



Volunteers make the difference

Look at any program or project, and you will find that it is the volunteers that make the difference between just completion and a successful outcome. Last month was a great way to end the year with more valuable hours contributed by citizens of Calhoun County. As always, my sincerest appreciation goes to:

Thomas Stone, Mike Mitchell, Theresa Dent, Natalie Lyssy, Ken Burts, Tammy Gilbert, Jim Gilbert, Chris Scroggs, Lauren Scroggs, Tom Laughlin, Priscilla Burts, Tom Crenshaw, Tina Crow and Lacey Ekberg.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NOAA is seeking broad input on the draft policy from interested commercial and recreational

fishermen, communities, state and local governments, tribes, businesses, associations, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Learn more at

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/catchshare/index.htm

Water for People and the Environment Sierra Club Water Conference

United Way Resource Center, Houston.
Saturday, January 16th 2010, 9am - 4pm
<http://texas.sierraclub.org/>

Texas Aquaculture Association Conference & Trade Show in Bay City:

January 27-30, 2010.

www.texasaquaculture.org

International Conference on Sea Level Rise in the Gulf of Mexico in Corpus Christi. March 1-3, 2010.

<http://www.sealevelrise2010.org/index.htm>

Freshwater Inflows: 2010 and Beyond

Corpus Christi, Texas, 8-10 February 2010
www.freshwaterinflows2010.org



Rhonda Cummins

Coastal & Marine Resource Agent
Texas Sea Grant Extension Program
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
186 CR 101, Suite 1
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Phone (361) 552-9747

<http://kyakradio.tamu.edu>

Coastal & Marine Resource News

Calhoun County
January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Whooping Cranes

At nearly 5 feet (1.5 m) tall, whooping cranes are the tallest birds in North America. They have a wingspan of 7.5 feet (2.3 m). Whooping cranes are white with rust-colored patches on top and back of head, lack feathers on both sides of the head, yellow eyes, and long, black legs and bills. Their primary wing feathers are black but are visible only in flight. (Photo and description taken from <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/whooper/>)

From the Hooked on Seafood Cookbook:

TEXAS OYSTER NACHOS

1 pint fresh oysters
½ cup spicy red sauce
½ cup grated cheese
broken, salted tortilla chips
sliced jalapeno peppers

Drain oysters or shuck fresh ones. Place a few chip pieces in each shell, then an oyster on top. Add a dollop of red sauce and some grated cheese. Broil until the cheese melts and the edges of oysters curl. Top each nacho with a jalapeno slice. Serve hot, then make another batch. Makes 4 generous servings.

Children's Art Contest

WHO: All Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K-6 are invited to participate.

WHAT: 14th Annual Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. Entries must incorporate the slogan, "Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't Cool". Artwork must be displayed on 8 ½" X 11" flat page and can be any medium except computer generated. Three-dimensional art will not be accepted. All entries must include an entry/parental consent/student pledge form attached on the back.

WHEN: All submissions must be **postmarked by Monday, March 1st,**

2010 and mailed to the Texas General Land Office. Late submissions will not be accepted.

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach/artcontest.html>

Seafood Calculator

Visit www.howmuchfish.com for the only seafood calculator of its kind. It can help you determine how much fish you need to eat to reach the FDA's Reference Daily Intake of these nutrients (RDI, indicated in parentheses). It can also tell you how much fish is safe to consume based on the Environmental Protection Agency's "Benchmark Dose Lower Limit" for mercury content. As you can see, **the level of naturally occurring mercury in ocean fish is insignificant** in the portion sizes that consumers typically eat. Seafood gets a clean bill of health! This is good news for anyone who is eager to eat a delicious fish-rich diet and reap the health benefits

Plans to End LORAN C Service

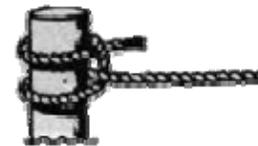
Late last month, the Coast Guard announced that it would begin phasing out its LORAN C navigation system beginning Jan. 4 of next year if, as expected, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano certifies that it is no longer needed as a backup for the satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS) that has replaced it on most commercial and recreational vessels. The shutdown was a mandated in the Congressional DHS appropriation bill signed into law by President Obama in October. The Coast

Guard has already certified that dispensing with LORAN C will not have an adverse impact on maritime safety.

LORAN was first developed as a navigational aid during World War II. The system is based on measuring the minute time difference in the receipt of radio signals from transmitters sited at known locations. By measuring the time difference using two pairs of stations, it is possible to determine the receiver's geographic location using specialized charts showing "time difference lines". Because of the relatively short range of the radio signals, LORAN was used primarily within a few hundred miles of shore at most.

http://www.fenceviewer.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24613:Coast%20Guard%20Announces%20Plans%20to%20End%20LORAN%20C%20Service,%20Again&catid=39:maritime&Itemid=65

Know your knots: Clove Hitch



This newsletter is available online @
<http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.