



Upcoming Forum on Oil - Open to the Public



By Jim Wohlpart

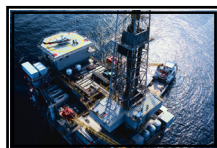
A special Forum on Oil will be held on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University on Friday, October 8, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Student Union Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public.

The forum will include panel presentations by scientists working on the oil spill and readings from authors in *Unspoiled: Writers Speak for Florida's Coast*. The event will be part of the International Humanities and Sustainability Conference; attendees to the Forum on Oil do not need to register for the conference, nor do they need to RSVP. After the reading, authors will be available to sign copies of the book.

In addition, all attendees are invited to the evening's keynote speaker, Patrick Murphy. Mr. Murphy has been working in literary ecocriticism since the writing of his

1983 MA thesis on spirituality and place in the poetry of Gary Snyder and Wendell Berry. He is Professor of English at the University of Central Florida and has edited and co-edited numerous books, including *The Literature of Nature: An International Sourcebook* and *Ecofeminist Literary Criticism*. Currently, he is focusing on literary and cultural representations of climate change and international water issues.

Patrick Murphy's presentation will occur on Friday, October 8, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Student Union Ballroom. The presentation is free and open to the public.



2nd International Humanities and Sustainability Conference

<http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/HandSCon/index.html>

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

National Estuaries Day / EBB Paddling Event :

September 25th, Saturday. Estero River Outfitters, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. See Page 6...

Great Outdoor Adventure Day—Along the Great Calusa Blueway:

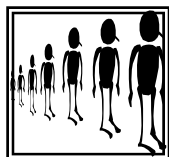
October 30th, Saturday. Lovers Key State Park, Ft. Myers Beach, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
See Page 7...

Marine Debris Clean Up—Monofilament Madness:

October 31st, Sunday. Mound House on Ft. Myers Beach, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

National Estuaries Day / A Free Day at the Bay:

November 6th, Saturday. San Carlos Bay—Bunche Beach Preserve.



Lee County's Population Drops Again

"For the second consecutive year, fewer people are living in Lee County, according to the Bureau of Economic Business Research at the University of Florida. The population fell 0.3 percent to 613,546 from April 2009 to April 2010. The population fell by 1.4 percent to 615,124 people between 2008 and 2009."

Source: Christina Cepero, News-Press Sept. 8, 2010

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 3

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.

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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

UnspOiled Debuts with Epic and Tragic Timing Coincidence – Florida Writers Draw a Line in the Sand

By Jim Wohlpart

When Florida lobbyists and legislators pushed to eliminate the long-standing ban protecting the Gulf of Mexico against oil drilling last fall, a group of Florida writers wondered how they could make their voices heard.

In a horrifying coincidence, "UnspOiled", an anthology of Florida writers writing on behalf of the Gulf, was released on June 11 by the Tallahassee-based Red Hills Writers Project (www.unspoiledbook.com).

Susan Cerulean, a Tallahassee writer and one of the anthology's editors, said: "When we began this project last fall, the thought of the Gulf Coast being ruined in our lifetime was only a distant nightmare. Now, just as our project comes to fruition, we are heartbroken, terrified and furious."

Cerulean continued: "But we are not powerless. Prior to the catastrophe there was no unified voice to match the lobbying power of big oil. We hope that our book will help generate support in favor of protecting our most precious coastline."

"Unspoiled is a love story, a collection of 38 essays, poems and even a short story about Florida's Gulf of Mexico, and a plea for its protection," said A. James Wohlpart, another of the book's editors, and a professor of environmental literature at Florida Gulf Coast University. Janisse Ray of Reidsville, Georgia is the book's third editor.

Local environmental educators, authors, scientists, and students contributed to the volume, including Bill Hammond, Mike Savarese, Myra Mendible, Jesse Millner, Marty Ambrose, Megan Melvin, Kat Wohlpart, and Mandie Rainwater.

What they are saying...

"A lively assemblage of strong arguments for the environmental preservation of Florida's wonderful wild coasts."

— Peter Matthiessen, *National Book Award-winning American novelist*

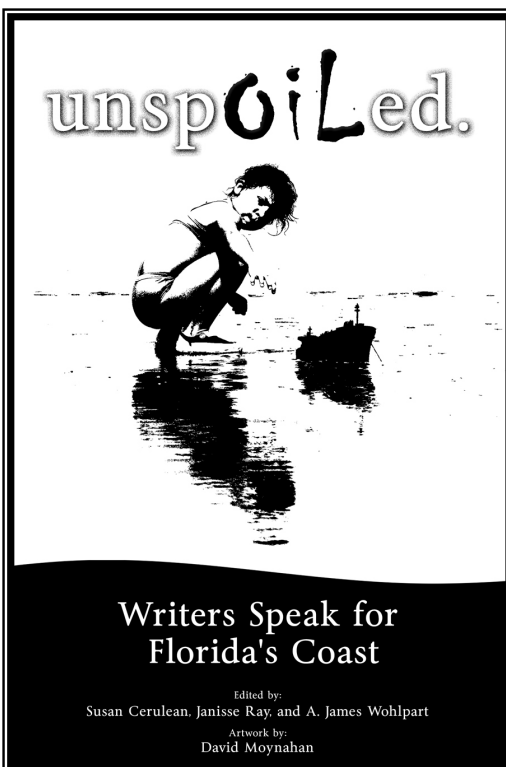
"A lyrical volume to remind Floridians that our coastline is not just our greatest natural asset. It's our greatest asset, period. Unspoiled also evokes another state treasure: our writers. Florida's literary luminescence shines from these pages."

— Cynthia Barnett, *Senior Writer at Florida Trend magazine, and author of Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*

"The potential benefits to Florida of offshore drilling are modest; the risks incalculable. Thirty eight writers have drawn a line in the sand and joined a growing chorus of voices across the state in support of the best of what Florida represents, now and in the future."

— John Moran, *nature photographer and author of Journal of Light: The*

Visual Diary of a Florida Nature Photographer



"If there was ever a time to stop drilling and move toward clean, renewable energy sources, this is the moment," Cerulean said.

Estero Bay Staff Travels to the Forgotten Coast

By Cheryl Parrott Clark

Greg Curry, from Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and I were asked to assist Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) staff in the excavation of Loggerhead Sea Turtle nests on Little Saint George Island in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. So on August 1st we headed north to the Forgotten Coast.



Monday, August 2nd, we met ANERR staff at the dock at 6:30am and made the trip out to Little Saint George Island where we carefully removed Loggerhead Sea Turtle eggs from their nests on the beach and relocated them to their new nests, styrofoam coolers. Nests were excavated 7-10 days before they were scheduled to hatch so the embryos were almost fully developed. The eggs were then transported, by boat, to the ANERR lab where they were held until 3am when they were moved to the FedEx "Gulf Turtle Rescue" truck for transport to the east coast. The eggs were kept at Kennedy Space Center, in the styrofoam coolers, until they hatched at which point they were released on the beach and crawled to the Atlantic Ocean.

On August 3rd the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) made the decision to stop the nest relocation program on Little Saint George Island. FWC continued to relocate nests on Saint George Island and the other surrounding beaches and islands so I continued to assist with the relocation efforts for two more days. Ultimately FWC stopped the turtle relocation program in Franklin and Gulf Counties on August 13th due to new information showing the risk to hatchlings entering the Gulf had diminished.

Instead of returning home to Estero Bay after only a few days we made a few phone calls and secured a new assignment on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Shoreline/Marsh Pre-Assessment Survey Team. On Friday, August 6th we started our new assignment conducting surveys at Tyndall Air Force Base. From there we worked our way east surveying Indian Pass, Saint Vincent Sound, Apalachicola Bay, Saint George Sound, East Pass and Alligator Harbor. We worked with representatives from EntrieX and Dade Moeller & Associates to collect and download data as well as local boat captains, also contracted by BP, who transported us to survey locations. We had the opportunity to work with some truly wonderful people. Survey locations were documented with GPS units and photographs. Data was collected on habitat type; presents or absence of oil; location and distribution of oil; dominant flora species were documented including height; and the presence or absence of fauna, identified by species.



On August 19th we packed our bags, brought the data we had collected to Tallahassee and made our way home.

The area was breathtaking with beautiful dunes, white sandy beaches and extensive marsh systems. The trip to the Forgotten Coast was a great experience both professionally and personally and it will not soon be forgotten.

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 Our Other New Board Member

Sarah Larsen



During our annual meeting, we elected two new board members. In our May newsletter, you met Ellen Peterson. Now meet Sarah...

Sarah has always felt a moral imperative to make the world a better place. In 2008, Sarah earned an Associates of Art degree from Montgomery College graduating with Honors. Sarah is currently an Honors student at Florida Gulf Coast University majoring in Marine Science and has experience as a lab assistant for the Coastal Watershed Institute.

In 2009, Sarah founded the Estero River

Conservancy, a grass roots organization dedicated to the care of the Estero River through education, science, and community involvement. Sarah is a board member of the Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program Citizen Advisory Committee, Southwest Florida Watershed Council, Audubon of Southwest Florida, and the Estero Bay Buddies.

Sarah is currently a candidate for Lee County Mosquito Control District Area 2. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys camping with her children and volunteering at CREW.

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

Estero Bay Buddies National Estuaries Day Paddling Event – Kayak Trip on the Estero River!

Saturday, September 25, 2010 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Estero River Outfitters, 20991 South Tamiami Trail Estero, FL 33928



In honor of National Estuaries Days, the Estero Bay Buddies, with help from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program, are offering three different paddles along the Estero River. This is an opportunity for people to learn about the wonders and beauty of the Estero River and to learn more about our own special estuary, the Estero Bay. Estuaries are areas where the rivers meet the sea and provide a home to many of the juvenile forms of fish and shellfish that are popular food items.

The Experienced paddle is a four-hour paddle downstream that departs at 8:15 a.m. The Intermediate paddle is a two-hour paddle downstream that departs at 8:30 a.m. The Beginner paddle is a one-hour paddle upstream with a basic paddling tutorial at 8:45 a.m. and departs at 9:00 a.m. Arrive early for registration. All kayaking equipment is provided. Bring your own refillable drink bottle. We will supply the water! It is recommended that you also bring a hat, sunscreen, binoculars and clothing/shoes that can get wet. The paddle meets at the Estero River Outfitters, 20991 South Tamiami Trail Estero, FL 33928. Call (239) 910-5091 for more information or call (239) 992-4050 to register. Each trip has a maximum capacity of twenty participants. \$10 per person.



STATE PARK TO HOST ANNUAL GREAT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE DAY

-Lovers Key partnering with Lee County to kick-off Great Calusa Blueway Festival-

FORT MYERS BEACH - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Lovers Key State Park will host the annual Great Outdoor Adventure Day on October 30, 2010. As part of the event this year, Lovers Key will partner with Lee County to celebrate the Great Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival. The event will feature canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard clinics and demonstrations, guided paddle tours, bike tours, beach walks, live animals, living pirate and Calusa history, a marine life touch tank, birding programs, a gopher tortoise burrow cam, fishing clinic, kids' games, solar observation through telescopes, and live music.

Admission to the event is included with the park entrance fee (\$8 per vehicle for up to 8 people, \$4 for single occupancy vehicle, and \$2 for pedestrians).



Several EBB members are attending and will have a booth set up containing environmental educational materials. Come, stop by and say hello!

Calusa Blueway



Paddling Festival

October 29 - November 7, 2010

www.CalusaBluewayPaddlingFestival.com

For additional information, contact the park office at (239) 463-4588 or visit www.floridastateparks.org/loverskey or www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com.

The event will take place:

Saturday, October 30, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Lovers Key State Park

8700 Estero Blvd

Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

For more info, contact:

Brie Ochoa, (239) 463-4588

brie.ochoa@dep.state.fl.us



ESTERO BAY BUDDIES

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 (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.

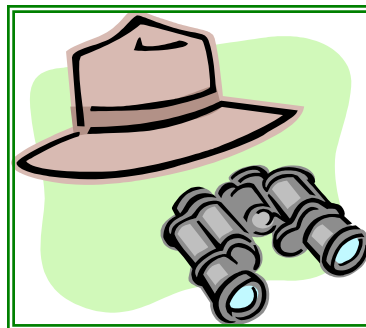
State size and color. Sizes range from S to XXL.

Attention Members: Since we will be e-mailing the newsletter to our membership in the future, we won't have the flexibility of showing when membership fees are due for each member. Therefore, in the future, we will also 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!!!

Buddies Say Good-bye to Steve & Hello to Jon



Congratulations to Steve Giguere on getting a well deserved promotion to Environmental Specialist II! Unfortunately he leaves behind Estero Bay Preserve State Park (EBPSP) and moved further north to Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park. Several Buddies attended a farewell dinner for him and provided him with a going away gift. We're happy that Steve gets to move closer to his wife, Katie, but sad to see him go...



Out of 69 applicants, Jon Meyer was the successful candidate to get the Environmental Specialist I position vacated by Steve. Jon has a BS Environmental Science degree from the University of West Virginia. Jon was a Park Ranger at Koreshan State Historic Site and had some experience working with Steve at various locations around EBPSP before the position became open. We'll learn more about Jon during future Buddies events and then take a photograph of him!