



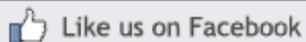
SARASOTA BAY  
ESTUARY PROGRAM  
*Restoring Our Bays*

# BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter March 2013

## Welcome Readers

Highlights in this edition: Registration links for the final three Bay Wise Kayak Tours; Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) approves four new members; SBEP launches two-year study of tidal creeks; Sarasota Wildlife Art Festival is this weekend; Bay Guardians complete volunteer project at Baywalk Creek; Interview with David Pilston of Save Our Seabirds; SBEP receives EdExploreNEXT Grant; and the second Sarasota Bay Water Festival is set for Saturday, November 2, 2013.



## Final SBEP Bay Wise Kayak Tours Set for Blind Pass March 16 and Lyons and Blackburn Bay in April



The final three kayak trips on Sarasota Bay are set for March and April. Brad Tanner leads the free excursions. He's a professional kayak guide, School Program Coordinator for Mote Marine Laboratory and a member of the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Brad led prior trips to Neal Preserve in December, Leffis and Jewfish Key in January, and the Lido Mangrove Tunnels in February.

The late Jack Taylor, a respected marine biologist and former CAC member, launched the **Bay Wise Kayak Tours** program in 2007 as part of a SBEP Bay Partners Grant. Online registration is required; email [info@sarasotabay.org](mailto:info@sarasotabay.org) to be added to the wait list if a tour is already full.

## Citizens Advisory Committee Approves Dominguez, Martin, Hirsch, and Freedman for Membership

The SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) approved four new members at its meeting in February. The new members are Amanda Dominguez, Erin Martin, Mark Hirsch, and Alan Freedman. Amanda is an environmental specialist working for Sarasota County. Erin is a PhD level biology instructor at the University of South Florida's Sarasota-Manatee Campus. Mark is retired following a career in teaching and business. Alan is also retired after a career focused on corporate communications, publishing and real estate.

The 28-member CAC provides public input to support SBEP planning; members also help to promote the SBEP mission and public outreach programs. [Learn more about the CAC members.](#)

## The SBEP Partners with Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Programs to Launch Unique Two-Year Study of Southwest Florida Tidal Creeks

The SBEP has partnered with the Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Programs to launch a two-year study of Southwest Florida tidal creeks. The plan is to develop protocols that can be used to establish numeric nutrient criteria for these unique waterways. The results will be provided to state and federal agencies to guide future development of appropriate water quality regulations.

The project involves classifying the tidal creeks, developing a model that relates tidal creek hydrology with nutrients and biology, selecting creeks for sampling, developing a

sampling program, and analyzing collected data. The project is being funded through an EPA Region 4 Wetland Development Grant. Project partners include Janicki Environmental, Inc., Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and the USF Florida Center of Community Design and Research. Experts from county governments in the region will provide technical input to support the project.

The three national estuary programs worked together previously to develop numeric nutrient criteria for estuaries that were adopted last year by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and EPA.



*Phillippi Creek Photo by Evan Brown*

## The SBEP Bay Guardians Complete a Volunteer Project at Baywalk Creek; The Next Outing is Set for March 9 at Jiggs Landing in Manatee County



A group of 37 Bay Guardians removed more than 1,000 pounds of air potato vines and tubers at Baywalk Creek on Saturday, February 23. Participants included students from Martha B. King Middle School in Bradenton. Volunteers earned special prizes for the smallest, biggest, weirdest-looking, and most collected air potatoes. SBEP hosted a picnic lunch following the morning project.

The next outing is set for Saturday, March 9 at Jiggs Landing in Manatee County. Volunteers will plant Florida-native plants at the popular preserve managed by Manatee County Natural Resources. The **Bay Guardians** are a family-

friendly volunteer program managed by SBEP in partnership with Around the Bend Nature Tours. New volunteers receive a blue tee shirt featuring the Bay Guardians logo. Each outing features environmental education and a picnic lunch. Join the Bay Guardians for a single project or as an ongoing commitment. Local school, scout and church groups interested in volunteering should contact Sara Kane at [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org).

## Inaugural Sarasota Wildlife Art Festival Set for this Weekend at Ken Thompson Park; SBEP is a Sponsor



The inaugural **Sarasota Wildlife Art Festival** is set for this weekend at Ken Thompson Park in Sarasota. The juried fine art show features wildlife art and a symposium with local professionals. The Rotary Club of Sarasota is the presenting sponsor and the proceeds benefit Save Our Seabirds and the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation. The SBEP is one of the festival sponsors along with Comerica, Mote Marine Laboratory, Whole Foods Market, and Ringling College of Art & Design. Jay

Leverone and Sara Kane with the SBEP will make presentations about the program as part of the symposium.

## Visit Sarasota Bay Today to Read an Interview with David Pilston the CEO of Save Our Seabirds (SOS)

David Pilston is the CEO of Save Our Seabirds (SOS). He was interviewed recently by Randy Moore with Triple 3 Marketing for Sarasota Bay Today, the region's Bay-centric blog. David joined the popular bird hospital in 2012.

The interview focuses on the SOS mission and education programs as well as issues related to the ongoing efforts to help injured birds. Did you know that SOS averages 3 to 6 new bird patients every day and as many as 30 birds following a red tide algal bloom or major storm?

[Read the interview.](#)

The SBEP sponsored **Sarasota Bay Today** now features 14 interviews with professionals involved with efforts to restore and protect Sarasota Bay and its vital ecosystem.



## The SBEP Receives EdExploreNEXT Grant to

# Support PIER Education Program Benefiting Local Students



The SBEP received an EdExploreNEXT Grant to support environmental education benefiting local students. The \$25,000 grant was awarded by the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County to support the SBEP PIER Education Program. PIER stands for Protection, Involvement, Education and Restoration. More than 39,000 students from public and private schools have participated in the program since 2003.

The SBEP partners for the grant include Sarasota County Natural Resources and Around the Bend Nature Tours. The grant will be used to purchase equipment that teachers can use in their classroom to enhance student activities. PIER includes field trips and curriculum lesson plans benefiting students of all ages.

The EdExploreNEXT Grants are part of an initiative funded by The Patterson Foundation to support community education. The effort includes [EDEXPLORESRQ.com](http://EDEXPLORESRQ.COM), a website hosted by the Sarasota School District designed to provide information about local learning opportunities. Partners include the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, Education Foundation of Sarasota County, Science and Environmental Council of Southwest Florida, and the Sarasota County School District.

## Second Annual Sarasota Bay Water Festival Set for Saturday, November 2 at Ken Thompson Park; Regional Event Kicks Off the SBEP Silver Anniversary



The 2013 Sarasota Bay Water Festival is set for Saturday, November 2 at Ken Thompson Park. This year's festival is a kickoff for the SBEP Silver Anniversary in 2014.

More than 60 organizations from the private and public sector were showcased at the inaugural festival last year. SBEP was the host sponsor and organizers are seeking a second major sponsor for the 2013 event.

The purpose of the

**Sarasota Bay Water Festival** is to celebrate the importance of Sarasota Bay to the region's environment, economy and quality of life. The festival will showcase area groups focused on boating, fishing, kayaking, scuba diving, arts and crafts, wildlife conservation, nature photography, and environmental education. The festival will also feature live music, the I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest, local food vendors, and fun programs and activities for kids. [Like us on facebook.](#)

Details about sponsorship and exhibiting will be posted on the festival website in April. Inquires are also welcome; please email Bryan Moore at [bryan@triple3marketing.com](mailto:bryan@triple3marketing.com).



# Please Consider Slow-Release Fertilizers in the Spring Planting Season to Protect Sarasota Bay



The SBEP encourages residents to use fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen if they fertilize their lawn or flower beds during the spring. Slow-release products (also called controlled release or timed release) feed lawns and plants gradually and for a longer period of time. They are more easily absorbed by the plants and less likely to become stormwater runoff. SBEP also reminds residents that local ordinances prohibit fertilizing in the summer months from June through September. Too much fertilizer has an adverse impact on water quality and aquatic life. [Visit the Be Floridian website.](#)

## Florida DEP Clean Marina Program Certifies Marina Businesses that Encourage Eco-Friendly Practices

The [Clean Marina Program](#) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) encourages environmentally-friendly practices by marinas, boatyards and marine retailers. Businesses earn a "clean" designation by creating and maintaining a host of best management practices. That includes addressing issues such as protecting sensitive habitat, waste management, stormwater control, fuel spill prevention, and emergency preparedness.

Here's a list of the local marine businesses designated as Clean Marinas: Galati Yacht Sales, Twin Dolphin Marina, Riviera Dunes Marina, Regatta Pointe Marina, Hyatt Regency Sarasota Marina, Longboat Key Moorings, Cannons Marina, Marina Jack, Crow's Nest Marina, Gulf Harbor Marina, and The Venice Yacht Club.



## SBEP News Briefs

### Teacher Resources

The [Teachers Resources](#) page on the SBEP website has been enhanced. It features more than 75 links to websites providing information about water quality, stormwater pollution, invasive plants, wildlife conservation, wetlands, low impact development, coral reefs, and other topics. The education subcommittee with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) contributed to the effort.

### Bay Partner Grant Applications

A subcommittee with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be evaluating applications for Bay Partner Grants that are due March 1. The [Bay Partner Grants](#) promote environmental education, community involvement, and stewardship to improve the overall quality of Sarasota Bay. SBEP has awarded \$213,000 in grants to more than 90 organizations since 2002.

### Media Coverage Page

The SBEP website features thousands of media links focused on news about SBEP, its major partners, local environmental issues, and other news items and articles related to Florida and its vital coastal habitat. [Media Coverage Page.](#)

### SBEP Power Point

SBEP welcomes opportunities to do day or evening presentations about its mission and programs to business groups, schools, private clubs, and social service organizations. SBEP also uses an EnviroScape model for younger students that demonstrate the impact of stormwater pollution. Contact Sara Kane at [sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org).

**Join us 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 current goal of 500 likes. [Like us today!](#)

### Public Meetings

The next SBEP Management Board meeting will be held 1:30pm on Thursday, May 2 at the City Building located at 111 South Orange Avenue in Sarasota. The next SBEP Policy Board meeting will be held 10am on Friday, May 10 at the USF Sarasota-Manatee Selby Auditorium. The next meeting of the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is set for 4:30pm on Monday, April 29 at Dan McClure Auditorium located at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. [SBEP Calendar](#).

## More Bay-Friendly Links

[Click here](#) to see 600 photos from 40 plus local events and programs.

[Click here](#) to visit 65 websites of other Bay-friendly organizations.

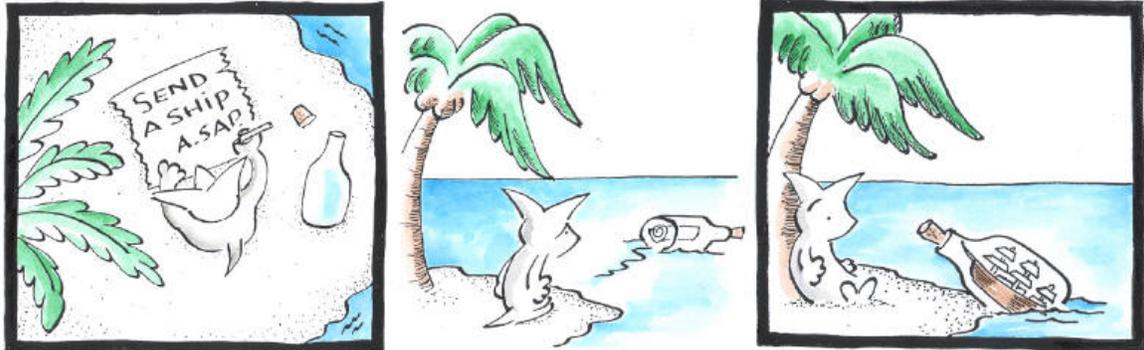
[Click here](#) to visit the websites of the SBEP habitat restoration project partners.

[Click here](#) to visit a digital map showing completed, current and planned restoration projects.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

[Click here](#) to learn more about the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

## Final Reflection with Holy Mole



The endearing Holy Mole strip is featured around the world and most recently as a new strip in the San Francisco Chronicle. It's creator is Rick Hotton who resides in Sarasota. Visit Rick's page on the [Creative Expressions Gallery](#) to see more of his strips. You can also find Holy Mole on [Facebook](#).

*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."*