

# Bay Post

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An e-newsletter  
featuring Tampa  
Bay news and  
updates from  
the Tampa Bay  
Estuary Program  
[www.tbep.org](http://www.tbep.org)

A Boating And  
Angling Guide To  
*Tampa Bay*



## Reel In The New Tampa Bay Boater's Guide

The newly revised, information-packed Boating and Angling Guide to Tampa Bay is finally here! Pick yours up at a local bait or tackle shop, or contact [colleen@tbep.org](mailto:colleen@tbep.org) to have one mailed to you free of charge.

Produced by TBEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), this popular guide was last updated in 2004. Like previous guides, the new publication features a large, fold-out map of Tampa Bay, depicting channels, seagrasses, fishing piers, boat ramps, artificial reefs and other valuable boating information.

The new guide is printed in full color, and includes a variety of additional information, such as:

- Bridge clearances
- Bathymetry (water depth)
- Homeland security and manatee protection zones
- Tips on Ethical Angling and Boating Etiquette
- Designated Clean Marinas and Clean Boatyards

TBEP also has provided a grant to FWRI to create a digital version of the guide, with even more information. The web-based guide will be completed by summer.

## Recycle Your Electronics and Help TBEP this Earth Day!



TBEP will be the beneficiary of a charity recycling drive at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor during Earth Day week in April.

Innisbrook is joining with Intercon Solutions, a "zero landfill" electronics recycler, to host a recycling collection center to celebrate Earth Day. TBEP has been tapped to receive proceeds from this eco-friendly charity event.

Please help us out by taking your old or dead electronics (including TVs, computers, cell phones and microwave ovens) to the Innisbrook Resort on April 22-26 from 10 am to 5:00 pm.

On Sunday, April 26, Innisbrook will host an Earth Day festival, which includes a 5K Family Fun Run, environmental displays, and face painting and other activities for kids. TBEP will staff a table, so come on out and visit us -- and don't forget to bring your unwanted electronics for recycling!

Innisbrook Resort is located at 36750 U.S. Highway 19 North, Palm Harbor, FL 34684.

## TBEP Progress Report Now Online

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program is proud to present our *Progress Report to the Public 2009*. To view the 12-page report, click [here](#).

Through simple graphics and short summaries, the report highlights some of our recent achievements in bay-related research, management and community education. New projects on our short-term horizon also are featured.

At 18 years old, the TBEP partnership remains strong, thanks to your support. We look forward to your continued participation as we strive to keep Tampa Bay on the road to recovery.







TBEP's Colleen Gray gives Sandra Ripberger a thank-you cake at a recent CAC meeting

## CAC Changes

*Sandra Ripberger* of Bradenton has retired after two years as Co-Chair of our Community Advisory Committee. Sandy will remain on the committee, where she has helped to plan a community forum on fertilizer use and often volunteers to assist with special events.

*Cathy Quindiagan*, of St. Petersburg, will stay on as Chair of the CAC.

We also are welcoming three new members to the citizens' committee: *Merrie Lynn Parker*, a retired educator from Bradenton; *Ali Hudon*, Public Programs Director of The Pier Aquarium; and *Nadine Nickeson*, appointed by the city of Safety Harbor.

## USF TEAM TO EXAMINE MITIGATION'S ROLE IN HABITAT GOALS

As part of a comprehensive update of the Tampa Bay Habitat Master Plan, TBEP has contracted with researchers from the University of South Florida and the Balmoral Group to explore whether mitigation associated with development can be used to meet habitat restoration and protection goals.



Currently, acres restored through permit-related mitigation activities do not count toward TBEP's overall habitat recovery goals, although scientists recognize that properly conducted mitigation can provide a net habitat gain. TBEP's Technical Advisory Committee recommended that TBEP explore the potential for incorporating mitigation into the habitat targets.

The USF team, led by Dr. Tom Crisman, will examine legal, policy and economic aspects of this concept, and develop a framework for integrating mitigation activities, specifically for freshwater wetlands, into restoration goals. Among the project tasks, the team will estimate freshwater wetland changes (gains and losses) in the bay watershed since 1950, and develop performance-based standards for compensatory mitigation. This effort is being supported by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4.



## TBEP Director Recognized During Women's History Month Celebration

TBEP Executive Director Holly Greening was recently honored during the City of Tampa's Women's History Month celebration, which focused this year on the significant role of women in protecting the environment.

Greening was among several women recognized at an awards ceremony honoring Hillsborough County Commissioner Rose Ferlita. Also recognized were TBEP Policy Board Chair Deborah Getzoff, former TBEP Policy Board member Jan Platt, and former Community Advisory Committee Chair Dena Gross Leavengood. A special exhibit highlighting their accomplishments was on display in City Hall all month.

WFLA news anchor Gayle Sierens served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the program.



## Scoop that Poop!

Pooches for the Planet

### Pet Waste Doorhangers Available

TBEP thanks the Pebble Creek Homeowners Association of New Tampa for contributing funds to help us reprint 10,000 "Pooches for the Planet" doorhangers. Pebble Creek will be placing a doorhanger on all 1,360 homes in their community to inform homeowners about the importance of proper disposal of dog waste.

If your neighborhood wants to distribute doorhangers, contact [colleen@tbep.org](mailto:colleen@tbep.org) to get your supply.

We also can provide an article about the health and water quality impacts of pet waste for use in homeowner or condo association newsletters.

### Thanks For A Job Well Done!

TBEP congratulates the employees of the Manatee County Tax Collector's Office for their outstanding promotion of the Tampa Bay Estuary license tag during the month of January. Sales of the license tag in Manatee County increased from 8 in January 2008 to 37 in January 2009 as a result of the promotion.



This is the second promotion of the plate in Manatee County and once again the Palma Sola branch office led the way in Tampa Bay Estuary plate sales. Office supervisor Kathi Seger won a \$50 gift certificate to Bonefish Grill for selling more plates than any other employee.

Proceeds from the Tampa Bay Estuary license tag fund TBEP's Bay Mini-Grant program.

TBEP's "Give A Day For The Bay" volunteers have been busy performing Spring Cleaning workdays at area parks. In early March, TBEP co-sponsored a canoe cleanup at the Cross Bayou Canal in Largo with the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management.



Volunteers removed more than 4 tons of trash from the canal and surrounding land. And in late March, TBEP brought its "Give A Day" team to Boyd Hill Nature Park in St. Petersburg to remove invasive air potato plants.

The next workday will be *Saturday, April 18* at the McKay Creek Greenway in central Pinellas. Volunteers will remove trash along the creek as well as some floating water hyacinth and rooted invasive exotics such as Taro and primrose willow. Restoration of the creek shoreline is funded by a Bay Mini-Grant.

To volunteer, e-mail [colleen@tbep.org](mailto:colleen@tbep.org).





## Fertilizer Focus Groups Coming Up

TBEP has contracted with Market Insight of Sarasota to conduct focus groups to assess messages and methods for informing homeowners about proper use of lawn fertilizer.

Market Insight will conduct traditional, in-person Focus Groups in April and May, as well as two innovative online Focus Groups involving additional homeowners from our 3-county area. Participants will be asked to critique various educational messages under development, and discuss how those messages should be delivered (i.e. television, Internet, print ads).

This effort is the first step in developing a coordinated regional education campaign in conjunction with TBEP's Model Fertilizer Use Ordinance. A committee of local government, industry and community representatives is guiding the project.



## TBEP Summer 2009 Teacher Workshops

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program is conducting the following 2-day teacher workshops this summer utilizing its "Tampa Bay: Living Legacy" high-school teaching guide:

- Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Brooker Creek Preserve in North Pinellas.
- Tuesday, June 16 and Wednesday, June 17 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Palma Sola Botanical Park and Robinson Preserve in Bradenton.



Immerse your students in the natural and cultural history of Tampa Bay with this curriculum designed to accompany the award-winning "Tampa Bay: Living Legacy" documentary film. The curriculum is targeted to grades 9-12.

The first day of each workshop will be in a classroom setting while the second day will involve field activities outdoors.

Private and public school teachers who complete the workshop will receive a \$75 stipend. Participants also will receive a copy of the teaching guide on CD, a DVD of the film, and other resources.



Attendance is limited to 20 teachers per workshop, and pre-registration is required.

Call Nanette O'Hara at (727) 893-2765 or e-mail [nanette@tbep.org](mailto:nanette@tbep.org) to reserve your spot.