

Ebb Tide

EsteroBay Buddies

Mourning the loss, then Celebrating the life of Ellen Peterson



By Sherry Furnari

On October 14th, Ellen Peterson (one of the EBB founding board members) passed away at her Estero home. Ellen was a fierce, protective voice for all living creatures on Earth. One of her messages: "Don't compromise Mother Earth." She advocated for those who could not speak for themselves. While our community has suffered a great loss with her passing, we are inspired by her courage, her bright sense of humor, her compassion and her absolute dedication to service.

The Agency for Bay Management was formed as a result of a lawsuit about where Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) would be built; Ellen was the only member who refused to sign off on the settlement agreement. Ironically, I first met Ellen when I was a student at this new, controversially built university (est. 1997), when there was only a handful of buildings. She was invited by Dr. Win Everham to speak during one of our environmental classes. I noticed young students glancing at each other with puzzled looks on their faces that seemed to say, "Who is this little, old lady?" But then she spoke, and delivered her powerful message about the destruction of our southwest Florida environment and loss of panther habitat by the inappropriate placement of development and guess what, we were included!!! That's what I loved about Ellen, her sweet candor and fearlessness to speak her mind. I was reminded that you don't have to be "large & loud" or a Hollywood celebrity to make a positive difference in our world.

On November 13th (Fisheating Creek) & December 3th (Happehatchee Center in Estero), friends gathered to remember and celebrate the life of Ellen. This southern girl graduated from the University of Georgia in 1945 with a degree in chemistry and received her Masters in counseling in 1963 from Appalachian State University. That same year, she moved to southwest Florida and served as the Director of the Counseling Center at Edison College for many years.

Ellen had owned her beautiful property along the Estero River since 1972. By 2006, she turned her property and home into an eco-spiritual nature center for all in the community to enjoy. Her gift, the Happehatchee Center!

In lieu of flowers, Ellen requested donations be sent to Save Our Creeks (www.saveourcreeks.org) or Happehatchee (www.happehatchee.org).

Additional information on Ellen's life are available via various web links:

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2011/oct/14/guest-commentary-ellen-peterson-1923-2011-has-join/>

Let's Go to the Woods & Have a Workday!

ESTERO — Saturday, February 18, 2012. Come on out & join the Buddies and Estero Bay Preserve State Park staff on an exotic plant control workday, from 8:30am until noon. Meet us at the entrance at the end of Broadway W. (Estero River Scrub trail-head). Bring your work gloves, hat, sunscreen, a beverage, snacks, and your love of the great outdoors! Call Jon Meyer, 239-707-8910, for additional information.

A Recap of EBB Outdoor Fall Events...

Although turn out was lower than normal, several EBB activities occurred during the fall...did you make it to any of these outings?

October 15th — Estero River Paddling Event—A few folks came out for a great paddle down the river with family & friends.

October 29th — Great Outdoor Adventure Day at Lovers Key State Park. Just another beautiful day on a sandy, white beach...

November 5th — Bunche Beach activities included guided bird & beach walks, live critters in a touch tank, and a kayak excursion around the San Carlos Bay area.



THE EBB TIDE IS ON-LINE

Wonder what this newsletter looks like in color? Want to recommend a story to a friend? Find the online edition at:

www.esterobaybuddies.org

Got questions? Please email them to:

info@esterobaybuddies.org

Volume 10 Number 4 December 2011

Sherry Furnari, editor

Welcome New & Returning Members

We'd like to welcome our new members and thank our returning members who joined/rejoined during October-December and hope that you will join us at meetings and activities.

Gloria Beauchamp	Ft. Myers Beach	new
Jim & Lisa Beever	N. Ft. Myers	new
Bill Darkoch	Estero	2009
Lynn James	Ft. Myers	new
Steve & Wendy Jess	Bonita Springs	2001
Karl Kammer, Jr.	Naples	2009
Nancy Kilmartin	Ft. Myers	2004
Lee Kulis	Ft. Myers	2006
Sarah Larsen	Estero	2010
Beverly MacNellis	Estero	new
Carole Massey	Ft. Myers Beach	2008
Donna McKee	Ft. Myers Beach	2008
Moe Taylor	Ft. Myers	new
Laura Wewerka	N. Ft. Myers	new

Sponsorships & Donations

During the last quarter, the Buddies have provided financial support to the following organizations or events:

- ⇒ Estero River Paddling Event
- ⇒ The Cela Tega Event at FGCU
- ⇒ Annual Environmental Breakfast
- ⇒ Hapnehatchee Center & Save Our Creeks

Calendar of Events

January 1st, 2012, Sunday – New Year's Resolution Beach Clean Up.

February 18th, Saturday—Estero River Scrub Workday, see front page for details.

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Newsletter of the Estero Bay Buddies

Volume 10 Number 4

The Mission of the Estero Bay Buddies (EBB), a Citizen Support Organization for Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and Estero Bay Preserve State Park, is to support and further the protection, conservation, restoration, management, and the enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems of the Estero Bay estuary and watershed for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations.

Estero Bay Buddies Board of Directors

Laura Carr	President
Terry Cain	Vice President
Jim Wohlpart	Secretary
Reggie McNeill	Treasurer
Richard Cain	Board Member
Sherry Furnari	Board Member
Stephanie Goodwin	Board Member
Jack Horner	Board Member
Sarah Larsen	Board Member
Sasha Linsin-Wohlpart	Board Member
Dorothy McNeill	Board Member
Ellen Peterson (deceased)	Board Member
Pam Rokoskie	Board Member

Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA)

Cheryl Clark	Environmental Specialist I
Julie Drevenkar	Environmental Specialist I
Sherry Furnari	Environmental Specialist I
Hana Nardi	Environmental Specialist I
Heather Stafford	Manager ES III

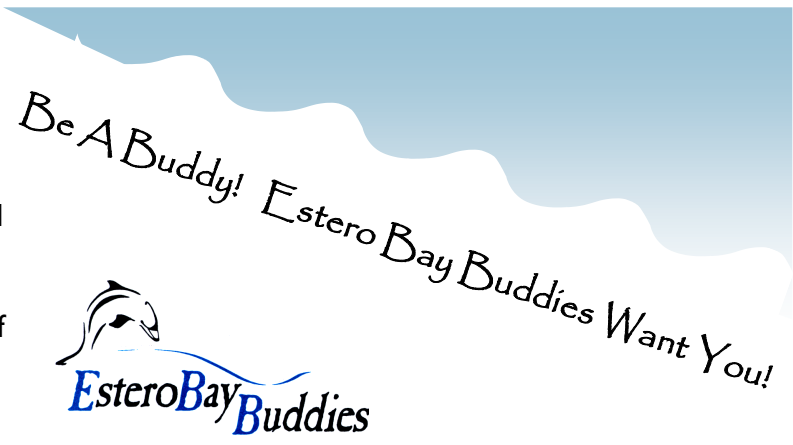
Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP)

Robert Brooks	Manager
Karen LaCivita	Assistant Manager
Erin Maehl	Administrative Staff Assistant
Jon Meyer	Environmental Specialist I

Please send contributions to:
Estero Bay Buddies
700-1 Fisherman's Wharf
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

EBB contact phone (Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve office):
239.463.3240

The mission of the Estero Bay Buddies (EBB), a Citizen Support Organization for the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and Estero Bay Preserve State Park, is to support and further the protection, conservation, restoration, management and the enhancement of the natural and cultural resources of the coastal and aquatic ecosystems of the Estero Bay estuary and watershed for the enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations.



If you would like to become an EBB member, or if it's time to renew your membership please write a check to: Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. and mail with the membership form to: 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
 Student \$5; Individual \$10; Family \$15; Contributing \$25; Supporting \$50; Non-profit \$25; Association (Homeowner, Condo or Civic) \$25; Business \$100; Donor \$100-500.

Membership Form

Yes! I would like to make a difference by joining the Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.

Name(s): _____ New Member
 Mailing Address: _____ Renewal

 (city) (state) (zip code)

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5 (Ages 17 & under are free) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Association (Homeowner, Condominium or Civic) \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$100 - \$500 |

Additionally, I/we would like to make a contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please return with check payable to Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. The Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. is a non-profit organization.

- I would prefer to support the "Buddies" with dues as a member and/or through monetary donations.
 I would like to become an active volunteer and participate in resource management, research/monitoring and education activities.

Special Offer: One free EBB T-shirt with a new membership of \$10 or more!

Exclusive EBB design and logo lets people know you care about Estero Bay. Great for fishermen and fisherwomen, environmental activists, old-timers, boaters, personal-water craft riders, divers and everyone else who cares about the health of Florida's waters!

Request newly designed white T-shirts or older T-shirts with colors of turquoise, granite or 40th Anniversary Clyde Butcher photo on white. State size and color. Size: S to XXL.



Membership Form

New/renewing members, please check all boxes that apply to your interests.

Resource Management

- Exotic Plant Control (Removal/herbicide treatment of Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, and other exotics.)
- Habitat Restoration
- Nature Trail Construction and Maintenance
- Monitoring/Patrol of the Preserve State Park
- Resource Watch/Patrol of the Aquatic Preserve (Boaters, Canoe and Kayak enthusiasts)
 - Monitoring Mangrove Forests
 - Monitoring Bird Rookeries
 - Monitoring Indian Shell Mounds
- Assistance with Resource Inventories
- Participating in Coastal Clean Ups

Education

- Conducting Guided Nature Walks
- Environmental Education/Public Outreach

Research and Monitoring

- Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
- Computer (Managing Data using Windows XP, ACCESS DataBase and EXCEL spreadsheets)

Advocacy

- Computer/Desktop Publishing (Newsletter, Brochures, Flyers, etc.)
- Office Assistance Support (reception, hospitality, answering phones, mailings, etc.)
- Land Acquisition
- Fund-raising events
- Letter Writing Campaigns

Other

- Become a board member
- Other (please explain in detail)

Estero Bay Buddies, Inc.
 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf
 Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Attention Members: Since we are now e-mailing the newsletter to our membership, we don't have the flexibility of showing when membership fees are due for each member. Therefore, we will be e-mailing you with a reminder a few weeks prior to when membership fees are dues. Thanks very much for your continued support for the Buddies!!!

People In & Around the Estero Bay area...



Welcome Aboard Hana!

Hana Nardi joined the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve office in October 2011. She was a recent graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University, where she earned a B.A. in environmental studies and minors in biology and art. Because of her attendance at FGCU,

she developed an interest in the coastal systems. In December of 2010, she spent one month studying abroad in Ghana, West Africa, where she learned about the inextricable link between the health of the coast and the health of societies. Her professional interests are in volunteer coordination, resource management, scientific research, conservation, and science illustration.

FGCU Students Assist in Rookery Island Clean-up

By Brandon Martin, Chris Vacha, Emily Bradshaw, and Kayla Earle

As part of a project for our Civic Engagement class, our group decided on an overall mission to work towards preserving the natural ecosystems. After



contacting a few organizations, we found a great fit with the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. We first met with Cheryl Clark and planned out the dates and times according to the tide charts. On October 14th, 2011 we set out on our adventure. We began by meeting and splitting into two separate boats at Lovers Key State Park boat ramp. Each boat had assigned islands to stop at. At each island we waded around collecting and documenting all trash and monofilament we found.



The project was hard work but a great experience. Some members ended the day with major cuts and injuries due to the oysters. Volunteers on one of the boats ran into some local fishermen while cleaning an island. One fisherman began yelling and cursing saying not so nice things and telling the members of the boat their efforts were a waste of

time. While putting a damper on the trip it also opened our eyes to the fact that not everyone will agree with your mission, but that is no reason to give up.

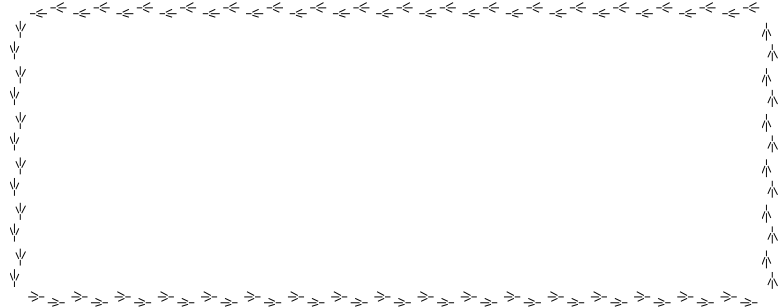


The cleanup itself is much more important than one might think. Not only does the cleanup stop the degradation of the natural environment, but also reduces the risk of bird and marine life death due to monofilament and garbage. We were informed by Cheryl, on her first cleanup, she and her colleagues found twelve dead birds. This time around only two were found. Results like that show this cleanup is in fact doing good for the nesting islands and even the littlest effort like making sure your trash is disposed of properly can go a long way. Combining the findings from both cleanups (October 14th & 21st) roughly 1700 feet of monofilament was found tangled on the nesting islands and around nine buckets of trash and debris were picked up along the way. To help stop pollution of the waterways, keep in mind where your trash is going as it leaves your possession. We all can help keep nature beautiful.



Esteros Bay Buddies, Inc.
 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf
 Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931

Esteros Bay Rookery Monitoring Program 2012



Nesting birds need about 300ft of undisturbed space.

Protect our natural resources by keeping a safe distance between you and all wildlife and **never leave fishing line or trash behind!**

Esteros Bay Aquatic Preserve staff and volunteers monitor wading and diving bird nesting colonies, monthly, throughout the nesting season; which generally runs January through September. Surveys are conducted by boat and take about 5 hours to complete. Volunteers of all birding levels are welcome to participate. If you are interested in volunteering or you would like more information about the program please contact Cheryl Clark at Cheryl.Clark@dep.state.fl.us or 239-463-3240.

Rookery Monitoring Program 2012

Date and Launch Time	Launch Site
Tue 1/17/2012 9:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Wed 1/18/2012 9:30am	Lovers Key
Thu 1/19/2012 10:00am	Backup - TBD
Wed 2/15/2012 9:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Thu 2/16/2012 10:00am	Lovers Key
Mon 2/20/2012 11:00am	Backup - TBD
Wed 2/22/2012 11:00am	TRAINING - EBAP
Wed 3/7/2012 10:00am	Esteros Bay Office
Wed 3/14/2012 9:00am	Lovers Key
Thu 3/15/2012 9:00am	Backup - TBD
Wed 4/11/2012 9:00am	Lovers Key
Thu 4/12/2012 9:00am	Esteros Bay Office
Mon 4/16/2012 9:00am	Backup - TBD
Tue 5/15/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Wed 5/16/2012 8:30am	Lovers Key
Thu 5/17/2012 8:30am	Backup - TBD

Date and Launch Time	Launch Site
Wed 6/13/2012 8:30am	Lovers Key
Thu 6/14/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Mon 6/18/2012 8:30am	Backup - TBD
Thu 7/12/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Mon 7/16/2012 8:30am	Lovers Key
Tue 7/17/2012 8:30am	Backup - TBD
Wed 8/15/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Thu 8/16/2012 8:30am	Lovers Key
Mon 8/20/2012 11:00am	Backup - TBD
Wed 9/12/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Thu 9/13/2012 8:30am	Lovers Key
Mon 9/17/2012 11:00am	Backup - TBD
Thu 10/11/2012 8:30am	Esteros Bay Office
Mon 10/15/2012 11:00am	Lovers Key
Tue 10/16/2012 12:00pm	Backup - TBD
Mon 10/29/2012 9:00am	CLEANUP