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Task Force

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Office of Congressman Gene Taylor
Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State
Outback Steakhouse
Rotary International District 6840
Sea Coast Echo



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Contact: Lauren Thompson, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, (228) 374-5022, ext. 5226.

Gov. Barbour Proclaims Sept. 17 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties are needed for the 17th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, 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 17th Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day,” said Governor Barbour. “It is vital that we preserve the quality of Mississippi’s coastal resources and waterways because of the serious impact marine debris has on wildlife, the environment and our economy. The Coastal Cleanup increases public awareness of the sources and effects of marine debris and reduces the amount of debris reaching our waterways.”

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 2. Register online at www.masgc.org/cleanup or you can obtain a registration form and sign up to volunteer by calling 467-9048 in Hancock County; 374-5022 ext. 5063 or 5062 in Harrison County; 217-2037 in Jackson County; 217-2035 or 875-4424 in Ocean Springs; 875-9057 ext. 106 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, bottled water compliments of the Mississippi Soft Drink Association, and a free drawstring backpack provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery (while supplies last). “Stash Your Trash” wristbands, safety gloves and additional cleanup supplies are 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** on the day of the event.

In 2004, the International Coastal Cleanup involved more than 305,000 volunteers from more than 90 countries who collected 7.7 million pounds of marine debris. For more information call the statewide toll-free Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Info Line at 1-866-5 CLEAN 5 or visit the official Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Web site at www.masgc.org/cleanup. Volunteers under age 21 must have their parents sign the registration form and fax or mail it back to participate.

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Volunteers will pick up marine debris at 60 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, Riverview Civic Association, 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), North Bay (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 for hotdogs and refreshments starting at 11 a.m. at the foot of Washington Street and the beach in Bay St. Louis by the American Legion Pier, courtesy of the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and Da Beach House. There will also be a cookout for volunteers at 11 a.m. at Clermont Harbor Pier by Bay St. Louis Rotary Club members. 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; City of Biloxi; 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 CRTC - Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Naval Construction Battalion Center; Naval Station Pascagoula; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; Outback Steakhouse; Rotary International District 6840 and Sea Coast Echo.

Co-sponsors (in-kind donations) include: Allen Beverages, Inc.; Applewhite Industries; The Bay Press; Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.; Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Consolidated; Da Beach House, Divemaster Dive Center; Dole Fresh Fruit; Jackson County Adult Detention Center; K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 Hallelujah FM and V104.9; Lamar Advertising of South Mississippi; Macland Disposal Inc.; McDonald's; Mississippi Media; Mississippi Soft Drink Association; Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; Prestige Printing; Rainbow Water; Robb's Barbeque on the Side; Ship Island Excursions; The Ocean Conservancy; The Sun Herald; and WLOX-TV 13.