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Mississippi Marine Debris
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) 523-4053.

Gov. Barbour Declares Sept. 16 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties are needed for the 18th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, 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 happy to proclaim September 16th Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day,” Governor Barbour said. “We must preserve and protect our coastal resources and waterways for future generations. 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 1. Register on-line at www.masgc.org/cleanup or you can obtain a registration form and sign up to volunteer by calling 467-9048 in Hancock County; 523-4141 in Harrison County; 872-8340 in Jackson County; 217-2035 or 875-4424 in Ocean Springs; 875-9057 ext. 111 or ext. 108 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 cleanup 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 Beverage Association of Mississippi, and a free drawstring backpack provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery (while supplies last). “Stash Your Trash” awareness bracelets, safety gloves and additional 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 D’Iberville **between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. only** the day of the event.

During the 2005 International Coastal Cleanup, more than 450,000 volunteers removed 8.2 million pounds of debris from 18,000 miles of coasts, spanning 74 different nations. **For more information 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 more than 40 designated coastal cleanup sites (zones) in all three counties and the barrier islands. Designated cleanup areas are as follows:

- **Hancock County** – Hwy. 90 to mouth of Jourdan River on Beach Blvd., Clermont Harbor/Lake Shore (from Buccaneer State Park to Bayou Caddy), Bookter Street (Bay St. Louis) to Bay Oaks, Coleman Ave. to Buccaneer State Park, Bay Oaks to Coleman Ave. (Waveland), and Diamondhead.
- **Harrison County** - Biloxi—Rodenberg Ave. east of Sharkheads, Gulfport—Preservation Oaks west of Grand Casino, Long Beach—west side of harbor (between Runnels and Troutman), James Hill Park, KAFB Marina, Forrest Avenue Pier, Keegan Bayou (Back Bay), Deer Island, Lower Turkey Creek, Gulfport Lake, D'Iberville Boat Launch, and Fountain Pier.
- **Jackson County** – Fort Bayou Boat Launch, Ocean Springs Fishing Bridge, Front Beach, East Beach, Davis Bayou (GINS), Gulf Park Estates Public Pier, Belle Fontaine Beach, Gautier City Park, Pine Island (West Pascagoula River), I-10 Boat Launch, The Riverfront (Moss Point), The River Park (Pascagoula), Pascagoula Beach, Graveline Road/Shepard State Park, Shell Landing, Singing River Island, and Bluff Creek.
- **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.
- **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—Preservation Oaks west of Grand Casino site.

Following the cleanup, volunteers in Hancock County are invited for hotdogs and drinks starting at 11 a.m. at the foot of Garfield Ladner Memorial Pier at Coleman Avenue in Waveland, courtesy of the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club. In Jackson County there will be a picnic for volunteers at The Shed Barbeque in Ocean Springs between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. only the day of the event.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from Allied Waste Services; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; 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; Beverage Association of Mississippi; Cellular South; City of Biloxi; Club Caribbean Diver and Travel; Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.; Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Consolidated; First American Printing and Direct Mail; K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 Hallelujah, and News Radio 104.9; Lamar Advertising of South Mississippi; Macland Disposal Inc.; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Mississippi Media; Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; Rainbow Water; The Shed Barbeque, Ship Island Excursions; The Ocean Conservancy; The Sun Herald; and WLOX-TV 13.

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