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Gulf Islands National Seashore
Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
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Harrison County Sand Beach Department
Jackson County Solid Waste
Keesler Air Force Base
Mississippi Air National Guard

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
Sea Coast Echo



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Gov. Musgrove Declares Sept. 20 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties are needed for the 15th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup—the planet’s largest volunteer cleanup effort on behalf of the marine environment. Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed a proclamation in support of the annual event, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

“The beaches and bayous of the Mississippi Gulf Coast are among our state’s most precious natural resources,” Governor Ronnie Musgrove said. “The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day is a great opportunity to preserve them and make sure they are enjoyed for generations to come.”

To pre-register call 467-9048 in Hancock County; 374-5022 ext. 5062 or 5063 in Harrison County; 990-1640 in Jackson County; 875-9057 ext. 114 for the Barrier Islands (requires boat); and 475-7047 for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

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, pencils, safety gloves donated by Memorial Hospital at Gulfport, bottled water compliments of the Mississippi Soft Drink Association, and a free beach tote provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery. Following the cleanup, volunteers must show their T-shirt as a pass 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 served a free lunch to 1,280 participants in two hours!

In 2002, 3,500 volunteers collected more than 50,000 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 MS Coastal Cleanup web site at www.masgc.org/cleanup and download a registration form. Volunteers under age 21 must have their parents sign the registration form and submit it prior to cleanup.

Volunteers will pick up marine debris at more than 60 designated coastal cleanup sites (zones) in all three counties and the barrier islands. Designated cleanup areas are as follows:

- **Hancock County** – Bay/Waveland Beaches, Garden Isle Community, Ansley/Heron Bay, Coleman Avenue (Waveland), Lazy River Road, Shoreline Park North East, Shoreline Park South East, Harbor Drive-Bayou Phillips, Kiln, Diamondhead, Bayou La Croix and Clermont/Lakeshore.
- **Harrison County** - Pass Christian Harbor, Long Beach Harbor, Gulfport Harbor, Keegan Bayou (Back Bay), 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.

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- **Jackson County** – Fort Bayou Apartments Boat Launch, Ocean Springs Fishing Bridge, Front Beach, East Beach, Davis Bayou (GINS), Gulf Park Estates Public Pier, Belle Fontaine Beach, Graveline Bayou Pier and 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 Point, Pascagoula Beach Park, Graveline Road Bridge, Graveline Point, I.G. Levy Park, Indian Point Bayou, Inner Harbor, Mary Walker Marina, Point Clear, Seacliff Bayou, Shell Landing, Shepard State Park, Swetman Beach, Round Island, Singing River Island, Grand Bay NERR (Bayou Heron), Pollack Ferry Landing and Bluff Creek.
- **Barrier Islands** – 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.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from BFI; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Disposall Inc.; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hancock Insurance; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Jackson County Solid Waste; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard; 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 include: BP; Cellular South; City of Biloxi, Club Caribbean Divers, Da Beach House, Dole Fresh Fruit, Earthgrains Bakery, 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, Memorial Hospital at Gulfport, Mississippi Soft Drink Association, Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; PEPCO, Rainbow Water, Ship Island Excursions, The Ocean Conservancy, The Sun Herald, Triad Broadcasting Company, and WLOX-TV 13.

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