

BAY REFLECTIONS

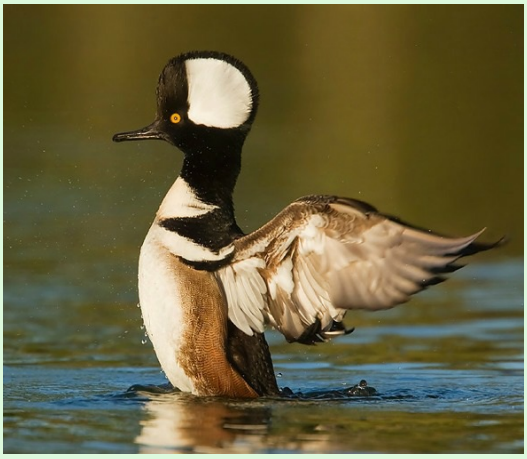
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter September 2013

Welcome to Bay Reflections

Highlights: (1) Final call for exhibitors to join the Sarasota Bay Water Festival; (2) Links to new interviews with Tom Ries and Sean Russell; (3) Living shoreline project at Bay Front Park; (4) Florida House Institute completes paver project with support from Bay Partners Grant; (5) Water Festival adds fourth age division to I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest; (6) CAC hosts retreat for volunteer members; (7) City of Palmetto promotes Low Impact Development; (8) Youth Ocean Conservation Summit set for mid November at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Thank you for supporting the SBEP programs and projects benefiting Sarasota Bay.

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Hooded Merganser by Marina Scarr

Final Call for Exhibitors; Sarasota Bay Water Festival Celebrates Importance of Sarasota Bay to Region's Environment, Economy and Our Quality of Life

The Sarasota Bay Water Festival is set for Saturday, November 2 at Ken Thompson Park. More than 80 exhibitors will be promoting water recreation, art and photography, wildlife conservation, environmental education, and various services and products. Thanks for helping the Water Festival reach 1,000 likes on **Facebook**.

Festival highlights: **live music** with popular area performers including Ben Hammond, Hymn for Her, and Come Back Alice; local fine artists selling unique gift items; **free water taxi** service with Freedom Boat Club between Marina Jack and Sarasota Sailing Squadron, food trucks and local restaurants; fun dragon boat races, vintage boat displays; panel discussions on bay-friendly living; a display of the winning submissions to the **I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest**; fishing clinic and dip netting for kids; and exhibits on boating, fishing, kayaking, paddleboard sports, scuba, cycling, and more. The daylong festival celebrates the best of Sarasota Bay!

Raffle prizes include a 12-foot Perception Sport Kayak from Economy Tackle and Dolphin Paddlesports, a Hovie Scout Paddleboard from SUP Sarasota, an 18 X 20 inch matted Giclee print from the acclaimed photographer Clyde Butcher, an Open Water Scuba Diving Certification Class from Florida Underwater Sports, a two-hour boat excursion and gift basket from Sarasota Wind and Water Adventures, and a daylong electric bike rental from Freedom 4 Electric Bike Company. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the festival with a 5pm drawing at the music stage.

The proceeds from the sale of beer and wine will be donated to **Vintage Paws Sanctuary**. The mission of the nonprofit is to provide a safe home for displaced senior dogs. Animal Rescue Coalition was the nonprofit beneficiary last year. The water festival is a pet-friendly event; don't forget a six-foot leash and doggie bags.

The Water Festival is being supported by 42 **sponsors** from the public and private sector. SBEP is the Presenting Sponsor and HDR, Inc. is the Host Sponsor for 2013. Visit the Water Festival website to learn about the sponsors. Triple 3 Marketing produces and manages the festival. Bryan Moore welcomes exhibitor inquiries at bryan@triple3marketing.com.



Visit the Sarasota Bay Today Website for Latest Interviews with Tom Ries and Sean Russell

Sarasota Bay Today, the bay-centric blog sponsored by SBEP, features two new interviews with **Tom Ries** and **Sean Russell**. Tom is the Executive Vice President of Scheda Ecological Associates and the founder of the non-profit Ecosphere Restoration Institute. Sean is the founder of the Stow It-Don't Throw It Project with support from Mote Marine Laboratory.

Both gentlemen were interviewed by Randy Moore, the editor of Sarasota Bay Today and an owner of Triple 3 Marketing (T3M) with his son Bryan. T3M is the marketing and communications contractor for SBEP.



Sean Russell



Tom Ries

Tom was recently honored with a 2013 National Wetlands Award for supporting many conservation and restoration projects over the past 28 years. Sean is close to graduating from the University of Florida where he's studying biology. He's a 2013 recipient of a SBEP Blue Dolphin Award and a 2013 recipient of the Christopher Benchley Youth Award from the Blue Frontier Campaign.

Sarasota Bay Today now features 16 interviews of local professionals that are associated with efforts to study, restore and protect Sarasota Bay. New interviews are being planned.

SBEP and City of Sarasota Create Living Shoreline Project at Bay Front Park in Downtown Sarasota



SBEP and the City of Sarasota have installed a living shoreline area at Bay Front Park in downtown Sarasota. The project features 150-feet of Florida-native plants. The use of plants will help stabilize the sediments and provide habitat that attract birds and other wildlife. Living shorelines provide a natural alternative to hardened seawalls made of concrete, rock and other materials. The use of plants and sloping shorelines provides a buffer for stormwater pollution running into local waterways.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District provided funding support for the new project and Stantec is the contractor. SBEP and its partners completed the region's first living shoreline project in 2011 at Herb Dolan Park in Bradenton Beach. Concrete rubble was removed from the site and replaced with natural fiber material and native vegetation. The SBEP website provides more information about **living shorelines**.

Florida House Institute Installs Pervious Paving System with Support from SBEP Bay Partners Grant

The Florida House Institute recently installed a pervious pavement system with support from a SBEP **Bay Partners Grant**, as well as donations from Sarasota County, Oldcastle Coastal, Mullett

Brothers, Master Rock, Rand Carter, and Todd Foster Landscape Design. The new system features new pavers that meet low impact development standards. Florida House expects to reopen in the fall.

The SBEP has awarded nearly $232,000 in Bay Partners Grants to support 113 organizations since 2003. A volunteer subcommittee with the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) selects the recipients. The deadline for submitting grant applications is March 1, 2014.



The Florida House Institute in Sarasota

Water Festival Adds Fourth Age Division for I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest; Submissions to be Displayed



Photo by Dotty Motta

The **Sarasota Bay Water Festival** added a fourth age division for this year's I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest. The new age division is for adults 60 and older. The other three age divisions include: 12 and under, 13 to 18, and 19 to 59. The photo contest guidelines are posted on the water festival website.

The **unique contest** is one of the activities associated with the Sarasota Bay Water Festival set for Ken Thompson Park and City Island on Saturday, November 2. The winning submissions for all four age groups will be displayed at the festival. Visitors attending the event will also have an opportunity to vote on a People's Choice Award.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Hosts Retreat for Volunteer Members at New College of Florida

The SBEP **Citizens Advisory Committee** (CAC) held a one day retreat August 1 at New College of Florida. The group reviewed the CAC bylaws and brainstormed new ideas. Julie Morris and Jono Miller with New College of Florida served as volunteer facilitators. The purpose of the CAC is to provide citizen input to SBEP and to support the Program's public education goals.

Residents from Sarasota and Manatee County serve on the CAC as volunteers. The members in alphabetical order include: Justin Bloom, Christine Callahan, Dick Clapp, Cris Costello, Amanda Dominguez, Wayne Douchkoff, Suzi Fox, Alan Freedman, Sarah Hirsch, Brian House, Wanda Kerr, Marion Kuster, Yvette Little, Erin Martin, Jack Merriam (Vice Chair), Damon Moore, Melissa Nell, Lou Newman, Ken Pierce, Thomas Price, Cyndi Seamon, Sherri Swanson, Brad Tanner, Erin "Tommy" Vaughan-Birch (Secretary), Chris Warn (Chair), Stu Wilson, and Lori Zaworski. Honorary members include Charles Edwards and Virginia Sanders.

City of Palmetto Includes Low Impact Development Techniques to Enhance Downtown Renovations

The City of Palmetto recently completed some renovations in their downtown area using **Low Impact Development** (LID) techniques. The new features include pervious pavement, rain gardens, bio swales, street infiltration basins, bio filtration planter boxes, and green gutters.

Low Impact Development products and techniques reduce the adverse impact of stormwater pollution flowing into local waterways. They also help reduce traffic congestion and pollution by encouraging walkable corridors. The architect is Charlie and Patsy Ugarte and the designers are Thomas Levin and Derek Doughty.



Youth Ocean Conservation Summit Set for November 15-16 at Mote Marine Laboratory; Summit Founder Sean Russell to Receive 2013 SBEP Blue Dolphin Award



The third annual Summit is set for November 15-16 at Mote Marine Laboratory. The purpose of the Summit is to empower the next generation of ocean conservationists. A film festival is set for Friday, November 15 beginning 6pm. The cost is $12 for adults and $6 for youth 18 and under. Tickets are available on the **Summit website**.

Justin Riney, the Founder and Executive Director of Mother Ocean, will make the keynote presentation on Saturday, November 16. He's currently leading a year-long exploration of Florida's coastlines, waterways and aquatic ecosystems.

Sean Russell with the **Stow It-Don't Throw It Project** is the Founder of the Summit with support from mentors at Mote Marine Laboratory. Sean will be receiving a SBEP Blue Dolphin Award at the Summit acknowledging his leadership role in promoting environmental education. Sean currently attends the University of Florida. Visit the **Summit website** to learn more about the scheduled presentations.

SBEP News Briefs

Water Festival Posters
Please Email Bryan Moore if you can help distribute a few color posters promoting the **Sarasota Bay Water Festival**. Organizers are looking for high traffic locations between AMI and Venice. Several hundred posters will be distributed in mid to late September. The poster features an original color painting by artist Dennis Heil and the sponsor logos. Please contact Bryan at bryan@triple3marketing.com.

Welcome Stephanie Hames
Stephanie Hames is the new intern for SBEP. She recently graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in interdisciplinary social science. She also served as the vice president of the student body. Her undergraduate thesis focused on water privatization in the developing world and its impact on human rights. Stephanie Sherman, the prior SBEP intern, left the Program to teach English in Japan.

Local Dragon Boat Teams Forming
High Five is seeking local teams from Sarasota and Manatee County to compete in the races at the Sarasota Bay Water Festival on November 2 at Ken Thompson Park. High Five provides registered teams with boats, paddles, life vests, a steerperson, and training. Each boat is 42-feet in length and the coed teams consist of 20 paddlers. **Visit the Dragon Boat website**.

King Tide Photo Exhibit Schedule
The King Tide Photo Exhibit is currently on display at the South Florida Museum in Bradenton through October. The exhibit raises awareness about the impact of sea level rise. The upcoming schedule includes: Sarasota Bay Water Festival on Saturday, November 2 at Ken Thompson Park; Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg November 4 - 30; Robinson Preserve in Bradenton in January and February 2014; and Oldsmar Public Library in St. Petersburg April 2014.

Coastal Clean Up Volunteer Day
Residents are invited to be part of the Keep Sarasota County Beautiful's International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 21. More than 30 venues in the county need volunteers. Visit the **Sarasota County** website to register or call 941-861-5000. Volunteer tee shirts, trash bags and work gloves will be provided to the first 1,800 volunteers who register. Last year, 1,200 volunteers collected 7,600 pounds of trash.

Florida Native Plant Sale
The Florida Native Plant Society will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, October 12 at Sweetbay Nursery located at 10824 Erie Road in Parrish. Club members will be on hand to answer questions about the large selection of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and blooming wildflowers. SBEP is one of the sponsors along with Audubon Society, Sierra Club and the Butterfly Club. Call 941-794-8773 or 941-955-8085 for more information.

Sustainable Communities Conference
Mark your calendar for the eighth annual conference set for December 18 at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center located at 4740 Cattleman Road. This year's theme is Investing in our Future. The cost is $30 for adults and $20 for students; it includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Inquiries welcome at sustainablecommunities@scgov.net.

Hold the Fertilizer through September
The SBEP remind Sarasota and Manatee County residents not to apply fertilizer with nitrogen or phosphorus 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 Public Meetings
The next SBEP Management Board meeting is set for 9am on Friday, September 13 at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Building located at 1101 Tenth Street in Sarasota. The SBEP Policy Board meeting follows at 1pm at the same venue. The SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet 4:30pm on Monday, October 7 at Dan McClure Auditorium located at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport.

Final Reflection with Tom D'Auria



Tom D'Auria is a Florida native who grew up fishing the waters of South Florida and the Atlantic Ocean. He comes from a family of artists and painters. Tom graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design and the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Visit the **Creative Expressions Gallery** to see more work by Tom D'Auria and many other local artists and photographers.

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."