



TBEP Board Endorses Fertilizer Recommendations

In August, TBEP's Policy Board endorsed a series of recommendations for non-agricultural use of nitrogen fertilizers developed during four stakeholder workshops. The Board also instructed TBEP staff to develop a draft model ordinance for Board consideration at its November 14 meeting. If approved, local governments throughout the region would be encouraged, but not required, to adopt the ordinance.

Among the key recommendations from the stakeholder group:

- Fertilizer should not be applied within 10 feet of a waterway, unless a deflector shield is used. In that case, fertilizer could be applied up to 3 feet from a waterway.
- Licensing and certification should be required for all site supervisors and managers of lawn care companies that apply fertilizer.
- A baywide decal program for lawn care companies should be created so certification in one community is recognized by others throughout the region.
- Information about the nitrogen content of reclaimed water should be provided to customers using reclaimed water for lawn irrigation, so that they are aware that they may not need to apply as much fertilizer on their lawns.

Workshop participants also agreed to 11 additional consensus points, and emphasized the need for consistent education about proper use of fertilizer to homeowners, property managers, retail outlets and professionals in the lawn care industry. They could not reach agreement on whether to ban Nitrogen fertilizer applications during the summer rainy season. TBEP staff presented the two options voted on by workshop attendees. TBEP Policy Board members selected Option 1, a ban on non-agricultural Nitrogen fertilizer application between June 1-Sept. 30.

TBEP staff is now working with attorneys from several local governments to draft a model regional ordinance addressing the recommendations.

A report summarizing the workshop process and the resulting fertilizer recommendations, is posted at
<http://www.tbep.org/Fertilizer/FertilizerHomePage.html>

Donate Online to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program

<http://www.tbep.org/donate.html>

Now you can support TBEP's nationally recognized education, research, restoration and bay protection activities by making a donation online at www.tbep.org. Donations are processed through PayPal, a secure online payment processing system. All donations to TBEP are tax-deductible.

Your contribution will help us continue our successful restoration of Tampa Bay, Florida's largest open-water estuary, and one of only 28 specially designated Estuaries of National Significance in the United States.

Contributions support such programs as "Give A Day For The Bay" volunteer workdays, our annual Estuary Academy, and printing of educational materials like the Invasive Plant Field Guide and the Boating and Angling Guide to Tampa Bay.

Please join our partnership today!

Meet our "Volunteer of the Year"



Chandler Clarkson receiving his "Volunteer of the Year" award from TBEP Outreach Specialist Colleen Gray

Congratulations to Chandler Clarkson, TBEP's Volunteer of the Year for 2008!

The award is given for outstanding participation in the "Give A Day For The Bay" volunteer workday program. Chan is the 5th recipient of this award; former winners include Bob Minthorn and Sue Croley of Gibsonton, Stephanie and Chad Letson of St. Petersburg, Betsy Ilfeld of Apollo Beach and Mike Fite of Tampa.

Chan travels all the way from Lakeland to participate in our workdays! He's participated in workdays as far away as St. Petersburg, always with a smile on his face. He exemplifies the extraordinary dedication of

the many residents of all ages who come out to help restore and monitor area parks and preserves.

Chan enjoys sailing, kayaking, scuba diving and swimming, so he visits Tampa Bay and our area beaches often. And his love of the outdoors extends beyond his weekend activities. During the week, he works as a biologist for Ruesch Environmental Services, a consulting firm in Lakeland. One of his job duties is surveying gopher tortoise burrows so they can safely be moved or avoided during development -- a skill that came in handy at a recent "Give A Day" where volunteers mapped tortoise burrows on county property in Ruskin.

Before moving inland, Chan lived on Anna Maria Island. He volunteers for TBEP as a way to stay connected with marine issues, contribute to a worthwhile effort, and meet interesting people.

Thanks, Chan -- TBEP is so fortunate to have outstanding volunteers like you!

Estuary Academy To Focus on Bay's Wildlife

Saturday, November 8
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Weedon Island Preserve
St. Petersburg



Register Online at www.tbep.org

Join us for a fun-filled and educational day of lectures, workshops, and field activities about the wildlife of Tampa Bay, at the 2008 Estuary Academy!



This year's theme is "Wildlife in the Watershed." Through a series of short lectures and hands-on workshops, participants will learn about the mammals, amphibians, fish, and birds which inhabit the Tampa Bay area. Explore how wading birds fit their bills, why frogs sing, what kind of fishes live in bay waters, listen to bats, or take a guided canoe tour of the Preserve's diverse habitats. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch, goody bags and fabulous door prizes.

Participation is limited to 100 adults and children over 12, and **pre-registration is required.** Workshop availability is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boost your Bay I.Q. at the 2008 Estuary Academy!



Tribune Outdoors Editor Honored

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program recently recognized retiring *Tampa Tribune* Outdoors Editor Frank Sargeant for his outstanding efforts to educate area anglers about issues affecting Tampa Bay, and his strong support for bay restoration activities.

Frank, one of Florida's premier outdoors writers, is retiring after nearly 25 years at the *Tribune*. At TBEP's Management and Policy Board meeting in August, he was presented with a framed series of photos of a kingfisher swallowing a killifish at the Wolf Branch habitat restoration site in Hillsborough County. The photos were donated by Capt. Bryon Chamberlin, a local fly fishing guide and avid nature photographer.



TBEP Outreach Coordinator Nanette O'Hara presented Frank Sargeant with framed photographs of a kingfisher in Tampa Bay.

Frank will continue to write the weekly Outdoors Page for the *Tribune*, but will no longer be writing his twice-weekly columns that focused on conservation issues. He looks forward to being able to hunt and fish a little more, as well as spending more time with his grandchildren. He and his wife will split their time between the Tampa area and their retirement home on a lake in North Alabama.

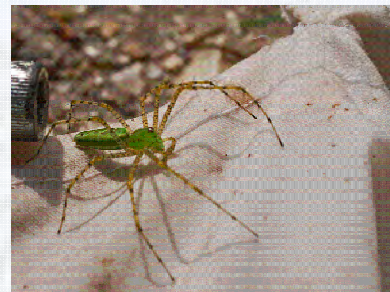
Thank you, Frank, for your tremendous support for restoring the bay!

Critter Count Celebrates Ruskin's Centennial



In honor of Ruskin's 100th anniversary as a community, TBEP's "Give A Day For The Bay" volunteers scoured the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center in August on a quest to find 100 animals in one morning!

When the hunt was over – and despite torrential thunderstorms—the 38 hardy volunteers had tallied 103 species on the nature trails at Camp Bayou! Not surprisingly, most of the critters were insects. Among the more unusual finds was this green lynx spider (pictured). Numerous species of moths, dragonflies and butterflies were also documented.



Volunteers noted their finds on data sheets, using GPS units, field guides, and cameras to identify and mark locations of species. Photos were downloaded and displayed in a slide show at lunch.

Thanks to Camp Bayou Director Dolly Cummings and all our wonderful volunteers for a truly fun and memorable workday! The next "Give A Day For The Bay" workday will be October 18 at Little Bayou in St. Petersburg.



A Fond Farewell



Heidi McCree receives a Diane Peebles' painting from Policy Board Chair Deborah Getzoff.

TBEP recently bid farewell to two longtime participants in our partnership.

Heidi McCree of Tampa retired as our Policy Board representative from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Heidi's involvement with TBEP dates back to the early days of our existence when she was a member of our Community Advisory Committee. Heidi was the original director of the Hillsborough River Greenways Task Force (now the Hillsborough River Watershed Alliance) and is currently on the board of the Tampa Bay Conservancy, a local land trust.

George Henderson is retiring from his job as a scientist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, and consequently is stepping down as FWC's representative on our Management Board. George has been actively involved with TBEP since the inception of the program back in 1991.

Thank you, George and Heidi, for your strong support over the years – you will be missed!