



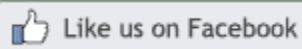
SARASOTA BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM
Restoring Our Bays

BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter November 2013

Welcome to Bay Reflections

Highlights: (1) Don't miss the Sarasota Bay Water Festival; (2) SBEP to host four panel discussions on bay-friendly living; (3) City of Sarasota installs LID project; (4) Bay Guardians complete volunteer project at North Water Tower Park; (5) Local scientists to collect data for Tidal Creek Study; and (6) SBEP Announces Bay Wise Kayak Tour season. Thank you for supporting the SBEP mission and its many programs and projects benefiting Sarasota Bay.



Sarasota Bay Water Festival Celebrates Bay's Importance to Region's Environment and Economy



November 2, 2013
Ken Thompson Park
sarasotabaywaterfestival.com

The [Sarasota Bay Water Festival](#) is set for this Saturday at Ken Thompson Park. The event showcases 44 sponsors and 80 plus exhibitors promoting water recreation, art and photography, the protection of wildlife, eco-tourism, environmental education, and bay-friendly living. The purpose of the Water Festival is to celebrate the importance of Sarasota Bay to the region's environment and economy. SBEP is the Presenting Sponsor and HDR, Inc. is the Host Sponsor.

The hours are 10 am to 7 pm. Highlights include live music beginning at noon; artists and photographers selling gift items; a free water taxi service between Marina Jack and Sarasota Sailing Squadron, food trucks and local restaurants; a beer and wine garden; Dragon Boat Races, vintage and new boats; four panel discussions featuring 18 area professionals; seven raffle prizes, a display of the winning submissions to the I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest; fishing clinic, dip netting and rock climbing wall for kids; an interactive Community Art Mural, and exhibits on boating, fishing, kayaking, paddleboard sports, scuba diving, and more. [Like us on Facebook!](#)

All of the profit from the sale of beer and wine will be donated to Vintage Paws Sanctuary. The nonprofit provides care for displaced senior dogs. The water festival is a pet-friendly event, but don't forget your six-foot leash and doggie bags. [Visit the Water Festival website to learn more the highlights and sponsors.](#)



SBEP to Present Panel Discussions at Water Festival

SBEP will host four panel discussions Saturday focused on local wildlife protection, reducing stormwater pollution, environmental education and stewardship, and the past, present and future of Sarasota Bay. Visitors are encouraged to ask questions and make comments.

Noon - Protecting Sarasota Bay Wildlife - Panelists include Jeanne Dubi with Sarasota Audubon, Krystan Wilkinson with Mote Marine Laboratory, Buddy Powell with Sea to Shore Alliance, Suzi Fox with AMI Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring, and Jay Leverone with SBEP.

1 pm - Reducing Stormwater Pollution - Panelists include Michelle Atkinson with Manatee County Extension, Tom Heitzman with Florida Native Plant Society, Alison Albee with City of Sarasota, and Ray Kaiser with the AMI Eco-Village.

2 pm - Environmental Education & Stewardship - Panelists include Melissa Nell with Manatee County Natural Resources, Karen Fraley with Around the Bend Nature Tours, Rob Wright with

Sarasota County, Jennifer Shafer with the Science and Environmental Council of Southwest Florida, and Sara Kane with SBEP.

3 pm - Sarasota Bay Past, Present and Future - Panelists include Damon Moore with Manatee County, Bill Burger (local archaeologist), Captain Kathe with Cortez Fishing Village, and Sherri Swanson with HDR, Inc.

Sarasota Alley Becomes Test Area for LID Project to Help Improve the Quality of Stormwater Runoff



An alley in downtown Sarasota has become a test case for an innovative way to improve stormwater quality. A new underground stormwater filtration system was installed recently while scheduled improvements were made to the alley located behind Main Street from Lemon Avenue to Central Avenue.

"Urban stormwater runoff is a major water pollution source," explained Alison Albee, an Environmental Specialist with the City of Sarasota. "The untreated runoff includes grease, oil, chemicals, debris, and nutrients; it eventually flows into the

waterways draining into Sarasota Bay. The goal of the filtration system is to clean the runoff before it reaches the storm drain."

The new system is designed to capture the first one-half inch of rainfall, and the pollutants, which wash down the alley. The runoff goes through a 4-foot by 40-foot area of permeable block pavers and then a filter system of rocks and sand. The water then flows through a perforated pipe encased with a filter sock before being deposited as filtered water into the storm drain.

Titan Block donated the paver blocks for the pilot program. Tests will be conducted over the next year to evaluate the results. [Learn more by contacting Alison Albee.](#)

Bay Guardians Remove Invasive Air Potato Vines and Seeds at North Water Tower Park in Sarasota



A group of 102 Bay Guardian volunteers removed 2,500 pounds of invasive air potato vines and seeds October 19 at North Water Tower Park. Project partners included the City of Sarasota, Around the Bend Nature Tours, the North Trail Redevelopment Partnership, and the Bayou Oaks Neighborhood Association. Removing the invasive air potato vine supports the vitality of native vegetation. Prizes were given to volunteers collecting the biggest and smallest air potato seed.

More than 200 [Bay Guardian volunteers](#) have completed four projects in 2013. They included volunteer outings to Jiggs Landing and Perico Preserve in Manatee County and North Water Tower Park and Bay Walk Creek near New College in Sarasota County.

Several volunteer projects are already being planned for 2014 including an air potato roundup at Arlington Park, a native planting along the Braden River at Jiggs Landing, a rain garden project at New College of Florida, and a joint project with Tampa Bay Estuary Program to plant natives at Perico Preserve.

The SBEP Bay Guardians is the area's largest and most active volunteer program focused on Sarasota Bay. The program is managed in partnership with Around the Bend Nature Tours. New volunteers receive a blue tee shirt featuring the Bay Guardians logo. Each outing includes 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 should contact [Stephanie Hames](#).

Teams to Collect Data as Part of Tidal Creek Study

After planning for nearly a year, professional teams from six Southwest Florida counties are ready to motor, canoe and hoof it into a select group of tidal creeks to collect samples for water quality, algae and fisheries. The scientists will return to these creeks every two months over the next year to collect and evaluate the data. The entire Tidal Creek Study is designed to determine the appropriate level of nutrients to ensure the ecological health of area tidal creeks.



One of the challenges is sifting through lots of data reflecting daily and seasonal variability in water quality. The objective is to develop common measures that can help with future planning in support of the tidal creeks and their ecological function. The main outcome of this project will be the recommendation of numerical nutrient standards for tidal creeks. With more precise standards, resource managers can take actions to help protect these waterways.

SBEP is managing the collaboration among the three contiguous Estuary Programs including Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor, the six local counties (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee), Mote Marine Laboratory, and the Florida DEP through a grant from EPA Region 4.

SBEP Announces Bay Wise Kayak Tours 2013-14



[Online registration](#) is live for the first four guided kayak trips of Sarasota Bay. Brad Tanner from Mote Marine Laboratory will escort participants to Neal Preserve on December 7 and then again on December 21. The two guided trips in January are to Leffis and Jewfish Key on January 4 and January 18. Participants need to provide their own kayak.

The other trips include Lido Mangrove Tunnels on February 1 and February 15, Blind Pass on March 1 and March 15 and Lyons and Blackburn Bay on April 12 and April 19.

The late Jack Taylor, a respected marine biologist and former member of the SBEP Citizens Advisory Committee, launched the Bay Wise Kayak Tour Program in 2007 as part of a SBEP Bay Partners Grant. [Visit the SBEP website to learn more about the program and to register online.](#)

SBEP News Briefs

Film Screening on Sea Level Rise

New College will host a [free filming of Shored Up: When Human Nature and the Force of Nature Collide](#) at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 5. The venue is Mildred Sainer Pavilion. Following the screening, there will be a Q&A with Director Ben Kalina, and fellow faculty members Frank Alcock and Jono Miller. Please RSVP.

Lift Station 87 Website

The City of Sarasota has announced the creation of a [website focused on the Lift Station 87 Project](#). The project was initially scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012, but has been delayed because of construction challenges. The City of Sarasota hired a new consultant in August to complete the Project.

Pacheco Wins Photo Contest

Kathleen Pacheco won the [SBEP Toast the Coast Photo Contest](#) in September to acknowledge National Estuaries Day held September 28. The contest featured fun pictures of local residents toasting Sarasota Bay. Kathleen won four tickets for a tour of Sarasota Bay with Sarasota Bay Explorers.

King Tide Photo Exhibit

The [Chasing the Waves exhibit](#) showing photos of king high tides in Florida and other locations will be on display at the Water Festival this Saturday. The upcoming schedule includes: Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg November 4 - 30; Robinson Preserve in Bradenton in January and February; and Oldsmar Public Library in St. Petersburg in April. SBEP and Tampa Bay Estuary Program are jointly sponsoring the exhibit.

New ANEP Website

Triple 3 Marketing (T3M) recently completed the [new website for the Association of National Estuary Programs](#) (ANEP). ANEP supports the 28 national estuary programs including SBEP. Florida has four national estuary programs: SBEP, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, and Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. T3M is the marketing contractor for SBEP and other clients.

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 surpass our prior goal of 500 likes. Our new goal is 750 likes and thank you for liking us today!

Triple 3 Marketing Earns Extension

Triple 3 Marketing (T3M) owned by Bryan and Randy Moore of Sarasota has earned a two-year extension from SBEP on their contract to provide marketing and communication support. T3M was originally awarded a three-year contract in 2010.

SBEP Public Meetings

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet 4:30 pm on Monday, December 2 at Dan McClure Auditorium located at the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet 9 am at the same venue on Friday, December 13. The next Management Board Meeting is set for 9 am on Friday, January 31 and the next Policy Board Meeting is set for 1 pm on the same day. The venue will be posted on the [SBEP website](#).

Sister Cities Conference

A Sarasota [Sister Cities International Conference](#) is set for November 13-15 at the University of South Florida-Sarasota Manatee Campus. Local speakers and guests from around the world will participate. The international participants are from France, Scotland, Sweden, China, and Mexico.

Final Reflection with Sarasota Bay Water Festival



The [Sarasota Bay Water Festival](#) this Saturday will be an opportunity to see and purchase a variety of art-related items including wildlife photography. Photos help capture the allure of wildlife and the natural environment. Sandy Hedgepeth is the key volunteer coordinator for this year's Art Zone.

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."