

Alabama Coastal Foundation
be informed. be involved. be the balance. join ACF

Vol. 1 No. 12

The Osprey Outlook

Note From the Executive Director

I love the holiday season- it is a perfect time to reflect on where you have been and a time to look forward and plan for what will come. 2008 has been a busy year for ACF- see below for a short look back at some of our projects from the past year. These programs and projects are vital not only to preserving and protecting our coastal resources for our own enjoyment; they also lay the framework for preserving our incredible natural resources for generations to come. And this work would not be possible without you. Your time and resources are what make ACF a strong voice for conservation in South Alabama, and with your help we will continue our efforts to protect and improve the quality of Alabama's coastal resources.

I am incredibly excited for what we have in store for 2009. We will introduce a new effort to assess the quality of our local waterbodies, starting with the Fish River in March. We have a new web site that will be coming online in early 2009 that I hope will serve as a resource for you to learn and get involved in conservation. We will also welcome 2 new board members in 2009, Ryan Baya and Brooks Delaney- their energy and passion for conservation will be a great asset to ACF as we move forward. You will learn more about these 2 individuals in our January newsletter. This is only a taste of the great things to come, so stay tuned!

I wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and I look forward to working with you in 2009 to continue our efforts to protect Alabama's coast. **Bethany Kraft**

P.S. And speaking of the holidays- Christmas is just a few days away! This year give the gift that gives back and purchase a tree to be planted in a recipient's honor at one of our tree plantings. Each gift certificate is only \$25 and includes a one year membership with ACF. You can purchase the certificates online at www.joinacf.org or by calling our office at 990-6002!

In This Issue

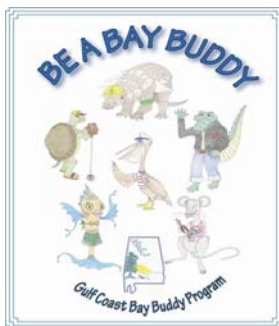
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ACF Kicks off 2009 with Two Tree Plantings



It's time to get dirty! Take part in one of ACF's longest running programs, have fun and help preserve our coastal ecosystem by planting a tree. This winter we have 2 plantings scheduled and we hope you will join us for one or both days. All of the trees that were gifted this year will be planted at one of these 2 plantings. Call our office at 990-6002 for more information.

Tree Planting at Muddy Creek Mitigation Bank – January 17 - Volunteers will meet at 9am at the parking area at the Mitigation Bank. Please bring gloves, shovels, and trowels if you have them. Be prepared to get dirty. This event is suitable for volunteers of all ages, so bring your family!

Directions to meeting area: From 1-10 East or West: Take Exit 15 – Theodore Hwy 90 West. Continue west on Hwy 90 to Bellingrath Road. Take a Left onto Bellingrath Road, proceeding South. Take a Left onto Industrial Road. Continue East on Industrial Road, cross bridge over Muddy Creek. Muddy Creek Wetlands Management sign and parking area will be on the left.

Tree Planting at Village Point Park Preserve – February 7 - Volunteers will meet

December Photo Contest Winner Garland Sims



Enter the January Photo Contest [Here](#)

Quick Links

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Mark Your Calendars

Bay Buddy Presentations for the Spring -
Volunteers Needed

Tree Plantings- January 17 and February 7

Community Leader Wastewater Training-
February 5

Baldwin County Water Festival - February 9 &
10

Fish River Shoreline Assessment - March 2009

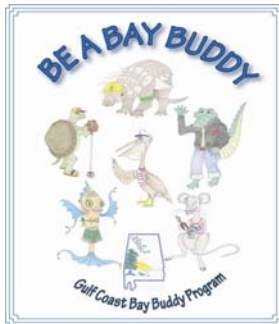
at 9am at the parking area at the Mitigation Bank. Please bring gloves, shovels, and trowels if you have them. Be prepared to get dirty. This event is suitable for volunteers of all ages..

Directions to meeting area: From the intersection of I-10 and US Hwy 98 in Daphne, take Hwy 98 South 1.6 miles. Take an easy right at the stop light onto Main Street. Travel .5 miles. The park entrance is to the right and well marked (just past the KFC on the left).

2008 Year in Review

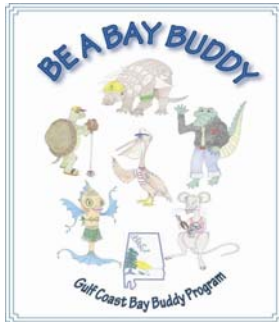
ACF Celebrates 15 years

In 2008, ACF celebrated 15 years of providing a balanced voice for conservation in South Alabama. From workshops to rain gardens, ACF's projects in 2008 have two things in common— they all had a measurable impact on environmental quality and none would have been possible without the support of our project sponsors.



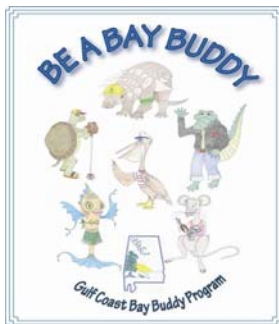
Tree Plantings

ACF participated in 3 tree plantings in 2008— one in Daphne at Yancy Branch where volunteers planted over 250 trees and 2 projects with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program to plant native trees to reforest Little Dauphin Island, which has been devastated by storms in the past few years, leaving it vulnerable to wind and erosion. Tree plantings are a great opportunity for volunteers to get dirty for a good cause, which might be why tree plantings are one of our volunteers' favorite projects!



Coastal Kids Quiz

Congratulations to St. Patrick's Elementary, the 2008 Kids Quiz Champions! Each winning student received a \$600 education bond and the winning teachers each received \$500 to use for classroom projects. Now in its 8th year, the Coastal Kids Quiz is an educational conservation scholarship competition for 5th grade students designed to enhance designed to emphasize, introduce and test knowledge in coastal resources, conservation and the environment. Coastal Kids Quiz teams consist of five students from public and private schools in Mobile, and Baldwin counties who participate in the round-robin, question and answer competition.



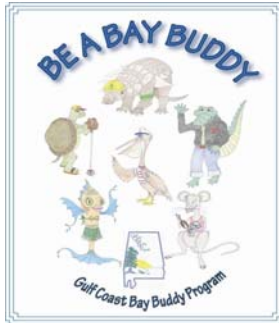
Gulf Coast Bay Buddy Program

2008 was a banner year for Bay Buddy. Over 1800 students in Grades K-3 learned basic conservation principles. Students learn that what people put on or into our environment will affect not only the immediate vicinity but also other areas of the watershed. Activity books that reinforce lessons taught are provided to all participants to take home and share with family and friends. Since 2005, over 8,000 students have experienced the Bay Buddy Program in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Wetlands Compliance Workshop

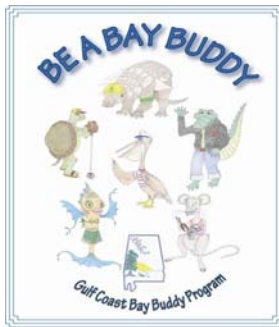
In 2008 ACF hosted 2 workshops for real estate and legal professionals to learn

about wetland regulations, compliance and permitting issues from a panel of regulatory and environmental professionals. ACF continues to provide ongoing educational opportunities for local professionals and community leaders to learn about conservation issues that affect them. ACF is entering its 4th year in hosting the Wetlands Compliance Workshop for Real Estate and Legal Professionals. Continuing education credits are available and participants get current and accurate information from a distinguished panel of experts about wetland regulations, permitting and other compliance issues.



Tanner Williams Rain Garden

Thanks to an EPA 5 Star Grant, ACF designed and built a rain garden demonstration site at Tanner Williams Elementary School in Wilmer, AL. Students in Grades 1-3 participated in the planting and have turned the area into an outdoor classroom area. Rain gardens are a great way to control storm water runoff and are wonderful habitats for wildlife. Crawfish Craze 2008 was the biggest year yet for the



Crawfish Craze

Held in May at 5 Rivers on the Causeway, the Craze features a crawfish, shrimp and sausage cook-off where teams compete to be named the "Top Crazy Crawdad". Congratulations to the winning team from Rogers & Willard and the runners-up from Thompson Engineering!

Give the Gift of Conservation

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GIVE THE GIFT
OF CONSERVATION**



**FOR ONLY \$25, YOU CAN SPONSOR A TREE TO BE PLANTED IN
SOMEONE'S HONOR AT ONE OF ACF'S TREE PLANTINGS. THE
SPONSORSHIP ALSO INCLUDES A ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP WITH
ACF FOR THE RECIPIENT. CALL 990-6002 FOR MORE INFO AND
TO PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CERTIFICATE.**

A Special Thank You to our 2008 Project Sponsors!



The programs you just read about would not have been possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors. Please thank the following businesses for their support of conservation through your patronage:

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