

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

Vol. 2 No.1

The Osprey Outlook

Note From the Executive Director

Happy 2009! I hope this note finds your new year off to a healthy and happy beginning. We have started 2009 off with a bang- our first tree planting of the year was January 17th- if the cold temperatures convinced you to stay under the covers that day, we hope you will join us for our Baldwin County planting on February 7.

Spring is shaping up to be a busy time for ACF- look for us at the Community Leader Wastewater Training, the Baldwin County Water Festival and the Village Point Park Preserve in February. See the calendar at the right for more events and feel free to contact us at 990-6002 or via [email](mailto:info@joinacf.org) for more information on any of our upcoming projects. It is certainly an ambitious calendar at a time when many businesses and nonprofits across the country are reducing the programs and services they provide. But fulfilling our mission to "improve and protect the quality of Alabama's coastal resources by identifying and solving problems through education, cooperation and participation" is too important to leave to chance. We will continue to provide environmental programs to students, individuals, the business community and our elected officials because our coastal resources demand it. We appreciate your continued support and dedication to conservation as our members, program sponsors and volunteers- these programs wouldn't be possible without your participation.

Speaking of participation, we want to hear from you! Please feel free to submit any articles, essays, poems or photos that you would like to see in the Osprey Outlook! We have also added a new column starting this month- the Species Spotlight. This month features the Indigo Snake, and next month's spotlight is up to you. You can submit your contributions to info@joinacf.org

In This Issue

[Tree Planting at Village Point Preserve](#)

[Volunteers Brave the Cold at Muddy Creek](#)

[Wastewater Training Workshop Scheduled for February 5](#)

[Bay Buddy Training -](#)

[Species Spotlight- Indigo Snake](#)

Tree Planting Scheduled for February 7 in Daphne



Its not too late to take part in ACF's winter tree plantings!

Tree Planting at Village Point Park Preserve – February 7 - Volunteers will meet at 9am at the parking area at the park. Please bring gloves, shovels, and trowels if you have them. Be prepared to get dirty. This event is suitable for volunteers of all ages.

January Featured Photo



Enter the February
Photo Contest [Here](#)

Quick Links

[Join ACF](#)

[News](#)

[About Us](#)

[Our Programs](#)

Mark Your Calendar!

Community Leader Wastewater Training-
February 5 - Loxley Civic Center

Tree Plantings- February 7 - Village Point
Preserve

Baldwin County Water Festival - February 9 &
10

Bay Buddy Training - February 11 - University
of South Alabama

Bay Buddy Presentation- February 16 @ J.
Larry Newton

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).

Fish River Shoreline Assessment - March
2009

Low Impact Development Workshop - April 23
- 5 Rivers

Volunteers Plant 85 Trees at Muddy Creek



Our hardy volunteers braved the freezing temperatures on January 17 to participate in ACF's tree planting at the Muddy Creek Mitigation Area in Theodore, which is managed by the Alabama State Port Authority. Volunteers planted approximately 85 native species along the trail, many of which were planted as part of our "Gift A Tree" program.

Image: From left to right: Jimmy Lyons, Skip Hinton, Dr. Brenda Litchfield, Ben Onderdonk, Paige Miller, Elizabeth Benton, Anna Keene and Gena Todia.

It's not too late to plant a tree- our Baldwin County Tree Planting is scheduled for February 7. Call the ACF office for more information.

Community Leader Wastewater Training

The complex nature of wastewater issues and the ever-changing regulatory environment make it imperative that elected officials and utility representatives receive timely information that will enable them to make sound decisions to protect public health, economic development, and the environment in the coastal community. These issues are especially pressing in Baldwin County, with our numerous municipalities in both rural and urban areas where wastewater needs and capabilities are diverse. **The Alabama Coastal Foundation will be hosting a Community Leader Wastewater Training on February 5, 2009 at the Loxley Civic Center from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM.** This workshop will serve as an educational overview for community leaders to better understand processes, options, issues and trends in wastewater management; the workshop will include a discussion panel regarding how municipalities and utilities can work together to solve common problems. The training includes an optional field trip to the Baldwin County Sewer Service's Plantation Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call the ACF office at 990-6002.

Bay Buddy Volunteer Training

The Alabama Coastal Foundation will be holding a training session for Bay Buddy volunteers on Wednesday, February 11, from 3pm

until 4pm in the Professional Studies Conference Room in the College of Education at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

The Bay Buddy Program uses trained volunteers to lead a short interactive presentation to students in grades K through 3 in Baldwin and Mobile Counties, teaching basic conservation principles such as energy conservation and recycling. Volunteers indicate distance they are willing to travel and available times and are contacted when a school in their area is scheduled. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the training session.

Directions: Go to the College of Education building at University Commons behind McDonalds and Subway on University Blvd (a converted strip mall). Go in the main door of College of Education lobby and turn left. Go to end of hall (you would run into Women's room) and turn right. Go past Men's room and you will see a conference room on your left – Professional Studies Conference Room.

Species Spotlight - Indigo Snake



The Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais*) is the longest snake in the United States, documented at up to 9 feet long. These gentle giants are non-venomous and enjoy feasting on rattlesnakes, lizard, frogs, and small rodents. Their blue-black sheen, smooth scales, and stout body make them a popular sight for herpetology enthusiasts. This beauty can be a burden though, as they have historically been popular in carnivals

and as domestic pets. Their biggest threats though are habitat loss and fragmentation. In 1979, the Eastern Indigo Snake became a federally listed threatened species and remains threatened or endangered throughout its range today, which includes parts of South Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Indigo Snakes in our area prefer sandy scrub habitats near creeks or streams, often placing them side by side with gopher tortoises, whose burrows Indigo Snakes use for refuge and reproduction. These habitats are part of the long-leaf pine ecosystem, an ecosystem that stretched from Virginia to East Texas until about 150 years ago. Today, scientists estimate that over 95% of former long-leaf pine forests have been destroyed, most being used for timber. Recently, however, citizens have become more aware of the true costs associated with the use of our natural resources and are less likely to choose long leaf timber for their next project. Protecting species begins with protecting their homes, their habitats. If the Eastern Indigo Snake is ever to be seen readily in Alabama again, our resources must be managed wisely, recognizing the true value of intact ecosystems to our quality of life.

Sources: University of Georgia- Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, The Longleaf Alliance.



Alabama Coastal Foundation
P.O. Box 1760
Fairhope, AL 36533
Phone: 251-990-6002
Email: info@joinacf.org
www.joinacf.org