

BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter December 2014

In This Edition:

Highlights: Water Festival Coverage, After Party Recap, Clyde Butcher, Upcoming Bay Guardian Volunteer Events, Bay Wise Kayak Tours, Bay Partner Grant Project, Sarasota Bay Today Blog, and upcoming events. Thank you for supporting the SBEP mission and its various programs.

Like us on Facebook

Third Water Festival Attracts Thousands of Locals

The third Sarasota Bay **Water Festival** attracted visitors of all ages on November 1. Even strong winds couldn't keep thousands of people from enjoying the event held at beautiful Ken Thompson Park.



SBEP is the Founding Sponsor of the Water Festival. **HDR, Inc.** was the 2014 Community Sponsor and **Sea to Shore Alliance** was this year's Host Sponsor. Another 38 organizations from the public and private sector were festival sponsors.

The purpose of the Water Festival is to celebrate the importance of Sarasota Bay to the region's environment, economy and quality of life.



The **live music** staged rocked all day long, with SBWF headliner The Applebutter Express closing out the festival from 2:30-4pm. Ben Hammond once again was the Water Festival emcee and he played fantastic 30-minute sets between each band. Also performing were Tampa Bay area jazz group Serotonic, and Sarasota-based Latin fusion rock band Ari & the Alibis.



The children were engaged through a number of activities including the Mote Mobile touch tank exhibit, Sarasota Bay Watch's scallop exhibit, dip netting with Around the Bend Nature Tours, Ringling School's interactive exhibit, bungee bouncing and rock wall, face painting, the Chico Bag Monster, I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest and more.

The Speakers Tent featured a captive audience throughout the day. SBEP once again organized the guest speakers and schedule.

At noon was **Protecting Sarasota Bay Wildlife** featuring James Powell, Jim Cutler, Mark Rachal, and Tim Thurman. At 1pm was **Economic Value of Sarasota Bay** featuring Paul Hindsley, Sara Kane, Christine Johnson, and Jennifer Shafer. At 2pm was **Meet Clyde Butcher**, Florida's Acclaimed Nature Photographer. At 3pm was **Water Quality & Restoration Report** featuring John Ryan, Damon Moore, and Jay Leverone. And the final presentation at 3:30pm was **Plastic Pollution & Wildlife** featuring Sherri Swanson and David Pilston.



2014 Water Festival photos by Kathryn Brass-Piper.

The After Party Raises Money for Two Nonprofits

The **Water Festival** hosted the **After Party** that night at Circus City Architectural Salvage. The After

Party raised $1,000, for **Save Our Seabirds** and **Sea to Shore Alliance**!

The ticketed even featured the Aqua-Garde Fashion Show during which contestants showcased avant-garde designs using repurposed plastic materials to help raise awareness of how plastic affects sea life and their precious habitats. Donated prizes were awarded to top fashions.

Live music by Lisa Ridings & Vertigo and DJ, TL Hollefeld set the scene while Ringling School of Design students performed a dramatic water-inspired theatrical piece.

Special thanks go out to all the volunteers! Sherri Swanson led the effort with support from Bryan Moore, Sera Balderston, Victor Baut, Greg & TJ with Circus City, Jeff Dillon, Nazanin Varasteh, Cheryl Evans, Randy Moore and many others.



Clyde Butcher Visits Sarasota Bay Water Festival

The **Water Festival** hosted renowned Florida Nature Photographer **Clyde Butcher**. He gave a 30-minute talk and answered questions for the audience. He also signed copies of books and calendars.



The Next Bay Guardian Volunteer Event is Saturday, December 13 at G.T. Bray Park

SBEP will host Bay Guardian volunteers at G.T. Bray Park in Bradenton from 9am to noon on Saturday, December 13. Volunteers will be targeting invasive species and removing trash.

Project partners include Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources and Around the Bend Nature Tours. Lunch is provided to volunteers following the project. Please note this volunteer event is already full. Please contact Sara Kane at **Sara@sarasotabay.org** if you have questions or would like to learn more about the **Bay Guardian** volunteers.



The next **Bay Guardian Volunteer Event** will take place at North Water Tower Park in February. Visit the SBEP **Events Calendar** for the most up to date info about Bay Guardian and other events.

SBEP Announces Bay Wise Kayak Tours Schedule

Ten trips are organized from December through April with two outings per month led by professional guide Brad Tanner. The trips are free but require participants to bring their own kayak and gear. Each trip lasts between two and three hours and space is limited to 15 individuals per outing.

The late Jack Taylor, a respected marine biologist, helped to create the popular **kayak tour program** in 2007 with a SBEP funded Bay Partners Grant.

2014-15 Tour Schedule:



December - *Neal Preserve*
12/6 and 12/20 - **Filled**

January - *Leffis and Jewfish Key*
1/3 and 1/17 - **Register**

February - *Lido Mangrove Tunnels*
2/7 and 2/21 - **Register**

March - *Blind Pass*
3/7 and 3/21

April - *Lyons and Blackburn Bay*
4/4 and 4/8

Sarasota Bay Today Blog to Feature Two New Interviews with Lou Newman and Sherri Swanson

The next interview for the **Sarasota Bay Today Blog** will feature Lou Newman. Lou is a retired Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who travels around the world to take beautiful photos of wildlife.



Photo by Lou Newman.

Visit the SBEP **Creative Expressions Gallery** to see some of his work. Visit **Lou's website** to see more photos.

Following the publication of Lou Newman's interview Randy Moore will interview Sherri Swanson with HDR, Inc. Sherri is a key supporter of the Sarasota Bay Water Festival and a volunteer member of the SBEP Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

Sarasota Bay Today was created by SBEP and Triple 3 Marketing to provide information about the people involved with the ongoing efforts to restore, protect and study Sarasota Bay and its ecosystem. Randy Moore with Triple 3 Marketing is the editor and he has completed 18 interviews since December 2011.

SBEP News Briefs

Coastal Community Planning Course
SBEP, TBEP and CHNEP will be hosting a *Coastal Community Planning Course*. The training will be

held Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 3-4 at the Venice Community Center located at 326 Nokomis Ave. South. The course focuses on land-use planning processes, conventional patterns of development, impacts from development, and alternative options. It provides background information, examples and resources to support smart growth development in coastal communities. It also introduces the idea of natural hazard resilience. **Registration is required.**

Policy Board and Citizen's Advisory Committee Joint Meeting
SBEP will host a CAC / Policy Board joint meeting on Friday, December 5 from noon to 5pm at Selby Gardens. The meeting will be facilitated by Frank Alcock with New College of Florida. Please RSVP with Kathy Harmon at **Kathy@sarasotabay.org**.

Managing Visitor Use in Land and Marine Conservation Areas Course
SBEP, TBEP and CHNEP will be hosting a *Managing Visitor Use in Land and Marine Conservation Areas Course*. The training will be held Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8-9 at the Venice Community Center. This two-day course provides tools to identify and define unacceptable visitor use impacts to natural resources. The training focuses on a process that can be used to help determine these impacts and explore a range of practical strategies and tactics. **Registration is required.**

Join SBEP on Facebook
Click here to like SBEP. The social media site also features links to many other bay-friendly organizations. We recently reached 729 likes and our current goal is 750 likes!

SBEP Public Meetings
The next Management Board Meeting is set for 9 am on Friday, January 30 and the next Policy Board Meeting is set for 1 pm on the same day. The venue for both meetings will be the Manatee County Administration Building, 1112 Manatee Ave. W, BCC Conference Room, 9th floor. **SBEP Online Calendar**.

Final Reflection with Water Festival Volunteers



Tanya Fesler, Kathy Harmon and Rina Avellaneda were three of the volunteers at this year's Water Festival that helped to make the event fun and meaningful for visitors of all ages.

We're thankful for all of the volunteers that support the SBEP mission and programs. Thank you!

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest natural asset - Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural

resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the U.S. that have been named by the U.S. Congress as an "estuary of national significance."