

BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter July 2014

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Highlights: SBEP awards grants to local organizations; hold the fertilizer; Sea Level Rise brochure; Sarasota Bay Water Festival; Clyde Butcher news; Anna Maria Elementary Project; Aqua-Garde Fashion Show; photo contest; and tidal creek study. Thank you for supporting the SBEP mission and its various programs.

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Bay Partner Grants Awarded to Eight Organizations

SBEP has awarded grants to 8 local organizations as part of the 2014 SBEP Bay Partners Grant Program. The fully-funded projects include Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron, Bayshore High School, Friends of Florida Maritime Museum, Sarasota Bay Watch, and the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida. The partially-funded projects include Natures Academy, Save Our Seabirds and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens.



SBEP has awarded nearly $247,000 in Bay Partners Grants to support 126 organizations since 2003. A committee with the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) selects the recipients. The next deadline for submitting grant applications is March 2, 2015. Visit the SBEP **Bay Partners Grant Program** page to learn more about this years recipients.

2013 Bay Partner Grant Project at Plymouth Harbor

County Ordinances Prohibit Using Fertilizers with Nitrogen and Phosphorus through September 30



SBEP and other partners of the Be Floridian fertilizer education campaign remind Sarasota and Manatee County residents they cannot apply fertilizer with nitrogen or phosphorus from June 1 through September 30.

Not using fertilizers in the summer reduces the amount of chemicals running into Sarasota Bay following heavy rainfalls. The overuse of nitrogen and phosphorus has an adverse impact on water quality and can also harm aquatic life. **Visit the Be Floridian website**

SBEP Completes Sea Level Rise Planning Brochure

SBEP recently launched the Sea Level Rise brochure. There are a limited number of printed copies. You can also **view the PDF online**. The brochure offers tips for adaptation planning that can be used by community leaders, planners, resource managers and concerned individuals.



The brochure provides maps, tools and tips that can also apply to many other climate-related impacts such as heat waves and heavier precipitation periods, increased drought and more extreme weather events. This project was funded by a grant received from the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program. SBEP contracted and partnered with Mote Marine Laboratory to complete the brochure and **SLR Visualization Web Tool**.

Planning Underway for Third Annual Sarasota Bay Water Festival at Ken Thompson Park November 1

The 2014 **Sarasota Bay Water Festival** is set for Saturday, November 1 at Ken Thompson Park. The fun outdoor event celebrates the importance of Sarasota Bay to the region's environment, economy and quality of life. SBEP is the Founding Sponsor, HDR, Inc. is the Community Sponsor and Sea to Shore Alliance is the 2014 Host Sponsor.

Other **sponsors** in random order include Freedom Boat Club, Sarasota County, Manatee County, WUSF Public Media, Southwest Florida Water Management District, City of Sarasota, Cannons Marina, Sarasota Sailing Squadron, Town of Longboat Key, Mote Marine Laboratory, WSRQ Talk Radio, City of Bradenton, Sarasota Bay Watch, Gulf Coast Community

Foundation, Suncoast Food Trucks, Anheuser-Busch Wholesalers, Nature's Academy, Stantec, Vintage Paws Sanctuary, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, Around the Bend Nature Tours, SUP Sarasota, Save Our Seabirds, High Five Dragon Boat, Friends of Sarasota County Parks, UF/IFAS Extension, Sun King Disc Sports, and Friends of Disc Golf.

Organizers are seeking additional sponsors. **Please contact Randy Moore**

Sarasota Bay Water Festival to Host Acclaimed Photographer Clyde Butcher for Presentation



Clyde Butcher, the acclaimed nature photographer of Florida's remaining wild places, will share insights and answer questions at the third annual Sarasota Bay Water Festival Saturday, November 1 at Ken Thompson Park. Clyde will also sell and sign his latest book.

Visit the Clyde Butcher website

Anna Maria Elementary School Completes Bay Partner Grant Project Focused on Education



Anna Maria Elementary School completed a SBEP Bay Partners Grant project called Coastal Crusaders. Students grades 3 to 5 used their school as an outdoor classroom to learn about their personal stake in the health and preservation of the environment.

The project included 16 weeks of activities focusing on wildlife and habitat. Existing bay-friendly landscaping was revitalized with updated shell paths and the replacing of rain barrels. One hundred and eight native plants were added to their Sensory, Butterfly, Peace and Character gardens. These projects along with the Coastal Crusaders book were showcased at Family Science and Literacy night. Over 100 volunteer hours made the project a great success and the exhibit is open to the community. Visit the **Bay Partners Grant Program** page to learn more about other projects.



Don't Miss the Water Festival After Party Featuring the Aqua-Garde Fashion Show and Live Music



New for 2014 is a companion event that will serve as the Water Festival after party with live music and the Aqua-Garde Fashion Show. Imagine fashions made entirely of plastic. The party runs from 7pm to midnight at Circus City Architectural Salvage. The fundraising event will benefit **Save Our Seabirds** and **Sea to Shore Alliance**, two local nonprofits focused on protecting wildlife including birds, manatees and sea turtles. Many species of wildlife are harmed by discarded plastic items. The Water Festival After Party website will be launched soon.

Other Water Festival highlights: live music, panel discussions about bay-friendly living organized by SBEP, Dragon Boat Races, food trucks, beer and wine garden, pet zone, raffle prizes, vintage and new boats, kids fishing clinic, dip netting and nature walks, community art mural, and displays promoting boating, fishing, kayaking, scuba diving, paddleboard sports, and more.

Winning Submissions to I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest to be Showcased at the Water Festival

The winning submissions of the I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest will be displayed at the Water Festival November 1. The contest celebrates the beauty and importance of Sarasota Bay. Submissions should have a connection to the bay or its tributaries and watersheds spanning Sarasota and Manatee County.

Prior submissions have focused on seascapes and landscapes, sunrises and sunsets, people enjoying water recreational activities, boats and boating, aquatic life, birds, and other wildlife. The contest features four age divisions and the **rules and guidelines** are posted on the Water Festival website.



Science Teams Collect Data for Tidal Creek Study



Various teams from six Southwest Florida counties continue to collect samples for water quality, algae and fisheries from various creeks in the region. The effort is part of a Tidal Creek Study designed to determine the appropriate level of nutrients to ensure the ecological health of the tidal creeks. More precise standards will help resource managers protect the waterways.

SBEP is managing the collaboration among the three National Estuary Programs including Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, six local counties (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee), Mote Marine Laboratory, and the Florida DEP through a grant from EPA. Other partners include Janicki Environmental, Inc., Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and the USF Florida Center of Community Design and Research.

Bay Guardians Complete Project at Emerson Point



The SBEP Bay Guardian volunteers planted one thousand wire grass plugs and 50 Saw Palmetto plants. The 42 volunteers spent the rest of the morning removing invasive pest plants including Caesar Week, Rosary Pea and Balsam Apple.

The project was the fifth volunteer outing for the Bay Guardians in 2014. Prior projects were completed at Perico Preserve, Bowlees Creek Island, Jiggs Landing and Arlington Park. Visit the **Bay Guardians** page to learn more about the program and check out our **photo gallery** page to see great pictures from our volunteer events.

SBEP News Briefs

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council Announces Water-CAT
The Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council has released the Water-CAT, an interactive, searchable, web-enabled catalog of Florida-based monitoring efforts developed by USF's Center for Community Design and Research. The catalog was developed for resource managers, agencies, universities, policymakers and members of the public to facilitate access to information on marine, freshwater, groundwater, sediment and biological monitoring within the state.
Visit the Water-CAT website

Water Words That Work
SBEP, CHNEP and TBEP are offering a joint workshop on Wednesday, September 17 from 9am to 4pm. The workshop is designed to turn passive environmental awareness into pro-environmental behavior.

There is a registration fee and the workshop takes place at Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension at 6700 Clark Rd in Sarasota. Please **visit the website** to learn more and register online by September 2.

Right Whale Festival in Jacksonville Beach
Triple 3 Marketing, the marketing contractor for SBEP, has been hired by Sea to Shore Alliance to manage the 2014 Right Whale Festival set for November 15 in Jacksonville Beach. Sea to Shore Alliance is also the Host Sponsor of the 2014 Sarasota Bay Water Festival. The Right Whale Festival celebrates the annual return of the endangered right whale to its calving waters off the coast of northeast Florida. **Visit the Right Whale Festival website**

Watershed Stewards Academy
A University of Florida team is working on an educational program focused on water issues. **The Watershed Stewards Academy** will be offered through UF/IFAS Extension. The program will be modeled after the popular Master Naturalist and Master Gardner certification programs. A survey is being used to collect public input.

Map Shows Extreme Sea Level Rise
An artist from Slovakia created a unique **World Map** showing the impact of long-term sea level rise conditions. Florida, Denmark and the Netherlands are completely submerged in the map and the east coast of the U.S. is pushed back more than 100 miles. Sea levels have risen about 8 inches since 1990 and many scientists predict they could rise another two to seven feet by 2100.

Join SBEP on Facebook
Click here to like SBEP. The social media site also features links to many other bay-friendly organizations. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of 750 likes!

SBEP Public Meetings
The next Management Board Meeting is set for 9 am on Friday, September 12 and the next Policy Board Meeting is set for 1 pm on the same day. The venue for both meetings has not yet been determined. The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be held 4:30 pm on Monday, August 4 at Dan McClure Auditorium located at 5900 Airport Auditorium Lane in Sarasota. **SBEP Online Calendar**.

Final Reflection with Maxis Gamez



Maxis Gamez is a talented wildlife and nature photographer from Sarasota. Check out some of his impressive photos on the **Creative Expressions Gallery**.

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."