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Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
Hancock County Solid Waste
Harrison County Beautification Commission
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Sea Coast Echo
University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast
Research Laboratory
Waste Management



For Immediate Release: Sept. 1, 2009

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Gov. Barbour Declares Oct. 17 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Day

Volunteers in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties are needed for the 21st annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup to be held from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 17, in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup—the planet's largest volunteer cleanup effort on behalf of the marine environment. Gov. Haley Barbour recently signed a proclamation in support of the annual event organized by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force.

“Keeping our coastline clean and litter free is essential to protecting our marine wildlife and coastal wetlands,” Governor Haley Barbour said. “The Mississippi Sound plays a vital role in our state’s economy, especially through tourism. I know the 21st annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup will be a great success.”

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 Oct. 1. Register on-line at www.mscoastalcleanup.org, or to obtain a registration form and sign up to volunteer call: 467-9048 in Hancock County; 324-9640 in Harrison County; 762-3391 in Jackson County; 938-6612 in Pascagoula; and 230-4118 for the Barrier Islands (requires boat).

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 Ocean Conservancy, bottled water compliments of the Beverage Association of Mississippi, and a free eco-friendly cooler tote provided by Chevron Pascagoula Refinery (while supplies last). Following the cleanup, volunteers must present their meal ticket for a free lunch at Courthouse Road Pier parking area in Gulfport courtesy of the High Cotton Grill **from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. only** on event day.

During the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup, more than 390,000 volunteers in 104 countries removed 6.8 million pounds of debris from the ocean, rivers, lakes and waterways.

“In Mississippi, 2,300 volunteers pitched in and removed 71 tons of trash from 55 sites along the shoreline and coastal waterways as part of last year’s International Coastal Cleanup,” Lauren Thompson, state coordinator for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup said.

For more information visit the official Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Web site at www.mscoastalcleanup.org or call the info line at 1-877-BEACH 05 (1-877-232-2405). Volunteers under age 21 must have their parents sign the registration form and fax or mail it back to participate.

Volunteers will pick up marine debris in all three counties and the barrier islands at more than 60 designated Coastal Cleanup sites, which include five private sites (not listed).

Designated cleanup areas are as follows:

- **Hancock County** – Diamondhead Community; Kiln Community, Hwy 603; McLeod State Park/Jourdan River; Jourdan River Shores.
- **Bay St. Louis** – Bayou La Croix and Canals; Bay St. Louis Depot District; Bay Marina/Washington St.; Garden Isles/Jourdan River; Mouth of Jourdan River to Dunbar Ave.; Dunbar Ave. from Beach Blvd. to Hwy. 90; Beach Blvd. from Hwy. 90 to Bookter St.; Bookter St. to Bay Oaks Drive; Bay Oaks Drive to Coleman Ave.
- **Waveland** – Beach Blvd., Coleman Ave. to Buccaneer State Park.
- **Clermont Harbor** – Buccaneer State Park to Pointset Ave.
- **Lakeshore** – Pointset Ave. to Bayou Caddy.
- **Harrison County**
- **Biloxi** – Deer Island (requires boat), Forrest Avenue Pier, Hiller Park, Keegan Bayou (Back Bay) (military assigned), Rodenberg Avenue, Popp's Ferry Bridge Boat Launch, Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, Porter Avenue (Lighthouse), Edgewater Mall-Biloxi beach.
- **D'berville** – D'Iberville Boat Launch, Fountain Pier.
- **Gulfport** – Courthouse Road, Gulfport Lake (military assigned), James Hill Park, Kremer Landing, Lower Turkey Creek, Preservation Oaks Park.
- **Long Beach** – Long Beach Harbor at Cleveland Ave.
- **Pass Christian** – Pass Christian Harbor at Market St.
- **Jackson County** – Belle Fontaine Beach, Bluff Creek, Pollock Ferry Landing.
- **Ocean Springs** – Davis Bayou (GINS), East Beach, Fort Bayou Boat Launch, Front Beach, Graveline Bayou Pier and Boat Launch, Gulf Park Estates Public Pier.
- **Gautier** – Gautier City Park, Graveline Road/Shepard State Park, Pine Island (West Pascagoula River) (requires boat).
- **Moss Point** – Hwy. 63 Boat Ramp, I-10 Boat Launch, The Riverfront, Bellview Street Boat Launch and Park.
- **Pascagoula** – I.G. Levy Park, Old Spanish Fort, Pascagoula Beach, The River Park.
- **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 475-7047 and sign up in advance for a canoe.
- **Barrier Islands** (requires boat) – west end and southern tip of Cat Island, Horn, Petit Bois, East and West Ship islands. (In the event of a small craft advisory, barrier islands volunteers should report to the Preservation Oaks Park site.)

In Jackson County, there will be a picnic for volunteers at the Estuarine Education Center at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. only the day of the event compliments of The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint and Chevron Pascagoula Refinery. Volunteers in Hancock County are invited for hotdogs and drinks starting at 11 a.m. at Washington Street Pier pavilion in Bay St. Louis, courtesy of the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor, the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club and BB's Snowballs.

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The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from Ashman & Son Construction; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; City of Biloxi, City of Gulfport; City of Moss Point; City of Ocean Springs; City of Pascagoula; Coastal Rivers; Delbert Hosemann Secretary of State; DMR Marine Patrol; Eco-Tours of South Mississippi; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Beautification Committee; Hancock County Board of Supervisors; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hancock County Solid Waste; Harrison County Beautification Commission; Harrison County Board of Supervisors; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Harrison County Sheriff's Department; Harrison County Utility Authority; Heritage Trails Partnership; Jackson County Board of Supervisors; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Jackson County Solid Waste Department; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; 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 Department of Rehabilitation Services; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Naval Construction Battalion Center; NOAA Fisheries; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Rotary International District 6840; Sea Coast Echo; University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; and Waste Management.

Other sponsors include:

SEA TURTLE: Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; High Cotton Grill; Matthews Brothers Inc., Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

SHARK: Beverage Association of Mississippi; Delta Sanitation of Mississippi, LLC; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Media; Ocean Conservancy; Ship Island Excursions; The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint; The Sun Herald; Waste Management

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COBIA: American Canoe Association; Biloxi-D'Iberville Press; Hancock Medical; Island View Casino Resort; K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 The Beat and News Radio 104.9; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Knight Abbey Printing & Direct Mail; Mississippi Department of Transportation; Sea Coast Echo; WLOX-TV 13

MULLET: Academy Sports + Outdoors; Ashman & Son Construction; BB's Bar-B-Que & Snak Shak; Coast Electric; Coastal Rivers; Desporte's Biloxi Paper Company; The Dive Shop; D'Iberville Walmart; Ocean Springs Walmart; Pascagoula Walmart; Waveland Walmart

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Photo Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources



PHOTO CAPTION (09-80-LST.jpg): Three volunteers remove bags of debris from the water's edge at Jones Park in Gulfport, Miss., during the 2008 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.