

The Trash Bag

Volume XIII, Issue 2, March/April 2010

Earth, Fire, Air, Water

Vital Elements of Comprehensive Water Policy

By Karen Grainey



Clean Coast is joining forces with the Center for a Sustainable Coast, and the Sierra Club Coastal Group to bring back the Coastal Issues Forum, the brainchild of Cleve Bergen who organized the first one for Clean Coast a decade ago.

The idea behind this annual event is to educate ourselves and interested members of the general public about the complex environmental issues which face our region.

This year's forum will take place on Saturday, April 10 at the John W. Stevens Wetlands Education Center in Richmond Hill.

The focus will be on water because public policy makers are focusing on water these days, and there is a need to take a comprehensive approach to crafting truly sustainable policies.

Unfortunately, the media don't provide the kind of in depth coverage needed to gain a good understanding, and some of the best ideas remain unknown to most of us.

For example, how many of us can say we are familiar with the concept of a river basin Commission designed to provide for the equitable sharing of and protection of water resources in instances where a watershed's boundaries encompass more than one state? Considering the longstanding tri-state dispute over the Chattahoochee River and that virtually the entire 350 mile length of the Savannah River serves as the border between South Carolina and Georgia, this is a concept worthy of our attention.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was created in 1961 as a result of a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision that established a court ordered formula under which the states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware must share the Delaware River. We are very fortunate that Robert Tudor, Deputy Executive Director of the DRBC will be speaking at our forum to talk about his organization's experience with multi-state river basin management. This is a rare opportunity to learn about this concept from an extremely knowledgeable source.

We've got a great line-up of expert speakers who will address a variety of topics including sea-level rise, green infrastructure, stormwater and energy production, which are all important aspects of a comprehensive approach to sustainable water policy.

Additionally, there will be a birding walk with ornithologist Steve Wagner first thing in the morning on a beautiful nature trail in the freshwater wetlands of the Ogeechee River and an optional boat ride on the Savannah River on Sunday, April 11. The forum on Saturday is free of charge and lunch will be provided to everyone who makes a reservation. There is a \$50 fee for the Sunday boat ride.

See Page 6 for the forum agenda and instructions on how to register!

Annual Oyster Roast

By Philip Graine

Picture a sun-lit bluff overlooking the Forest River, a roaring fire, tables laden with freshly roasted oysters and around a hundred and fifty happy people, and you have this year's Clean Coast Oyster Roast!

Our intrepid team of volunteers had been out the previous day in some pretty unpleasant, cold, wet weather to harvest oysters at our not-so-secret location near Tybee. Hats off to Dave Sapp, Dennis Cusanelli, Joe Bonds, Julie and Jerry McLean, Karen Graine, Kevin Quinn, Mike Bousquet, Patsy Bucky, Peter Driver, Ron Lynch, and Sammy Moore for braving the elements and coming home with fourteen bushels of fine, fresh, local oysters.

On the day, our team of oystermeisters – Jerry McLean, Sammy Moore, and young Dakota Burns toiled over a blazing fire all afternoon, roasting our catch to smoky, steamy perfection. If you haven't tried our local oysters, you haven't lived!

The day was a great success - friends old and new, a fine array of covered dishes and cool, sunny weather – just right!

We were able to collect an impressive number of membership renewals and an encouraging number of new memberships – a great way to start the new year.

Many thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Clete and Deannie Bergen for providing the perfect venue for our event.

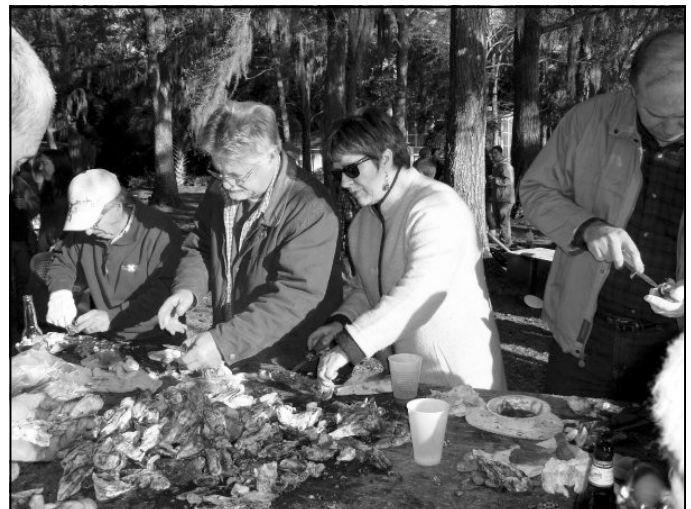


Photo Credit: Julie McLean



Visit our website www.cleancoast.org to see the complete photo album!

Spearfishing Gear prohibited in Gray's Reef NMS

Effective March 22, 2010

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has released a final rule to prohibit the use of spearfishing gear in Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Possession of spearfishing gear is also prohibited except for vessels passing through the sanctuary without interruption, and only when the gear is stowed and not available for immediate use. NOAA has prepared an environmental assessment and has determined there will be no significant impact as a result of this action.

A spearfishing ban was considered during the 1981 designation of GRNMS and again during the sanctuary's management plan review beginning in 1999. After additional socioeconomic information was collected in 2007, the spearfishing gear ban was proposed again in early 2009. Public comments on the proposed rule were received from March 4 - May 4, 2009. Comments came through a public meeting on March 19th in Richmond Hill, GA, and through email, standard mail and through regulations.gov

See the Gray's Reef website for links to all the related documents: <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>

For questions or more information, contact Resource Protection Coordinator, Becky Shortland or phone at (912) 598-2381.



Huge Garbage Patch Found in Atlantic Too

By Richard A. Lovett
for National Geographic News
Published March 2, 2010

Billions of bits of plastic are accumulating in a massive garbage patch in the Atlantic Ocean—a lesser known cousin to the Texas-size trash vortex in the Pacific, scientists say.

"Many people have heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch," said Kara Lavender Law, an oceanographer at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

"But this issue has essentially been ignored in the Atlantic."

The newly described garbage patch sits hundreds of miles off the North American coast. Although its east-west span is unknown, the patch covers a region between 22 and 38 degrees north latitude—roughly the distance from Cuba to Virginia .

As with the Pacific garbage patch, plastic can circulate in this part of the Atlantic Ocean for years, posing health risks to fish, seabirds, and other marine animals that accidentally eat the litter.

Elusive Ocean Trash

To get a clear picture of the Atlantic garbage patch, Law drew on 22 years of data collected by students participating in her association's SEA Semester academic program.

As part of this program, more than 7,000 students have gone on research cruises, deploying thousands of fine-meshed plankton nets to meticulously catalog bits of plastic enmeshed with the drifting plants and animals.

Tiny pieces of trash, each less than a tenth the weight of a paper clip, make up most of the debris, Law said February 23 at the American Geophysical union's

(ATLANTIC CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Wassaw Island Cleanup, February 20

Photos by Kelly Whaley

A small group of Clean Coast regulars were joined by a group of nine students from the SCAD English as a Second Language program for a great day on Wassaw Island. Our international crew hailed from China, Taiwan, Korea, and Brazil.

The weather was beautiful and the food was delicious thanks to food captain Charlotte Dixon.

Thanks also to boat captains Dennis Cusanelli, Roy Lynch, and Phil Grainey.



Visit our website cleancoast.org to see color photos of recent cleanups!

(ATLANTIC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

2010 Ocean Sciences meeting in Portland, Oregon.

In some places the students found more than 200,000 bits of trash per square kilometer (520,000 bits per square mile). The vast majority of these fragments come from consumer products that were blown out of open landfills or were tossed out by litterbugs.

Similar surface trawls in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch have found as many as 750,000 bits of plastic per square kilometer (1.9 million bits per square mile), noted marine chemist Giora Proskurowski, also with the Sea Education Association.

But that's only a portion of the total, he said, because waves often carry plastic as deep as 65 feet (20 meters) below the surface.

Still, it's not as if there's so much plastic you can walk across the ocean surface, he said. Proskurowski said he has seen the floating Pacific plastic only once, when the sea was glassy calm.

"When I looked off the deck of the ship, I saw hundreds and hundreds of little tiny pieces," he said. "When the wind picked up, I could no longer see it."

Trash Escaping to Hawaii

Using floating satellite tags called drifters, Nikolai Maximenko of the University of Hawaii in Honolulu has tracked the currents that carry trash to the Atlantic and Pacific garbage patches.

In the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, drifter studies have indicated that currents occasionally change, allowing floating materials to escape the vortex.

When that happens, "they never go to the California beach, but they do go to the Hawaiian Islands," Maximenko said. Pieces that don't wind up in Hawaii eventually cycle back into the Pacific garbage patch.

Drifters deployed in the Atlantic show a similar system of currents in the newfound garbage patch, the researchers said, which means pieces could be escaping when those currents shift.

Overall, the Sea Education Association's Proskurowski said, finding plastic so far out in either ocean is sobering, because "it forces us into physical confrontation with the human impact on the environment."

Clean Coast can earn a donation every time you search the Internet and shop online!!!

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Search the web with Yahoo-powered GoodSearch.com and they'll donate about a penny to your cause each time you search!

2010 Savannah Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 17

Forsyth Park

8 a.m to 11 a.m - Recyclerama

Recycle your old, leftover paint!

New! *Medicine Cabinet Cleanout*

Bring your unused and expired medications to be properly disposed of for you! All human and pet, liquid and pill medications, plus old vitamin and herbal supplements will be accepted!

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Festival

Exhibitors, workshops, and live entertainment.

**Contact Karen Grainey
(912-961-6190 or karengrainey@bellsouth.net)
to volunteer to help staff the Clean Coast exhibit.**

**Earth, Fire, Air, Water:
Vital Elements of Comprehensive Water Policy**
John W. Stevens Wetlands Education Center
Richmond Hill, Georgia

Topic	Saturday, April 10 Speaker	Time
Birding walk in the freshwater wetlands of the Ogeechee River	Guided by ornithologist, Steve Wagner	8:00 a.m.
Continental breakfast	Coffee, fruit, muffins	9:00 a.m.
Connecting green infrastructure with stormwater management	Keren Giovengo, Program Manager, Coastal Sustainable Communities Program, UGA Marine Extension & Phil Fortune, Attorney	9:30 a.m.
Sea-level rise and impacts of global warming	Ronald Carroll, Professor, UGA Odom School of Ecology	10:30 a.m.
15 minute break		
Management of water resources in the Savannah River basin from the South Carolina point of view	Dean Moss, Director, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority	11:45 a.m.
Lunch	Bagged lunches for picnic on park grounds.	12:45 p.m.
Multi-state river basin management	Robert Tudor, Deputy Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission	1:45 p.m.
15 minute break		
Understanding the options for a sustainable energy future	Steve Willis, Sierra Club	3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 11

Field Trip

Savannah River Exploration

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Board a 45' pontoon boat at River Street and travel through the Savannah port and industrial landscape of Garden City, and Port Wentworth and into the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. \$50 fee.

**The forum on Saturday is free
and lunch will be provided to everyone who makes a
reservation. There is a \$50 fee for the optional boat ride on Sunday.**

**Please register online at cleancoast.org
or by calling the Clean Coast voicemail (912) 239-9663.**



CALENDAR

- April 10, **Coastal Issues Forum**
- April 11, **Savannah River Exploration**
- April 12, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- April 17, **Savannah Earth Day Festival**
- May 3, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- May 22, **Ossabaw Island Cleanup** (north end)
- June 5, **Ossabaw Island Cleanup** (south end)
- June 7, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- July 5, Business Meeting, 7 p.m. at JEA
- July 17, **Blackbeard Island Cleanup**

You can enroll for each trip online at cleancoast.org or by leaving a message on the Clean Coast answering service at (912) 239-9663. Please provide your name, phone number, and number in your party. Registration closes the Wednesday before the trip. There is no need to sign-up for the monthly business meetings which are held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday (unless otherwise indicated) at the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA), 5111 Abercorn St.

Officers and Board Members 2010/11

President, Karen Graine, 961-6190, karengraine@bellsouth.net; **Vice-president**, Farris Cadle, 398-5202, fcadle@bellsouth.net; **Secretary**, Gail Bowers, 897-3069, bagal@bellsouth.net; **Treasurer and Membership Chair**, Patsy Bucky, 844-2979, patsybucky@aol.com; Clete Bergen II, 924-3832 or 233-8001, CBergenII@aol.com; Joe Bonds, 399-7710, joe@joebonds.com; Charlotte Dixon, 897-0922 or 657-2927, cdixon604@aol.com; Peter Driver, 898-7494, drivers980@att.net; Phil Graine, 961-6190, philipgraine@yahoo.com; Peach Hubbard, 727-3177, peach31324@comcast.net; Karen Jenkins, 308-5706, kabnoir@hotmail.com; Felton Jenkins III, 308-5706, afeltonj@hotmail.com; Julie and Jerry McLean, 356-5799, jandjmclean@comcast.net; Cindy Stevens, 398-8749, cindystevens66@yahoo.com



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Use this form to become a member or to renew your membership.

Student or Senior Citizen (\$15)_____ Individual (\$25)_____ Family(\$35)_____

Sustaining (\$100)_____ Patron (\$500)_____ Life (\$1000)_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE

Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

BEST TIME TO CONTACT: _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

DO YOU OWN A BOAT SUITABLE FOR OUR TRIPS? _____

IF YES, HOW MANY CAN IT CARRY? _____

HOW MANY LIFEJACKETS ARE ABOARD? _____

Dues and contributions to Clean Coast are tax-deductible (IRS No. 58-1984908). Make checks payable to Clean Coast, Inc. and mail to Membership Chairman , 216 E 58th St., Savannah Ga 31405-3436.

Address service requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAVANNAH, GA
PERMIT NO. 358

Volunteers Working for Litter-Free Beaches



216 E 58th St.
Savannah, GA 31405
Ph: (912)239-9663