

EBB Joins the 9th Annual Earth Day Festival

by Sherry Furnari

On a beautiful Saturday, April 24th, an Earth Day celebration was held at Koreshan State Historic Site. The Estero Bay Buddies was one of nearly 75 vendors/groups that attended this event. Although no record attendance was set, around 1,400 people came to the festival. As Assistant Manager, Karen LaCivita said, “Every time the light (traffic) changed; waves of people were coming in.” I thought, “Not too light or crowded, it was just right.” The park staff did a great job hosting and organizing this event and for having a lot of wonderful volunteers to help keep things running smoothly.



Forty years ago, April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was organized as a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to our environment. Because these environmental concerns haven’t ended, demonstrations and/or celebrations for *Mother Earth* continue to this day.

Several existing Buddies members were there and new ones were made. The Buddies gave away free native trees (live oaks, south Florida slash pines and red maples) to the public to plant in their yards and information on our local environment and some critters that share it with us...like manatees, eagles and snakes!

Kayak rides on the Estero River were also provided for free by a local outfitter. Many other vendors offered healthy foods, fresh desserts, organically grown produce, information on solar energy, hand-made jewelry, arts & crafts, live music by several bands, and kid’s activities. A drumming circle was held later in the evening for anyone to join in.



The word “groovy” came to mind when I saw tie-dye clothes, ethnic or other hair styles popular in the 60s & 70s and the smell of aromatic incents wafting through the air, although no mind-altering substances were found! Any light-headedness I may have experienced was just the high humidity and temperature in the mid-80s working its way back into southwest Florida and my body. Ok, so the word groovy isn’t used much anymore, so an “awesome” Earth Day was had by all!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Volunteers for Rookery Monitoring:
May - September. See page 4...

Community Clean Up:
July 5th, Monday. After 4th of July parties on the beaches or in your community.

International Coastal Clean Up:
September 18th, Saturday. Staging areas: Matlacha Community Park, Ft. Myers Beach Elementary School, Bowditch Point Regional Park, Bunche Beach, and Causeway Islands.

Marine Debris Clean Up— Monofilament Madness:
October 31st, Sunday. Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach.

National Estuaries Day /A Free Day at the Bay:
November 6th, Saturday. San Carlos Bay—Bunche Beach Preserve.



Meet Our Newest Educator!

The EBAP office recently received this great blue heron from a local taxodermist office and he will participate in future environmental education programs given by staff or the EBB.

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

Ebb Tide

Newsletter of the Estero Bay Buddies

Volume 9 Number 2

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 Estabrook	President
Terry Cain	Vice President
Jim Wohlpart	Secretary
Reggie McNeill	Treasurer
Chris Christensen	Board Member
Sherry Furnari	Board Member
Jack Horner	Board Member
Sarah Larsen	Board Member
Sasha Linsin-Wohlpart	Board Member
Dorothy McNeill	Board Member
Ellen Peterson	Board Member
Pam Rokoskie	Board Member

Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA)

Cheryl Clark	Environmental Specialist I
Stephanie Erickson	Environmental Specialist I
Sherry Furnari	Environmental Specialist I
Lisa Hensley	Administrative Assistant
Heather Stafford	Manager ES III

Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP)

Robert Brooks	Manager
Steve Giguere	Environmental Specialist I
Karen LaCivita	Assistant Manager
Erin Maehl	Administrative Staff Assistant

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

Buddies Help Park Staff at Winkler Point on Exotic Plant Workdays

Two exotic plant control workdays were held at the Estero Bay Preserve State Park’s Winkler Point public access area. The two workdays were held on February 20th and March 20th. The EBB’s provided lunch for volunteers and park staff that assisted with removing invasive exotic

melaleuca and Brazilian pepper trees. Come out & visit the seasonally wet tidal marsh and hydric pine flatwoods plant communities and let park staff know how well they did!



CAMA’s March Employee of the Month: Cheryl Clark

by Lee Edmiston, Director, Office of CAMA

It is my pleasure to announce Cheryl Clark as CAMA’s March Employee of the Month from the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve (EBAP).



Cheryl, an Environmental Specialist I, came to us in January, 2008 from the J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge (DDNWR).

As the only 40 hours/week employee at EBAP, Cheryl plays an integral role in sustaining all EBAP programs. From working with Federal, State and local permitting and land use agencies, to coordinating and conducting the datasonde monitoring and maintenance, to participating on advisory committees that address issues affecting Estero Bay, and assisting with seagrass monitoring; Cheryl is somehow still able to do so much more! She has also been instrumental in expanding our community outreach and partnering initiatives, and the development of outstanding educational outreach materials.

As if this wasn’t enough, when we hired Cheryl, we were looking for someone with the expertise to expand our colonial waterbird rookery monitoring program. She has gone above and beyond, making it possible for EBAP to collect and analyze scientific data where there had been a huge data gap previously. No other group or agency had been monitoring this important resource - a resource that has the potential to tell us so much about the state of the Preserve and we expect analyses of the long-term monitoring data will assist in both resource management and regulatory decision-making.

In addition, with reduced staffing at the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (CHAP) office and because they partner with DDNWR, Cheryl is also playing a key role in training, coordinating and conducting the rookery monitoring in the CHAP. Her participation has enabled the CHAP office to keep the program going without missing a nesting season until they can be fully staffed again.

Cheryl’s plate is overflowing! Her caring, commitment and efficiency, combined with her knowledge and abilities make her successful in all that she takes on.

Thank you Cheryl for all your efforts – keep up the good work.

Volunteer Opportunities: Aquatic

NESTING SEASON FEBRUARY – SEPTEMBER BRING YOUR BINOCULARS!

Birders!... Sign up for rookery monitoring surveys within the bay. If interested, please contact Cheryl Clark @ 239.463.3240 (or email: Cheryl.Clark@dep.state.fl.us) and she will coordinate a location & time to meet to go out birding on the EBAP boat.



EBAP Rookery Monitoring Schedule

Date	Time	Rookeries
5/12/2010	Wednesday	9:00 Northern Bay
5/13/2010	Thursday	9:00 Southern Bay
5/18/2010	Tuesday	9:00 BACKUP
6/9/2010	Wednesday	9:00 Northern Bay
6/10/2010	Thursday	9:00 Southern Bay
6/15/2010	Tuesday	9:30 BACKUP
7/15/2010	Thursday	10:00 Northern Bay
7/20/2010	Tuesday	8:30 Southern Bay
7/22/2010	Thursday	9:00 BACKUP
8/11/2010	Wednesday	9:30 ALL
8/12/2010	Thursday	11:30 BACKUP
9/20/2010	Monday	9:30 ALL
9/22/2010	Wednesday	9:30 BACKUP

Power-Pole™ Shallow Water Anchor Donated to EBAP

Excerpts of a letter from EBAP Manager, Heather Stafford to Power-Pole's Sales Manager, Dan Benson, with JL Marine Systems, Inc. concerning the donation of an 8' shallow water anchor that was installed on the preserve's 17' Boston Whaler.

"I haven't spoken to you directly or emailed you before, but you were in contact with Mr. Reggie McNeill, Board of Directors, Estero Bay Buddies, Inc. (EBB) (<http://www.esterobaybuddies.org/index.html>). EBB is the non-profit



Heather & volunteer Tom Winter using Power-Pole during seagrass monitoring efforts.

citizen support organization for the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve (EBAP) and Estero Bay Preserve State Park located in Lee County, Florida. I am the Manager of the EBAP and work for Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA). Cheryl Clark, Environmental Specialist with EBAP brought the Power-Pole Shallow Water Anchor to my attention. Because EBAP had no funding for items that cost over \$1,000 and because we were sure the Power-Pole would be perfect for our use, we approached EBB about the possibility of requesting a donation of the anchor. Thankfully, Mr. McNeill contacted you at JL Marine Systems, Inc. and you graciously agreed to donate a Power-Pole for use on the EBAP 17' Whaler.

I want to thank you so much for the donation of the Power-Pole. All EBAP had to pay for was the installation, and we have been using it for both seagrass and bird rookery monitoring in Estero Bay for the past 1½ months. We LOVE it! It makes monitoring, and therefore management of the Aquatic Preserve so much more efficient, and protective of the seagrass beds and all the flora and fauna of the submerged lands we manage.

(continued on page 6)

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:

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Student \$5 (Ages 17 & under are free)

Contributing \$25

Non-Profit Organization \$25

Association (Homeowner, Condo or Civic) \$25

Supporting \$50

Business/Corporate \$100

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.

Please see reverse side for additional information

Meet One of Our "New" Board Members!



Ellen Peterson

Ellen is an original founding board member of the Buddies!

She has lived in Lee County since 1963. When Ellen lived on Fort Myers Beach, they started to try to get the bay declared a National Estuary, when Black Island started to be developed and the developers never stopped. She believed that a group was needed to do what the Buddies is now designed to do, so they worked with a DEP representative and it happened.

Besides the EBB, Ellen is also a member of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Agency on Bay Management, Calusa Sierra Club, Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Inc., SAVE Our Creeks, and a few others. Ellen says, "I think there is still a possibility that we may be able to save some of what's left. There should be a moratorium on all development of unplatted lands until what we have allocated is used... every lot!"

Welcome back to the board, Ellen!

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)

Please return this form to:
Esteros Bay Buddies, Inc.
 700-1 Fisherman's Wharf
 Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

(Power-Pole—continued from page 4)

Now, it is so easy – with a push of a button – to move and stop (“anchor”) along the transect with the snorkelers without having to worry about damaging the resources we are charged with protecting.

Bird rookery monitoring involves navigating around a mangrove island very slowly and at a certain distance away, while two



people look through binoculars counting bird nests, identifying the birds and whether or not there are chicks in the nests. Often, the captain is asked to go slower, faster, closer, further away, backwards, etc. Without the Power-Pole, and especially with wind, this maneuvering was difficult and loud - shifting and throttling the outboard back and forth. The noise can scare the adult birds off their nests which leave eggs and chicks vulnerable to predators and exposed to the elements. We drastically reduced the noise by installing and using a trolling motor, but we still had to deal with the wind. In the wind, with the Power-Pole, we can move ahead using the trolling motor and “anchor” quickly, and do this repeatedly in order to count nests accurately. The Power-Pole anchoring also allows us to grab the camera and take some quick pictures of the adult birds’ magnificent breeding plumage and cutest chicks before we have to move on.

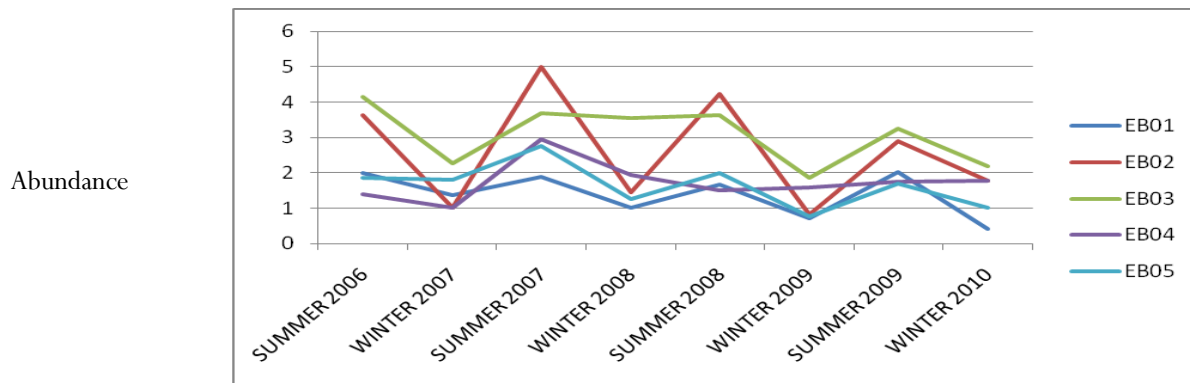
Thank you again and thank you for your interest in protecting productive seagrass beds here in Florida.”

Seagrass Monitoring Efforts in Estero Bay

By Stephanie Erickson

Our 2010 winter/spring seagrass monitoring season has finally been completed, albeit a little late due to the extreme cold temperatures during February. The atypical long stretch of low temperatures did not appear to have any short-term damaging affect on seagrasses; however, as overall total abundance levels were not unusually low for winter levels. Special thanks to all of our volunteers who helped out: Tom Winter, Steve Huss, Mike Campbell, Jim Hammond and Joe Beth.

Estero Bay AP Total Seagrass Abundance 2006-2010



Abundance:

1 = <5%, 2 = 6-25%, 3 = 26-50%, 4 = 51-75%, 5 = 76-100%

Estero Bay Buddies Attend Celebrate Estero Day

by Chris Christensen

On a cold and blustery Saturday in February, Chris and Jean Christensen joined about 30 other exhibitors and set up an information table at Miromar Outlets in conjunction with the seventh annual Celebrate Estero Day. The temperature was in the 50s and winds were blowing in excess of 20 mph, yet attendance by both exhibitors and visitors was extraordinary.

A chili cook-off by four of our local fire departments helped to keep us warm, a couple of our county commissioners kept us informed and the Southern Extreme Ski



Team kept us entertained. Joining Chris and Jean was Buddies' past President Dorothy McNeil – the all time “Buddies Best” for promoting our organization and educating the public about our mission and the importance of our work.

Literature, brochures, membership applications, calendars, coloring books, flyers, and kids toys were handed out to visitors. Hopefully, we informed the public and maybe even enticed a few to become Buddies in the near future.



ESTERO BAY BUDDIES

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If you would like to become an EBB member, or if it's time to renew your membership (your membership expires on the date in the upper right of the label)

please write a check to:

Estero Bay Buddies
and mail to:
700 – 1 Fisherman's Wharf
Ft. 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.

**RETURN ADDRESS:
ESTERO BAY BUDDIES
700-1 FISHERMAN'S WHARF
FT. MYERS BEACH, FL 33931**

WINTER SOLSTICE WARDROBE OFFER

EBB T-SHIRTS AWARDED FOR ANY \$10 OR MORE DONATION TO ESTERO BAY BUDDIES!

One free EBB T-shirt with a new membership!

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!

Colors are Turquoise, Granite or 40th Anniversary Clyde Butcher photo on white.

State size and color. Sizes range from S to XXL.

Estero Bay Buddies Hold Annual Meeting Honor Two Local Environmentalists

by Jim Wohlpart

The annual meeting open to all members of the Estero Bay Buddies was held at Koreshan State Historic Site on March 27, 2010. The meeting began with a tour of the historic Koreshan settlement, led by Robert Brooks, Park Manager.

A slate was then presented to the membership for the election of Board Members which included nominees for two year terms to expire in 2012 (Terry Cain, Jim Wohlpart, Chris Christensen, Jack Horner, Sherry Furnari, and Richard Cain); we had one

vacancy for these two year terms and Sarah Larsen was nominated to fill this spot. The slate also included those board members whose terms expire in 2011 (Dorothy McNeill, Reginald McNeill, Laura Estabrook, Sasha Linsin Wohlpart, Pam Rokoskie); we

had one vacancy for a slot to expire 2011 and Ellen Peterson was nominated to fill this vacancy.

The slate was approved by a vote of the general membership in attendance. The annual meeting was then closed and a board

meeting was called to elect officers. The following officers were elected: Laura Estabrook, President; Terry Cain, Vice President; Jim Wohlpart, Secretary; and Reggie McNeill, Treasurer.

The annual meeting was followed by a special honoring of two local environmentalists, Ellen Peterson and Wayne Daltry. Ellen has been a noted champion of our local rivers and has worked to save a great deal of land in the southwest Florida area. Wayne served as the Director of the Lee County Smart Growth Initiative over the last eight years. He has been a staunch advocate for controlled development and careful planning.

Two trails at the Estero River Scrub were dedicated to Ellen and Wayne to honor and memorialize their efforts. After their presentations, both Ellen and Wayne said a few words.

A lunch was then provided to all the members of the organization.

