



It's "Thank You" time again

As I said last month, I am very fortunate to have each and every one of you that volunteer to help make my programs in Calhoun County the success that they are.

As always, I appreciate the support of my Marine Advisory Committee, and special thanks this month to all the volunteers of the beach cleanup, Boy Scout Troop 361, and the following individuals:

Jack LaBarge, Debbie Dugan, Jackson & Jasmine Gordon, Priscilla & Ken Burts, Thomas & Genny Stone, Jim & Tammy Gilbert, Teri Austin, Philip Bird, Norman Boyd, Sherrie Krause, Vinnie Treglia, Megan Wright, Betty Cummins, Melissa Graff, Mike Mitchell, Lacey Ekberg, and Katherine Sutherland.

I also want to thank the following businesses for their support of the Magnolia Beach Clean-up:

Coca-Cola, Waste Management, J & T's One Stop, Wright Engineering, Port Lavaca Wave, Port Lavaca Chamber of Commerce, Strictly Business, Walmart, Hollerbach Associates, and Del Papa Distributors.



Don't forget to check out the Calhoun County Fair which runs October 13 – 18 this year. There will also be a PRO RODEO on October 17 & 18. Visit <http://www.calcofair.org> to learn more.



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Coastal & Marine Resource News

Calhoun County
October 2009

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Gulf toadfish (*Opsanus beta*)

Also known as the Dogfish is among several species that are well camouflaged for rocky estuary or bay bottoms. If you ever see or catch a Gulf toadfish, your first response may be "UGLY FISH!", however it isn't venomous, just ugly. Strangely enough, it can also survive very stressful conditions like wide ranges in salinity or high levels of ammonia. To learn more about this and other amazing fish, visit: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/didyouknow/amazingfish.phtml>

From the Hooked on Seafood Cookbook:

ONION BAKED FILLETS

2 lbs. skinless fish fillets
1 cup plain yogurt
1 cup “lite” mayonnaise
1 package (1.6 oz.) original ranch
salad dressing mix
1 can (2.8 oz.) French fried
onions, crushed
½ tsp. salt

Cut fillets into serving –sized portions. Sprinkle with salt. Combine yogurt, mayonnaise and salad dressing mix in a flat pan. Place crushed onions in another flat pan. Dip fish into yogurt mixture, then press into crushed onions. Place fish on a well-greased baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes per inch of fish thickness or until fish is opaque. Makes 4 to 6 servings. (I made this the other night and it was awesome!)

Adopt-a-Beach results

AUSTIN — More than 8,200 volunteers joined forces Saturday for Operation Target Trash, the 23rd Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup. The volunteers removed nearly 217 tons of trash off more than 194 miles of Texas coast. “The Adopt-A-Beach troops came out in full force, and I want to

thank them all,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “This program wouldn’t work without these dedicated Texans.”

In Calhoun County, 38 volunteers registered at King Fisher Beach in Port O’Connor and collect 1,225 pounds of trash from one mile of bay beach. Magnolia Beach had 151 registered volunteers who sacked up 4,550 pounds from six miles of bay beach.

Grand total for the efforts in our county: 189 wonderful volunteers and 5,775 pounds of trash that will no longer be part of the marine debris issue. A great big **THANK YOU** goes out to all those who helped make the fall cleanup a success.

Gulf of Mexico – NOAA Cracks Down on Illegal Charter Boat Operations

After receiving multiple complaints about allegedly illegal charter boat trips undercutting legal businesses, undercover agents with NOAA’s Office for Law Enforcement and state special operations divisions from Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas chartered trips on vessels across the Gulf of Mexico and documented numerous violations for vessels operating without federal charter boat moratorium permits. Other federal fisheries violations were also documented during the one-year operation, including undersize fish, harvesting fish during a closed season, filleting fish at sea, concealing fish from

enforcement, and failure to use venting tools, de-hookers and circle hooks to fish for reef fish. Anyone with information regarding illegal charter fishing should contact the national hotline at 1-800-853-1964. For more information, read the NOAA news release at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews/2009/09292009.htm#anchor4>

Guide for Coastal and Waterfront Planners & Developers

NOAA, the EPA, the International City/County Management Association and Rhode Island Sea Grant have jointly released a guide to bring smart growth to waterfront communities. It offers ten guidelines to help coastal communities balance development with the environment and the economy, while maintaining the quality of life that makes these communities attractive. Learn more at: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090909_smartgrowth.html

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

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