

**St. Andrew Bay
Resource
Management
Association**
(www.sabrma.org)

RMA Annual Membership Drive

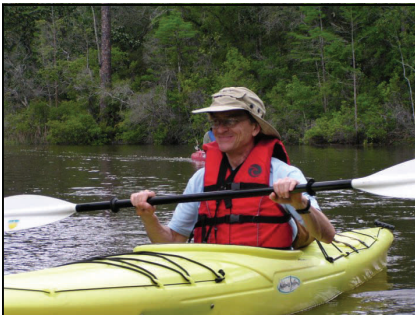
Earth Day, April 22nd, marks the time of year to re-new your RMA membership dues. If you have already submitted your dues - THANK YOU!

Our leaders in Bay-watch, Turtle

Watch, Seagrass Restoration, Scallop Restocking and Shoreline Restoration are working diligently to keep St. Andrew Bay healthy. Your dues will help RMA bring these efforts to fruition.

paid online by visiting www.sabrma.org. Thanks for your support during these tough economic times!

James M. Barkuloo
Vice-President and
Acting Treasurer



Checks should be made out to SABRMA and mailed to PO Box 15028, Panama City, FL 32406. Dues may be

Hats off to the following people who have already joined or renewed for the 2010-2011 membership year:

Gary & Linda Fitzhugh, Phillip Scarborough, Larry & Jan Strickland, Timothy Matthews, The Loyed Family, Gail Carmody, Rosalie & Gary Shaffer, Jim & Ann Barkuloo, Sally Cooley, Carmen Tung, Patrice Couch, Laura Paris, Fred Beauchemin, Liz Rooney, Chris and Sandy Campbell, Chas. and V. Ketchem, Douglas and Connie Lurie.

Chipola River Clean-up 5/22/10
Please join us for a fun day!

- 8:30am – 9:30am Meet at Wildcat Creek Community and travel to the Big Look and Tremble landing
- 9:30am – 2:30 pm Enjoy the river cleaning!
- 2:30 pm Return to Wildcat for pot luck lunch
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Workshop on Container Gardening with Master Gardener Phillip Smith
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Workshop on solar hot water heaters. Solar thermal consultant Jimmy May will have his book, "Everyman's Solar" for sale.
- After Dark Movie viewing in an outdoor theater powered by stored solar energy
Dinner will be leftovers from lunch

All are welcome to camp for the night and make use of the solar well, solar showers, and composting toilets. **For details and directions to Wildcat, please call 850-874-8167 or e-mail whwallacew295@gmail.com.**

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

May 22 Chipola River Cleanup

May 25 Seagrass Water Sampling w/ DEP

June 11-13 Baywatch Water Sampling

June 14 Baywatch Lab Day

June 22 Seagrass Water Sampling with DEP

June 26 Lakewatch-Baywatch Regional Meeting

For details, please visit the RMA website [Event Calendar](#).

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Scallop Restoration Project Update - April 2010

In January, Dr. Steve Geiger from the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in St. Petersburg, FL collected over 7,000 scallop spat from local waters. Steve has been working with RMA for several years on scallop restoration, and in the past two years RMA has added a volunteer scallop-rearing project to augment Steve's work.

Spat are collected from traps in North Bay, St. Andrew Bay and East Bay. Chris Metcalf and Jon Hemming do a wonderful job monitoring these traps each month. Spat traps consist of an old citrus bag attached to a line that is tied to a buoy on one end and a concrete block on the other. The scallop larvae attach to the citrus bag as they swim by. The traps are monitored in the fall, and Steve arrives in early winter

to collect the spat so they can be reared in cages or bags. The purpose of rearing the spat is to allow them to grow in a protected enclosure until they are large enough to avoid predation.

What happened to the scallops collected? Approximately 2,500 of the 7,000 spat collected were immediately released near East Pass, a site conducive to scallop rearing in recent years.

Students from Gulf Coast Community College (GCCC) and community volunteers have been raising approximately 750 scallops in cages placed off the NOAA Fisheries Service Lab dock or off their own personal docks. Although the mortality level was higher than normal due to the unusually cold winter, the majority of the scallops survived, but they are smaller than they were last year. Last year the scallops raised by GCCC students were around 35-40 mm when released. This year, the scallops will be about 25 mm when released. Although not as big as last year's bunch, these scallops should be big enough to avoid those predators that want to eat them!

The rest of the collected spat returned to FWRI with Steve. In April, Steve re-

turned with over 1,500 of the scallops he had originally removed from the bay and released them back into local waters – 1,000 to St. Andrew Bay and an additional 500 scallops to Escambia County as part of a restoration project with the DEP Northwest Florida Aquatic Preserve office. Five hundred are being held in reserve at FWRI to be released at a later date.

If you are interested in learning more about the scallop project, or you would like to add your name to the list of potential "scallop host parents" for the winter of 2011, contact Linda Fitzhugh at lfitzhugh@gulfcost.edu or visit the [scallop page](#) on our website.



TURTLE WATCH UPDATE

Sea turtle surveys began on May 1st, and turtle lovers are hoping for a good season in 2010. Loggerhead nesting has been falling on Panama City Beach for the past several years, following a generally downward nesting trend seen in other parts of Florida. Twenty nests on average are laid annually on Panama City Beach, although only 16 were found in 2009, down from a peak of 38 nests in 2000.

Unfortunately, for the start of the 2010 nesting season we are seeing more strandings than normal for this time of year. Three Loggerheads and two Kemp's Ridleys have washed ashore dead on Panama City Beach since May 1. None of the animals appeared to have been affected by the oil spill in the gulf. If you see oiled wildlife on the beach (turtles, birds, dolphins), please call 866-557-1401. This

is the central number for reporting wildlife affected by the spill. When you call this number, local authorities will be notified to provide assistance.

All volunteers have been recruited for the summer program, and weekly updates will be reported at www.turtlewatch.org.



Turtle Watchers Brad Smith and Nancy Evou attracted a crowd when they excavated Nest 3 at Laguna Beach in 2008. Sea turtles nest on our beaches annually from May - October.

RMA DONOR APPRECIATION

- Grand Lagoon residents **Cicero and Laurie Garner** recently donated \$1,000 to RMA **in honor of Jim Barkuloo**. An active member of RMA since 1990, Jim is RMA's past President and current Vice-President. He is heavily involved with RMA's Baywatch Program and numerous other projects benefitting St. Andrew Bay. Mr. Garner is a former Baywatch volunteer. This generous donation is a fitting tribute to one of our most admired and respected volunteers.
- **Don Johnson** donated a 24' flatbed trailer for use as RMA's Mardi Gras float.

RMA appreciates these generous donations!



Jim Barkuloo has been an active member of RMA since 1990.

BAYWATCH PROGRAM UPDATE



- Baywatch continues monthly sampling of 76 sites within the St. Andrew Bay System, Lake Powell, and Lake Marin.
- For over a year, Baywatch has been monitoring water quality in northern Burnt Mill Creek and Crooked Creek to evaluate impacts from construction at the new airport. Samples collected on April 15th showed low turbidity levels (meaning water clarity was higher) compared to turbidity levels over the past year. These results were due to a lack of rainfall and temporary halt to the pumping of water that had accumulated on the airport construction site. Unfortunately, samples collected on May 2nd indicated very high turbidities in both creeks due to continuing stormwater control issues at the site related to rainfall from April 30th through May 1st. DEP is reviewing enforcement actions to address these violations. Baywatch will continue to monitor these stations.
- Patrice Couch and Laura Paris gave a well-received presentation on the Baywatch program at the Panhandle Chapter of the Florida Trail Association meeting on May 3rd. For more information about the Florida Trail Association, visit www.floridatrail.org.
- Patrice Couch earned her state certification from the FL Dept. of Environmental Protection's Stormwater, Erosion, & Sedimentation Control Inspector Training Program on May 11th.
- **Please save the date for the LAKEWATCH-Baywatch Regional Meeting – Saturday, June 26, 2010. This is our annual water sampling training and volunteer appreciation meeting hosted by University of Florida and RMA. Invitations will be mailed to Baywatch volunteers. If you are not a Baywatch volunteer, but would like to attend, please contact Patrice at 763-4303 for details.**

Please refer to the event calendar at www.sabrma.org for a complete list of Baywatch sampling activities.

BECOME A FRIEND OF RMA ON FACEBOOK!



You can also link to RMA's FB page via www.sabrma.org!

Are you on Facebook? Visit RMA's new Facebook page to stay informed of all our upcoming activities and see photos of past events such as our recent scallop release, kayak trip, and Crooked Creek sampling event. Search Facebook for "St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association" or if you are reading this online, simply click [here](#) and select the "Like" button to add us as a FB friend. You will automatically receive updates through your news feed.

RMA CROOKED CREEK KAYAK TRIP



The kayak trip on Crooked Creek on May 2nd was wonderful! We had a great turnout (14 people, including some old friends and some new ones). The weather was perfect, and we enjoyed a relaxing picnic lunch overlooking Crooked Creek. Trip photos are posted on Facebook. Thanks to all who came out! Special thanks to Brad Stephens at Sunjammers for coordinating kayak rentals for the trip.

Creek. Trip photos are posted on Facebook. Thanks to all who came out! Special thanks to Brad Stephens at Sunjammers for coordinating kayak rentals for the trip.



We hope to host more fun events like this in the future. Let us know what your interests are or if you would like to lead our next excursion!



**Donate Your
Aluminum Cans
and Help Support
our Programs**

Collection Sites:

**> USFWS Office on
Balboa Avenue
OR**

**> 2310 Ashland Drive,
Panama City**

**Learn more about
RMA
and become a member
by visiting our
membership page at
www.sabrma.org**

IN MEMORIAM



We're sad to report that Linwood (Lyn) Banks passed away unexpectedly on April 2nd. Lyn was very passionate about the water and the overall environment of Grand Lagoon. He was very instrumental in the forming of the Friends of Grand Lagoon Association where he served as President and on the Board from the organization's inception. His dedication and determination helped to secure a new and larger Grand Lagoon Bridge, now under construction on Thomas Drive. He did this as a labor of love. He was also very instrumental in the "re-placement" of the pumping station on Joan Avenue. He partnered with the RMA Baywatch program, using Baywatch water quality data to support the projects on Grand Lagoon. The Friends of Grand Lagoon loved, trusted and supported Lyn and know he will be greatly missed in the community and at home. The memorial service has already been held. Suggested contributions in his memory may be made to Friends of Grand Lagoon, 7207 Lagoon Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408.

EARTH DAY BAY COUNTY 2010

The first international Earth Day was established in 1970 to focus attention on the importance of our environment. April 22, 2010 marked the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day.

Bay County's Earth Day celebration was held on April 17th at Carl Grey Park. Patrice Couch and Laura Paris along with volunteers, **Sandy Campbell**, **Michael Bamberg**, and **Alan Collins** spoke with people about our programs and encouraged membership in RMA. The **Gulf Coast Women's Club** hosted the light bulb exchange so people could trade in their incandescent bulbs for fluorescent bulbs.

Bay County District III Commissioner, **Bill Dozier**, kicked off the celebration by reading Bay County's Earth Day Proclamation. The Bay County celebration was an opportunity to share the work of the many citizens, community organizations, and government agencies that work together to help protect St. Andrew Bay and its surrounding ecosystems. These efforts were supported by local businesses and artists in the community. In addition to environmental displays, the event featured exhibits by local "green-minded" businesses, artists, food vendors, and live entertainment.

Thanks to **Lynn Cherry**, the **Friends of St. Andrew Bay**, and **Henry Lawrence** for planning the event!



DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL UPDATE

At this time RMA as a group is not coordinating any volunteer activities related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The local chapter of the Red Cross is coordinating volunteer training in order to be prepared in the event that volunteers are needed. Volunteers will not be handling hazardous materials or wildlife, but may be called upon to assist in supporting roles. For more information, please contact the American Red Cross, Bay County, by phone (850) 763-6587 or via e-mail oilspill@redcrosspc.org.



Additional volunteer information can be found on the following website, including how you can help as a "Coast Watcher": <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org/>.

Please remember that volunteers are **not permitted** to enter off-limit areas to obtain observations and must not make contact with oiled wildlife, vegetation, and beaches due the health concerns associated with contact.

Important Phone Numbers (source: <http://www.volunteerfloridadisaster.org/>)

- Report **injured** or **oiled animals** to the **Wildlife Distress Hotline: 1-866-557-1401**
- Report **oiled shoreline** to **1-866-448-5816**
- Report a change in **Air Quality** to: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>

Important Websites - There is a wealth of information on the websites below.

- Bay County Public Information Office: <http://co.bay.fl.us/public-information.php>
- FL DEP Deepwater Horizon Website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/>
DEP is the lead state agency. This site contains links to all the state and federal lead responder websites including EPA, NOAA, and USCG as well as a comprehensive list of contact phone numbers.
- Deepwater Horizon Response Unified Command Official Website: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>

RMA sends special appreciation to Lisa Rahn for volunteering her time and talents to do the lion's share of the work to create this newsletter! Thanks Lisa!

RMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Kennard Watson.....249-9349.....pcbturtle@yahoo.com
 Vice-President.....Jim Barkuloo.....763-1820.....arbuckle257@knology.net
 Acting-Treasurer.....Jim Barkuloo.....763-1820.....arbuckle257@knology.net
 Secretary.....Bill Wallace.....874-8167.....whwallacew295@gmail.com
 Building Manager.....Georgia Beauchemin...265-0189.....gpeach4321@aol.com
 Newsletter/Recycling...Ann Barkuloo.....763-1820.....GEM_539@knology.net
 Scientific Advisor.....Chris Metcalf.....coastalhydrology@knology.net
 Seagrass Coordinator...Linda Fitzhugh.....872-3488.....lfitzhugh@gulfcoast.edu
 Member-at-Large.....Susan Bates.....catnip2809@aol.com
 Member-at-Large.....Nancy Evou230-6763
 Treasurer, Education, Membership, & PublicityVacant

RMA PROGRAM LEADERS

TURTLEWATCH PROGRAM

Coordinator, Kennard Watson, 249-9349, pcbturtle@yahoo.com
 Assistant, Nancy Evou, 230-6763

BAYWATCH PROGRAM

Director, Patrice Couch, 763-4303, Patrice.Couch@sabrma.org
 Asst. Director, Laura Paris, 763-4303, Laura.Paris@sabrma.org
 Data Manager, Murt Lyon, 265-2539, nepaug@bellsouth.net

INITIATIVE PROJECTS

Seagrass Coordinator, Linda Fitzhugh, 872-3488
 fitzhugh@gulfcoast.edu
 Scallop Coordinator, Chris Metcalf
 coastalhydrology@knology.net

St. Andrew Bay RMA - P.O. Box 15028 - Panama City, FL 32406

A Florida Wildlife Federation Affiliate

www.fwfonline.org

 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail address: _____
 Phone number: _____

- Individual \$20 Family \$25 Nice Person \$35
 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100 Life \$500
 Student, Senior, or Low income \$5

Join the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association and join a group of people who love to be involved in projects beneficial to the St. Andrew Bay watershed. We are committed to the proper management of St. Andrew Bay and adjoining ecosystems by monitoring, educating, and advocating for a healthy Bay County environment. Membership dues support our programs including Turtle Watch, Baywatch water quality and seagrass monitoring, shoreline restoration, and scallop enhancement. To join, complete and mail this form, along with your check to: SABRMA, PO Box 15028, Panama City, FL 32406.

St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association, Inc. (RMA)
 PO Box 15028, Panama City, FL 32406
 850-763-4303 FAX: 850-763-4303

