

BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter November 2014

In This Edition:

Highlights: Bay Guardians Native Planting at Florida Maritime Museum, 3rd annual Water Festival, SBWF Poster, Live Music Lineup, I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest, After Party, Bay Wise Kayak Tours, and upcoming events. Thank you for supporting the SBEP mission and its various programs.

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Bay Guardians Kick Off 2014-15 Season With Native Plating Event at Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez



SBEP hosted the first Bay Guardian volunteer event of the season on Saturday, September 27 at Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez.

Volunteers installed Florida native plants in the shallow water around a pond and created a butterfly garden. The project was funded by a SBEP **Bay Partners Grant**. Partners for this event included the Florida Maritime Museum, a local Girl Scout Troop and Around the Bend Nature Tours.

The volunteer event was held in conjunction with **National Estuaries Day** which promotes public awareness, the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them.

The **Florida Maritime Museum** is located in the historic fishing village of Cortez. The museum sits on almost 4 acres of land showcasing the maritime history, culture and heritage of Florida.

By installing Bay friendly landscaping this volunteer event will help promote the health of the Bay.

The next **Bay Guardian Volunteers** event is Saturday, December 13 in Manatee County.

Third Annual Water Festival this Saturday at KTP

Ken Thompson Park transforms into the festival grounds on Saturday, November 1 for the biggest celebration of Sarasota Bay. KTP is located on City Island just past Mote Marine Aquarium.

The Water Festival celebrates the importance of Sarasota Bay to our region's environment, economy and quality of life. SBEP is the founding sponsor of the Water Festival. **Water Festival website**.



The fun outdoor festival features live music, water sports, expert speakers, vintage and new boats, dragon boat races, kids stuff, food trucks, beer and wine, wildlife art, photo contest, unique gifts for sale, and more!

The hours are 10am to 4pm. The festival is rain or shine and we're planning on a beautiful day!

Take the free water taxi provided by Freedom Boat Club, which departs from Marina Jack in downtown Sarasota beginning at 9:30am, and makes regular trips back and forth to Ken Thompson Park (last boat departs KTP at 4pm). **Getting there**!

Sponsors Help Make the Water Festival Possible

The **Water Festival** is set for Saturday, November 1 at Ken Thompson Park. SBEP is the Founding Sponsor, HDR, Inc. is the Community Sponsor and Sea to Shore Alliance is the Host Sponsor.



Live Music Lineup at the Water Festival

The 3rd annual Water Festival will be headlined by Bay Area favorite **The Applebutter Express**, they will be joined by **Serotonic**, **Ari and the Alibis**, and **Ben Hammond**!



I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest Display at SBWF



Entries to the third annual I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest will be on display at the Art Zone this Saturday at The Water Festival.

The judging just took place at Frank's Gentlemen's Salon on US 41. There were some great entries this year!

The **contest theme is Celebrating the Beauty and Importance of Sarasota Bay**. Prizes will be awarded to four age divisions (12 and under, 13 to 18, 19 to 59, 60 and over).

After Party at Circus City Salvage 8pm to Midnight

Following the Water Festival is the **After Party**. The fundraiser event will feature live music, the Aqua-Garde Fashion Show (designs using repurposed plastic materials), craft beer and wine tasting and DJ spinning music and dancing!

Tickets are $15 advanced / $20 at the door. All proceeds benefit Save Our Seabirds and Sea to Shore Alliance. Advanced tickets will be available at the Water Festival until 4pm. **Online tickets available here**.



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 6
December 20
Neal Preserve

January 3 & 17
Leffis and Jewfish Key

February 7 & 21
Lido Mangrove Tunnels

March 7 & 21
Blind Pass

April 4 & 18
Lyons and Blackburn Bay

SBEP News Briefs

Sarasota County Sustainable Communities Workshop

The 9th annual Sustainable Communities Workshop is set for October 29 from 8am to 4:30pm. The workshop will focus on *Growing Healthy, Resilient and Prosperous Communities*. Expert speakers will provide up-to-date information on community strategies and resources for residents, businesses, government and private groups. **Visit the SCgov.net website to learn more**.

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 joint meeting on Friday, December 5 from 1-6pm. The location has not been announced yet. Topics will include a review of the SBEP program and CAC.

Managing Visitor Use in Land and Marine Conservation Areas Course
SBEP, TBEP and CHNEP will be hosting a *Managing Visor 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 700 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 King Tide Photo Exhibit



Chasing the Waves: King Tide Photo Exhibit launched at SBEP's office in June 2013. The free exhibit

showcased dramatic before and after photos of a King High Tide. The exhibit also traveled to Mote Marine Aquarium, South Florida Museum, Robinson Preserve, Weedon Island Preserve, Oldsmar Library and St. Petersburg Library. Check out the **Sea Level Rise brochure** and the interactive **Sea Level Rise map**.

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."