

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

Vol. 1 No. 9

The Osprey Outlook

Note From the Executive Director



Anyone who watches the news or reads the paper on a regular basis can be forgiven for thinking that perhaps life as we know it will never be the same. With the fall of financial investment and banking giants and soaring prices at the pump, the nightly news seems more like a bad episode of Jerry Springer than

a source of information. Watching the endless stream of bad and then worse news, I began to get discouraged- the sheer magnitude of the problems we are facing as a country seem almost insurmountable and dwarf seemingly less important issues like conservation and the environment. What does wetland restoration or carrying reusable grocery bags matter when the so-called "experts" tell us that our economy and the very ideal of "The American Dream" is on the verge of collapse? It's almost enough to make me throw my hands up in defeat.

But, what if...

What if these economic and social upheavals represent an unprecedented opportunity to rethink the way we live? What if our economy accounted for the monetary value of preserving wetlands or conserving water? It doesn't take an economist to figure out that clean water, pure air and abundant fish in the sea is good for business and just plain good for us, period. What if a better life is just over the horizon? Despite the warnings of the pundits on TV, I am ready to take a peek at the other side. Won't you join me?

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Join us for the ACF Quarterly Membership Meeting - Nov. 19 at Oysterella's



**Bring your friends
and join us at 6:30
pm at Oysterella's
on the Causeway**

Participate in the ACF Membership Survey

ACF is growing in leaps and bounds, and 2009 promises to be our best year yet.

With several exciting projects on the horizon, we want to hear from you about what issues interest you most so we can focus our efforts on achieving real solutions to environmental issues in South Alabama. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and will help ACF continue to be a leader in conservation in South Alabama.

[Click Here](#) to take the short survey

Thank you for participating!

Enter the October Photo Contest [Here](#)

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Mark Your Calendars

- October 23, 2008 - Critical Water Issues Seminar sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Baldwin County
2pm-5pm at the Adult Activity Center, 260 Clubhouse Dr. Gulf Shores

on Thursday, November 19 for ACF's quarterly membership meeting.

Enjoy fun and fellowship at ACF's first quarterly meeting at Oysterellas. Make your voice heard as we decide future projects and discuss South Alabama conservation. We will have a guest speaker and there will be plenty of time to eat, drink and enjoy the company of friends. Dinner and drinks will be on your own.

You do not have to be a member to attend. **Hope you can join us!**

•OCT. 23, 24 & 25 8 AM – 5
PM
THURS, FRI & SAT

Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
Plant Sale
Mifflin Community Center
Call for more 251-955-1527
for info.

Be a Bay Buddy!

Bay Buddy Volunteer Training Date: Monday, October 13 th, 3:30-4:30 am - ACF office

ACF's Bay Buddy program continues its work to teach children in grades K through 3 about basic conservation principles in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. ACF has administered this program since 2005 and this year promises to be the biggest yet.

The Gulf Coast Bay Buddy presentation and activity book feature coastal characters that encourage children to conserve resources, recycle, keep trash in the trash can, and listen to their conscience. The Bay Buddy program aligns with state curriculum standards for students in grades K through 3. We are currently scheduling Bay Buddy presentations for the fall in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Please let us know if your school, library, church, or club would like to host a presentation. They last about thirty minutes and all participants receive activity books that reinforce the Bay Buddy messages.

The Bay Buddy program relies on volunteers to make the presentations at schools in the community. If you are interested in becoming a Bay Buddy volunteer, ACF will host 2 training sessions this fall. ACF staff will help schedule the Bay Buddy presentations in the schools and provide you with the training and materials you need to be a presenter.

All Gulf Coast Bay Buddy Program volunteers are required to participate in a training session. Trainings are open to anyone over the age of 21 in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Please call 990-6002 or email akeene@joinacf.org for more information or to confirm training session attendance. We are looking forward to the biggest year ever for the Bay Buddy Program and hope you can be a part of it!!

ACF Hosts Wetlands Compliance Workshop for Land Use Professionals

As part of our ongoing efforts to inform and educate the community about environmental issues, ACF and the Weeks Bay Reserve held a wetland regulations and compliance workshops on September 4th. Thirty-nine participants from the real estate, legal and development professions received continuing education credits and got current and accurate information about wetland regulations, permitting and compliance issues using actual case studies to promote wetlands protection and better development practices. This is the second wetlands workshop ACF has organized this year and just one of the many education workshops that we provide to the community. A special thanks to our sponsors: Hand-Arendall and the Baldwin County Board of Realtors.

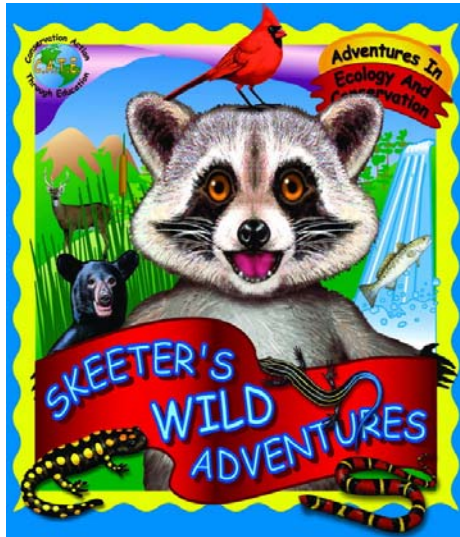


Images:
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Workshop participants learn about wetlands at the ACF workshop.

(r) ACF Board Member and Hand Arendall attorney Neil Johnston explains the finer points of wetland compliance during the workshop panel discussion.

Skeeter's Wild Adventure is Here!



By: Dr. Brenda Litchfield, ACF Board Member

Skeeter has arrived! Ribbit's brother is now a member of the Project CATE and the Alabama Coastal Foundation family. Skeeter's Wild Adventures, the second multimedia CD-ROM in the Project CATE series, teaches about Alabama's wild vertebrates. This program is designed for upper elementary, middle, and high school students but can also be used with elementary. The disc covers sites about fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Each site is extensive and contains detailed sections on Anatomy (internal and external), and Physiology with animations of respiration, digestion, circulation, and reproduction.

In addition, there are sections on Habitat, Economic Value, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Conservation and Special Programs. Each site also contains a main story, game, projects for home and school, and a glossary of terms. Along with Ribbit's Big Splash, Skeeter's Wild Adventures will be used as the base curriculum for the Coastal Kids Quiz which is sponsored by ACF in April of each year. This will be the 7th year of the competition for 5th grade students in public and private schools Mobile and Baldwin counties. For the three winning teams (5 students on each team) a total of \$6,000 in EE bonds is given out in scholarship money for students. Teacher coaches for the winning teams receive \$500 each for to use for environmental and conservation activities.

The interactive, multimedia program is accompanied by a 10-12 page activity book which can be used in conjunction with the CD-ROM. There are questions to answer, data to record, and numerous diagrams to label.

To order copies of Skeeter's Wild Adventures visit the Project CATE web site at www.projectcate.com Download and fill out the license agreement then mail it to the address provided on the site. Skeeter's Wild Adventures was designed and produced by Educational Concepts, 6163 Bayou Road, Mobile, AL 36605, www.educationalconcepts.com

Attend the League of Women Voters Critical Water Issues Workshop



Join the Baldwin County League of Women Voters for the "Critical Water Issues" seminar to be held on Thursday, October 23 at the Adult Activity Center in Gulf Shores. Dr. George Crozier will lead a distinguished and knowledgeable panel presenting problems and solutions in three critically linked areas: stormwater management, waste water management and water quality. The seminar will finish with a round table panel

discussion that will give the audience an opportunity to ask questions about these impor

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