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Office of Congressman Gene Taylor
Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State
Rotary International District 6840
Sea Coast Echo
U.S. Coast Guard
Waste Management



For Immediate Release: September 9, 2008

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Sept. 20 Volunteer Coastal Cleanup Rescheduled to Oct. 18

Due to Hurricane Gustav, the 20th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup has been postponed to Oct. 18. **The deadline for volunteers to register has been extended to Monday, Sept. 29.** Those who have already signed up do not need to re-register. The annual event is organized by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force and is part of the International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest event of its kind.

"We've rescheduled this year's event to Oct. 18 to give coastal counties time to remove storm debris from Gustav that is currently hindering public access to beaches and posing public safety hazards," said Lauren Thompson, state coordinator for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and public relations director for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

"We will be looking at permanently moving the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to the third Saturday in October," Thompson said. "The cleanup would still be held in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, just not in the height of hurricane season. North Carolina permanently moved its coastal cleanup to October five years ago and their state coordinator tells me they're glad they did."

On Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. volunteers are needed to remove trash from the beaches and waterways at more than 50 sites in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties and the barrier islands.

Volunteers may register on-line at www.mscoastalcleanup.org, or can obtain a registration form by calling one of the following numbers: 467-9048 in Hancock County; 523-4141 in Harrison County; 762-3391 in Jackson County; 875-9057 ext. 100 for the Barrier Islands (requires boat); and 475-7047 for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (advance sign-up required to reserve canoe or kayak.) Volunteers under age 21 must have their parents sign the registration form and fax or mail it back to participate.

During the 2007 International Coastal Cleanup, more than 378,000 volunteers in 76 countries removed more than 6 million pounds of debris from the ocean, rivers, lakes and waterways. Mississippi ranked 10th in the nation in number of volunteers: 3,483 volunteers removed 58,830 pounds of debris from Mississippi's beaches and waterways. About 58 percent of the debris collected in Mississippi during the 2007 International Coastal Cleanup came from shoreline and recreational activities, while 30 percent was from smoking-related activities, 6 percent from ocean and waterway activities and 6 percent from dumping such as appliances, 55-gallon drums, etc. The top 10 debris items collected in Mississippi—accounting for 83 percent of the total debris items—were all related to land-based activities, such as picnics, festivals, beach outings and sporting events. Litter washed from streets, parking lots, and storm drains also contributed.

—MORE—

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On cleanup day, zone captains will be stationed at each cleanup site in bright yellow T-shirts to direct volunteers and give them supplies to pick up the debris and data cards to report the type of debris collected. Volunteers will also receive bottled water compliments of the Beverage Association of Mississippi, a free eco-friendly tote bag provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery (while supplies last) and a meal ticket. Following the cleanup, volunteers can turn in their meal ticket at Jones Park in Gulfport and receive a free lunch at the park courtesy of the High Cotton Grill **from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. only** on event day.

Volunteers in Hancock County are invited for a cookout starting at 11 a.m. at Washington Street Pier pavilion in Bay St. Louis, courtesy of the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor, the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club and BB's Snowballs. In Jackson County, there will be a picnic for volunteers at the Estuarine Education Center at MGCCC in Gautier compliments of Chevron and The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. only the day of the event.

For more information visit the official Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Web site at www.mscoastalcleanup.org.

Volunteers can call the 24-hour Mississippi Coastal Cleanup information line at 877-BEACH 05 for event information updates.

Designated cleanup areas are as follows:

- **Hancock County** – Bayside Park, Hwy. 90 West; Diamondhead Community; Kiln Community, Hwy 603.
- **Bay St. Louis** – Bayou La Croix to Breath's Bayou, Hwy 603; Bay St. Louis Depot District; Beach Blvd. from the mouth of the Jourdan River to Dunbar Ave.; Dunbar Ave. from Beach Blvd. to Hwy. 90; Beach Blvd. from Hwy. 90 to Bookter St.; Beach Blvd. from Bookter St. to Bay Oaks Drive; Beach Blvd. from Bay Oaks Drive to Coleman Ave., Waveland; and Garden Isles Community, Washington/Chapman streets.
- **Waveland** – Beach Blvd., Coleman Ave. to Buccaneer State Park; Beach Blvd., Buccaneer State Park to Pointset Ave., Clermont Harbor, includes Bordage and loor streets to R.R.
- **Clermont Harbor** – Beach Blvd., Pointset Ave. to the mouth of Bayou Caddy, Lakeshore.
- **Harrison County**
- **Biloxi** – Deer Island (requires boat), Forrest Avenue Pier, Hiller Park, Keegan Bayou (Back Bay) (military assigned), Keesler Marina (military assigned), Rodenberg Avenue.
- **D'Iberville** – D'Iberville Boat Launch, Fountain Pier.
- **Gulfport** – Courthouse Road, DeBuys-Cowan-Lorraine Road, Gulfport Lake (military assigned), James Hill Park, Jones Park/Gulfport Harbor, Kremer Landing, Lower Turkey Creek.
- **Long Beach** – Long Beach Harbor west
- **Pass Christian** – Pass Christian Harbor.
- **Jackson County** – Belle Fontaine Beach, Bluff Creek, and Pollock Ferry Landing.
- **Ocean Springs** – Davis Bayou (GINS), East Beach, Fort Bayou Boat Launch, Front Beach, Graveline Bayou Pier and Boat Launch, and Gulf Park Estates Public Pier.
- **Gautier** – Gautier City Park, Graveline Road/Shepard State Park, and Pine Island (West Pascagoula River) (requires boat).
- **Moss Point** – Hwy. 63 Boat Ramp, I-10 Boat Launch, and The Riverfront (Moss Point).
- **Pascagoula** – Old Spanish Fort, Pascagoula Beach, and The River Park.
- **Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** – Bayou Heron. Volunteers may bring their kayak or canoe. A limited number of canoes and kayaks are available for use. Volunteers must call 475-7047 and sign up in advance for a canoe or kayak.
- **Barrier Islands** (requires boat) – west end and southern tip of Cat Island, Horn, Petit Bois, East and West Ship islands. (In the event of a small craft advisory, barrier islands volunteers should report to the Jones Park/Gulfport Harbor site.)

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The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from Ashman & Son Construction; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; City of Gulfport; City of Moss Point; City of Ocean Springs; City of Pascagoula; Coastal Rivers; DMR Marine Patrol; Eco-Tours of South Mississippi; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Gulfport Police Department; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hard Rock Café; Harrison County Beautification; Harrison County Board of Supervisors; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Harrison County Sheriff's Department; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Jackson County Solid Waste; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard CRTG-Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Naval Construction Battalion Center; Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; Rotary International District 6840; Sea Coast Echo; U.S. Coast Guard and Waste Management.

Other sponsors include:

SEA TURTLE: Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; High Cotton Grill; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

SHARK: Beverage Association of Mississippi; Delta Sanitation of Mississippi, LLC; Hancock County Board of Supervisors; Ocean Conservancy; Ship Island Excursions; The Sun Herald; Waste Management

DOLPHIN: Allen Beverages, Inc.; Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.; Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Consolidated; Domino's Pizza; Fisher Safety; Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Professional Division; Lamar Advertising of South Mississippi; Milner Rental Center; Mississippi Media; The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint

COBIA: Biloxi-D'Iberville Press; City of Biloxi; Island View Casino Resort; K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 The Beat and News Radio 104.9; Mississippi Department of Transportation; Sam's Club; Sea Coast Echo; Sorg Printing; WLOX-TV 13

MULLET: BB's Bar-B-Que & Snak Shak; Cellular South; Coast Electric; Desporte's Biloxi Paper Company; The Dive Shop; Hancock Medical Center

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PHOTO CAPTION (08-89-LST.jpg): Volunteers help clean up East Beach in Ocean Springs during the 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

2007 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10

Top 10 Debris Items Collected in Mississippi

Item	Number	Percentage
1. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	23,000	26.3%
2. Bags	7,362	8.4%
3. Beverage Bottles (Plastic) 2 liters or less	7,051	8.0%
4. Food Wrappers/Containers	6,818	7.8%
5. Caps/Lids	6,714	7.7%
6. Beverage Bottles (Glass)	6,498	7.4%
7. Beverage Cans	4,707	5.4%
8. Building Materials	4,467	5.1%
9. Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons	3,531	4.0%
10. Straws/Stirrers	2,479	2.8%
Total Top 10 Debris Items – Mississippi	72,627	
Total Debris – Mississippi	87,477	83%

Top 10 States in Number of Volunteers

1. California	61,112
2. Florida	29,494
3. North Carolina	18,084
4. Texas	9,610
5. Puerto Rico	9,351
6. New York	9,264
7. Alabama	5,372
8. Virginia	5,130
9. Oregon	3,942
10. Mississippi	3,483

Source: Ocean Conservancy

