



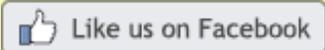
BAY REFLECTIONS

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Newsletter September 2014



In This Edition:

Highlights: SBEP releases State of the Bay 2014 report and updated CCMP, Economic Valuation Study released, Sarasota Bay Water Festival, the After Party, National Estuary Day, PIER program update, Bay Guardians event schedule, upcoming events and the I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest. Thank you for supporting the SBEP mission and its various programs.



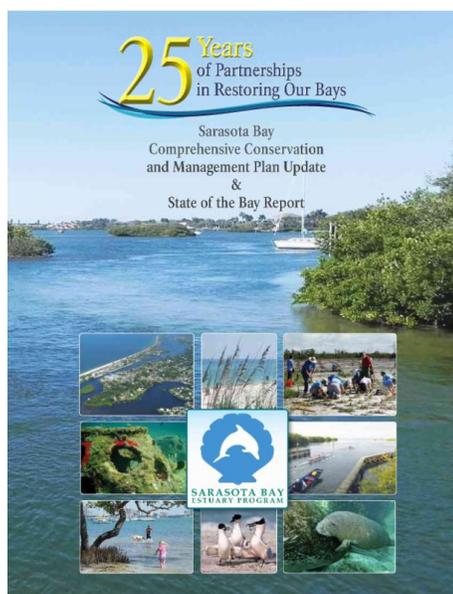
SBEP Releases State of the Bay 2014 Report and Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan

SBEP has released the State of the Bay 2014 Report and the updated Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). The professionally designed documents are available on the [SBEP website](#).

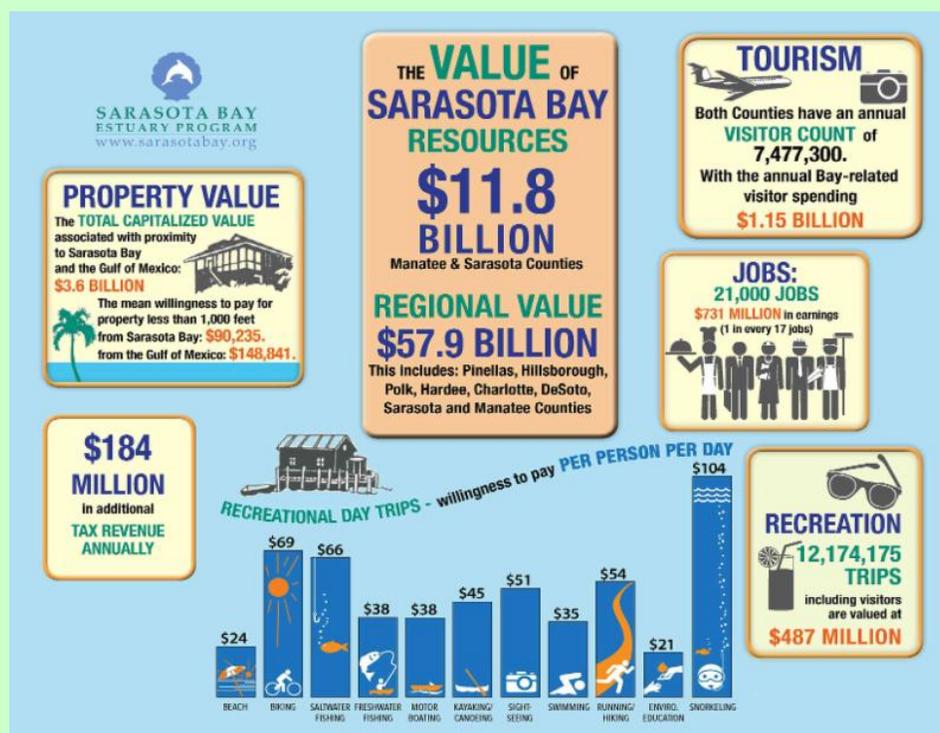
All 28 National Estuary Programs in the U.S. were charged with developing and implementing a CCMP, which establishes priorities for restoration activities, research, and funding in the region where the estuary system is located.

The CCMP serves as a blueprint to guide future decisions and actions and addresses a wide range of environmental protection issues including water quality, habitat, fish and other wildlife, pathogens, land use, and introduced species. The CCMP is based on a scientific characterization of the estuary and is developed and approved by a coalition of community stakeholders.

In support of the [Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan \(CCMP\)](#), SBEP works with partners within the scientific community to conduct research to help fill gaps in our knowledge and to answer questions regarding the health and vitality of Sarasota Bay.



SBEP-Funded Economic Valuation Study Estimates Value of Sarasota Bay Resources to be \$11.8 Billion



SBEP has released an **Economic Valuation Study** to better understand the total value of Sarasota Bay resources. [Read the full report](#) compiled by a team of three PhD level researchers. The SBEP Policy Board approved funding for the two-phase study which was originally recommended by the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

One of the key takeaways from the two-year study is the recognition of how important Sarasota Bay is to the entire region. Not just the obvious benefit to local tourism and real estate values, but also to recreational fishing, recreational boating, eco-tourism, student education, and our shared quality of life.

The Economic Valuation Study was led by Paul Hindsley, PhD, an Environmental Studies Professor at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. Paul is also the Coordinator of Eckerd's Coastal Management Program. The study was divided into two phases; phase one focused on the total capitalized value of single family properties on or near the bay and phase two included a survey of residents and visitors to learn how people access and use resources and amenities associated with Sarasota Bay. [Read the executive summary](#).

Save the Date for the Third Annual Water Festival at Ken Thompson Park Saturday, 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. The Water Festival website presents all the **highlights**.



October 1 is the deadline for exhibitor applications and the event is expected to sell out. Details are posted online.

Other **sponsors** in random order include Sarasota County, Freedom Boat Club, 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, The Inner Circle Spa, Suncoast Food Trucks, The Old Salty Dog, Anheuser-Busch Wholesalers, Stantec, Vintage Paws Sanctuary, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, Around the Bend Nature Tours, SUP

Sarasota, Sarasota Day, Save Our Seabirds, High Five Dragon Boat, Frank's Gentlemen's Salon, Friends of Sarasota County Parks, UF/IFAS Extension, Sun King Disc Sports, Friends of Disc Golf, N2 Publishing, Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation, and Triple 3 Marketing.

Water Festival After Party Features Live Music and Fashion Show at Circus City Architectural Salvage

The inaugural **Water Festival After Party** is set for Saturday, November 1 following the Water Festival. Join the fun from 8 pm until midnight at Circus City Architectural Salvage, a unique downtown venue close to Sarasota Bay. The party benefits Save Our Seabirds and Sea to Shore Alliance.

The party will feature the **Aqua-Garde Fashion Show** with unique fashions made of discarded plastic items and other re-purposed materials. Individuals or teams can participate, but all design entries must be registered through the party website no later than October 1. Prizes will be awarded at the event. Plastic has many uses, but unfortunately, discarded plastic can harm wildlife; many species mistake pieces of plastic as food.

The entertainment includes a live performance by Lisa Ridings & Vertigo playing a mix of blues, soul and rock & roll. DJ TL Hollefeld will support the fashion show from 10 pm until midnight and the emcee is Victor J. Craft beer and wine samples will also be featured.



Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Local venues offering advanced tickets will be posted on the website mid-September.

Sponsors include SBEP, MGB Built and Circus City Architectural Salvage. In-kind supporters include Yvette's Health and Fitness, The Inner Circle Spa, Nicole Salon on Palm, Artist Timothy Raines, and Rusty Crickett's.

The volunteer support team includes Sherri Swanson with HDR, Inc., Bryan Moore and Randy Moore with Triple 3 Marketing, Nazanin Varasteh with Ringling College, Greg Pemberton and TJ with Circus City, Sera Balderston with Inner Circle Spa, Cheryl Evans, Tukiya Mwanza, Jason Isle, Andy Swanson, and Jeff Dillon.

SBEP to Celebrate National Estuary Day with Bay Guardians Event at Florida Maritime Museum

SBEP is hosting a **Bay Guardians volunteer event at Florida Maritime Museum** on Saturday, September 27. Volunteers will be planting Florida native plants in the shallow water around a pond and creating a butterfly garden. The project is being funded by a SBEP Bay Partners Grant. Partners for this event include the Florida Maritime Museum and Around the Bend Nature Tours.

The volunteer event is being held in conjunction with **National Estuaries Day** which promotes the importance of estuaries and the need to protect them. **Registration is required** and volunteers should wear closed toe shoes.



The Maritime Museum is located in the historic fishing village of Cortez. The museum sits on almost four 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. Please contact Sara Kane at Sara@SarasotaBay.org if you have questions or would like to learn more about the Bay Guardians volunteer program.

PIER Program Funded 42 Field Trips This Season

The **PIER Program** had 1,700 students participate in field trips to explore the Sarasota Bay watershed. There were also 300 adults who learned with the children. PIER field trips are organized by SBEP in partnership with Around the Bend Nature Tours.

Since its inception, SBEP has taken an active role in environmental education by publishing reports, developing curricula for schools and initiating community activities.

SBEP launched PIER in 2003. The program has served more than 37,000 students. The innovative education program is aimed at educating and inspiring area students. The PIER Program is offered to public and private schools and home schooled students throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties.



SBEP Announces Upcoming Bay Guardian Outings



The Sarasota Bay Guardians is a family-friendly volunteer program that SBEP manages in partnership with [Around the Bend Nature Tours](#). The SBEP [Bay Guardian program](#) was established to engage residents of all ages in the ongoing efforts to restore and protect Sarasota Bay.

2014-15 Bay Guardian Volunteer Events:

September 27, 2014 at Florida Maritime Museum - Pond planting & butterfly garden planting

December 13, 2014 in Manatee County

January 24 at North Water Tower Park - Air Potato Spud Busting

February 21 in Manatee County

March 28 at Bowlees Creek with Florida Audubon

April 18 at Philippi Park - Air Potato Spud Busting

May 2 at Robinson Preserve - Oyster Bag Placement

June 13 in Sarasota County - Summer Planting

SBEP News Briefs

Water Words that Work

SBEP, TBEP and CHNEP will be hosting a communication training session on September 17. *Water Words that Work* provides high-quality training and guidance in communicating environmental messages to diverse audiences. The venue is Twin Lakes in Sarasota. [Please register online.](#)

Bay Haven Beautification and Green Apple Day of Service

Volunteer on Saturday, September 27 from 8am to 2pm at Bay Haven School of Basics Plus, a public elementary school in Sarasota County. Bay Haven is undergoing a phased renovation over the next couple of years, including the creation of new green spaces on campus with an enlarged central courtyard. Team leaders envision transforming the campus green areas into edible landscapes. The intent is to use Permaculture principles and edible plants to transform the landscape and create a self-sustaining, abundant source of healthy foods for Bay Haven students. The food forest will also serve as an educational environment for students to learn firsthand about growing food, as well as many other school subjects. [For more information and to RSVP.](#)

UF/IFAS Plant Sale

The 10th annual UF/IFAS Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Plant Sale and EdFest will take place October 11 from 8am to 1pm at 6700 Clark Road. Local nonprofit and environmental organizations will also be showcased. This is a family-friendly event. [Please register in advance.](#)

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.](#)

Managing Visitor Use in Land and Marine Conservation Areas Course

SBEP, TBEP and CHNEP will be hosting a *Managing Visitor 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, September 12 and the next Policy Board Meeting is set for 1 pm on the same day. The venue for both meetings is the Oscar Scherer Nature Center. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet 4:30 pm on Monday, October 6 at Dan McClure Auditorium at 5900 Airport Auditorium Lane in Sarasota. [SBEP Online Calendar.](#)

October 10 is the Deadline to Submit Your Photos for the Annual I Love Sarasota Bay Photo Contest



October 10 is the deadline for submitting photos to the I Love Sarasota Photo Contest. Contest participants can drop off their entry or entries to Frank's Gentlemen's Salon located in Chili's Plaza at 4141 S. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota .

The four drop off days runs from Tuesday, October 7 through Friday, October 10. The drop off window each day is between 10 am and 6 pm.

The winning submissions and other select entries will be displayed on November 1 at the Water Festival.

The annual photo contest celebrates the beauty and importance of Sarasota Bay and other area waterways. 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.

Final Reflection with Tom D'Auria



Tom is a Florida native who graduated from Ringing School of Design. [Check out Tom's page](#) on the CE page. Visit other paintings and photos at our [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."