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Office of Congressman Gene Taylor
Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State
Outback Steakhouse
Sea Coast Echo



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Gov. Barbour Declares Sept. 18 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties are needed for the 16th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 18, in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup—the planet’s largest volunteer cleanup effort on behalf of the marine environment. Governor Haley Barbour recently signed a proclamation in support of the annual event.

“I am very proud to proclaim September 18th Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day,” said Governor Barbour. “Protecting our coastal waters from debris is vital to Mississippi’s environment and tourism economy.”

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is a Take Pride in America event. Part of the President’s USA Freedom Corps call to service, the Take Pride in America program is a national partnership established by the U.S. Department of the Interior and is an excellent opportunity for citizens and communities to demonstrate local pride, initiative and stewardship.

Registration deadline for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is September 1. To obtain a registration form and sign up to volunteer call 467-9048 in Hancock County; 374-5022 ext. 5062 or 5063 in Harrison County; 218-3267 in Jackson County; 697-4211 or 875-4424 in Ocean Springs; 875-9057 ext. 114 for the Barrier Islands (requires boat); and 475-7047 for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (advance sign up required to reserve canoe.)

On cleanup day, zone captains will be stationed at each site in bright yellow T-shirts to direct volunteers and give them trash bags, data cards and pencils provided by The Ocean Conservancy, safety gloves donated by Garden Park Medical Center in Gulfport, bottled water compliments of the Mississippi Soft Drink Association, and a free drawstring backpack provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery (while supplies last). Additional cleanup supplies courtesy of Home Depot in Biloxi. Following the cleanup, volunteers must present their meal ticket for a free lunch of hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, potato chips and Coca-Cola products at Outback Steakhouse in Gulfport between **11 a.m. and 1 p.m. only** the day of the event. Last year, Outback Steakhouse served a free lunch to more than 1,500 volunteers!

In 2003, the International Coastal Cleanup involved more than 450,000 volunteers from more than 90 countries who collected 7.55 million pounds of marine debris. In Mississippi, 4,530 volunteers collected more than 73,000 pounds of trash. For more information call the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Info Line at 1-877-9 CLEAN 5 (toll-free in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties) or visit the official Mississippi Coastal Cleanup web site at www.coastalcleanup.ms.gov and download a registration form. Volunteers under age 21 must have their parents sign the registration form and fax or mail it back.

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Volunteers will pick up marine debris at 59 designated coastal cleanup sites (zones) in all three counties and the barrier islands. Designated cleanup areas are as follows:

- **Hancock County** – Ansley/Heron Bay; Bay/Waveland Beaches, Garden Isle Community, Coleman Avenue (Waveland), Lazy River Road, Shoreline Park North East, Shoreline Park South East, Harbor Drive-Bayou Phillips, Kiln, Diamondhead, Bayou La Croix, Clermont/Lakeshore, and Hwy 90/603 Nicholson Ave. to Waveland Ave.
- **Harrison County** - Pass Christian Harbor, Long Beach Harbor, Gulfport Harbor, Gulfport Lake, Keegan Bayou (Back Bay), James Hill Park, Lower Turkey Creek, D'Iberville Boat Launch, Fountain Pier, Deer Island, Point Cadet, U.S. 90 beach areas at Courthouse Road, the Coast Coliseum, Biloxi Lighthouse, KAFB Marina and Forrest Avenue Pier.
- **Jackson County** – Fort Bayou Boat Launch and Waterway (canoers and kayakers needed), Ocean Springs Fishing Bridge, Front Beach, East Beach, Davis Bayou (GINS), Gulf Park Estates Public Pier, Belle Fontaine Beach, Graveline Bayou Boat Launch, Gautier City Park, Pine Island (West Pascagoula River), I-10 boat launch, The Riverfront (Moss Point), The River Park (Pascagoula), Old Spanish Fort, Pascagoula Beach, Graveline Road/Shepard State Park, I.G. Levy Park, Mary Walker Marina, Shell Landing, Round Island, Singing River Island, Grand Bay NERR (Bayou Heron), Pollock Ferry Landing and Bluff Creek.
- **Barrier Islands** (requires boat) – west end and southern tip of Cat Island, Horn, Sand, Petit Bois, East and West Ship islands. (In the event of a small craft advisory, barrier islands volunteers should report to the Gulfport Harbor site.)
- **Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** – Bayou Heron. Volunteers may bring their kayak or canoe. A limited number of canoes are available for use. Volunteers must call and sign up in advance for a canoe.

Following the cleanup, volunteers in Hancock County are invited to a cookout starting at 11 a.m. at the foot of Washington St. and the beach in Bay St. Louis by the American Legion Pier, courtesy of the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and Da Beach House. In Jackson County there will be a picnic for volunteers at Shepard State Park in Gautier at 11 a.m. courtesy of Robb's Barbeque on The Side.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from BFI; Cellular South, Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Disposall Inc.; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hancock Insurance; Harrison County Beautification; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Home Depot; Jackson County Solid Waste; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard CRTIC - Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; National Marine Fisheries Service; Naval Construction Battalion Center; Naval Station Pascagoula; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; Outback Steakhouse; and Sea Coast Echo.

Co-sponsors (in-kind donations) include: Applewhite Industries; The Bay Press; City of Biloxi, Da Beach House, Divemaster Dive Center, Dole Fresh Fruit, Garden Park Medical Center, Gulf Hills Hotel & Conference Center; Jackson County Adult Detention Center, K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 KISS FM, and V104.9, Knight-Abbey Commercial Printing & Direct Mail, Lamar Advertising of South Mississippi, Mississippi Soft Drink Association, Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; Rainbow Water, Robb's Barbeque on the Side; Ship Island Excursions, The Ocean Conservancy, The Sun Herald, Triad Broadcasting Company, and WLOX-TV 13.