX 713.466.3159

CELL 713.254.8166



 **Buon Natale** 

Kick off the holiday season with good food and great company by attending the annual

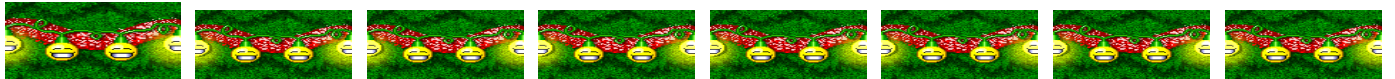
**Bay Harbor Christmas Dinner Party "Italian Style"** 

sponsored by the **Bay Harbor Garden Club**

The festivities begin on **December 8th at 6:30pm**  
at the home of Pam Williams **3917 1st Street**

**B.Y.O.B.** and bring a white elephant or elegant gift valued under \$20  
to participate in the fun Chinese gift exchange

RSVPs [pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net), 409-737-3733 (*yeas and nays*) would be greatly appreciated!



**Bay Harbor Fall 2012 Fishing Report  
by Capt. Bill Hand**

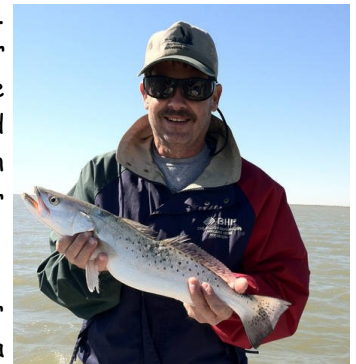
Fall fishing is in full swing with great catches of Specks, Reds and Sand Trout. With the passing of a couple of cold fronts the water temperature in West Bay has fallen to around 75 degrees. A drop in water temperature usually really activates the fish and starts the movement of shrimp out of the marshes. So far the bird action in the bay has been slow, but that could change any minute. Now is the time to have those binoculars in the boat and scan the horizon for diving gulls. Sometimes they are very low on the water and difficult to see with the naked eye. Another thing to check out this time of year is diving pelicans. Many times you will find a school of big Redfish under them feeding on Menhaden. Once the wind from a north slows down, the colder water will start to clear rapidly. Some-



times this takes only a few hours. Cold water clears very fast. A couple of weeks ago we caught two Bull Reds under diving pelicans near our entrance channel to Bay Harbor. Live shrimp has been working well when available, but three inch Gulp shrimp tails are hard to beat if you can't get live shrimp. In fact I think they work as well as shrimp if you know how to use them. My favorite Gulp bait is the "New Penny" and "Pearl White" 3 inch shrimp tail. They cost about the same as live shrimp, but you don't have to worry about the trash fish eating your expensive live shrimp.



The beach front has also been hot this fall when the conditions get right. There have been some really big surf run Specks caught in the Bay Harbor - Terramar area. Most of the folks catching those are using live mullet caught right there in the surf. It has not been unusual for most folks to catch their limit of Reds on any good day. That beach action should continue through early December or beyond based on what the weather does. The action on Bull Whiting should continue after the water cools even more.



Along with the good fall fishing, comes the risk of hypothermia in the cooler water. Most people think that our water is warm enough so that hypothermia is not a hazard. Check out the chart below and that myth will be dispelled.

**How long can a person survive in cold water?**

(Water Temperature)		Expected Time Before Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
(°F)	(°C)		
32.5°	0.3°	< 15 minutes	45 minutes
32.5-40°	0.3-4.4°	15 - 30 minutes	30 - 90 minutes
40-50°	3.3-10°	30 - 60 minutes	1 - 3 hours
50-60°	10-15.6°	1 - 2 hours	1 - 6 hours
60-70°	15.6-21.1°	2 - 7 hours	2 - 40 hours
70-80°	21.1-26.7°	3 - 12 hours	3 hours - indefinite
> 80°	> 26.7°	Indefinite	Indefinite

Tight lines!.....Capt. Bill

(Editor's Note: This month's pictures provided by Bill show the battle of the specs!)



**Jimmy and Ann Choate celebrate their 50th anniversary 8-13-12**



**And for a real treat, copy and paste into your browser this youtube pictorial put together for Annette and Theron Moore who also celebrated their 50th anniversary this year.**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr9a-cvfX0s&feature=youtu.be>**

## **Seagrass, con't.**

Your tax dollars have been spent trying to re-establish the seagrass beds, mainly in areas behind Galveston Island State Park. The early reports were that the attempts to plant the grass were resulting in only very limited success. But Mother Nature, in just the last couple of years, perhaps with the help of the planting efforts, has begun to restore the seagrass beds in many areas across Galveston Bay. On the north shore of West Galveston Bay, from Alligator Point to Greens Cut and beyond, there are several miles of new seagrass beds that have re-established all on their own, perhaps helped by sprigs breaking off from plantings across the bay at Galveston Island State Park. On the south shore of the Bay, from east of Dana Dove westward through the cove behind Snake island, and further west to within a couple miles of San Luis Pass, new seagrass beds are rapidly spreading. Hopefully our own cove between our neighborhood and Terramar will soon be sporting its own seagrass! It goes without saying that these new seagrass beds provide excellent cover and habitat for numerous species that reside in our bay system. They also tend to filter sediment from the water, improving water clarity in the bay. In addition, they can halt the erosional processes that have become prevalent along our marshy shorelines (another separate project that we've spent lots of money on--think geotubes, reef balls, etc. that have been emplaced across much of our bay system).

I believe that the "regrassification" is only good news for our ecosystem, and probably reflects a healthier bay system, as a result of the extra care given to our bay over the last few decades by both citizens groups and governmental agencies. That being said, we need to make sure that everyone is aware of our improving bay system, and takes steps to protect the seagrasses. Fisherman should avoid anchoring in seagrass beds, except perhaps with a power pole, and all boaters and jet skiers should avoid scarring the bay bottoms along the very shallow shorelines. Also, we need to hold our government agencies accountable for any damage they may cause. It's not a surprise that while one agency like Texas Parks and Wildlife would be spending millions of dollars to re-plant grass, another agency like the Army Corps of Engineers will issue permits for spoil to be deposited over the grass beds, as recently occurred on the north shore of the bay (you can see this damage on Google Earth, as well as the extent of the current grass beds). Finally, neighborhood dredging projects along west Galveston Island will need to take into account any damage canal dredging may cause, if grass beds have been established nearby.

Enjoy our new ecosystem, and happy fishing along the edges of the grass!

Mark Bloom

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



Bay Harbor 2012  
 Bird Island

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

## *Upcoming Events*

### December

- 2 Dickens on the Strand—Strand
- 8 Bay Harbor Improvement Assn. Board Meeting—10am, 3810 Port Trinidad
- 8 Bay Harbor Christmas Party—6:30pm, 3917 1st St
- 15 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club
- 20 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion

### January

- 13-26 Galveston Restaurant Week—various locations
- 17 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion
- 18 Galveston Chili Quest and Beer Fest—Strand
- 19 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club

### February

- 1-12 Galveston Mardi Gras—Downtown Galveston
- 9 Bay Harbor Improvement Assn. Board Meeting 10a
- 16 WGIPOA meeting 9am - Galveston Country Club
- 21 GAIN meeting 5:30pm - Moody Mansion