



Sponsored by the
Mississippi Marine Debris
Task Force

BFI
Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
Disposal 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
Sea Coast Echo



For Immediate Release: August 1, 2003

Contact: Susan Perkins, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, (228) 374-5022, ext. 5062.

Paddlers Wanted at Grand Bay Reserve for Bayou Cleanup

Bring your canoe or kayak and get ready to paddle for a cleaner Coast on Saturday, Sept. 20, 8-11 a.m., at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), as part of the 15th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. Participants who bring their own canoes and kayaks will be provided with the equipment needed to pick up trash along Bayou Heron.

A limited number of canoes are available for volunteers (16 years of age and older) to use. Volunteers must call 475-7047 and sign up in advance to reserve a canoe. Cleanup participants who do not have access to a boat are also greatly needed to clean up the area adjacent to the Bayou Heron Boat Launch. People of all ages are invited to join the staff of the GBNERR in the cleaning up of the reserve. Children 12 and under are reminded that they must wear a life jacket if they are cleaning the bayou from a boat.

Participants in the Grand Bay NERR cleanup should meet at the Grand Bay Reserve office, located at 6005 Bayou Heron Road in southeast Jackson County at 8 a.m. on the day of the cleanup to sign in and receive their cleanup supplies. Participants are encouraged to call the GBNERR office at (228) 475-7047 to pre-register and to receive additional details regarding the cleanup. A free beach tote bag will be given to everyone who participates in the cleanup. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in the cleanup but must be accompanied by an adult.

After the cleanup, there will be a picnic for all Jackson County Coastal Cleanup participants at Shepard State Park in Gautier from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cleanup participants will need to show their beach tote at the park to receive a free lunch.

The GBNERR is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wild lands and waterways from Bangs Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal of the reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions.

The 18,000-acre reserve is home to several rare plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. GBNERR is managed through state-federal partnership between the DMR and its local partners-Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit us online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from BFI; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Disposal 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: 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.