



MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

I want to thank several members of our county for agreeing to serve on the Marine Advisory Committee: Norman Boyd, Herb Wittliff, Kay McPherson, Teri Austin, Jack LaBarge, Terry Whitaker, Sherrie Krause, Shelly Crow, Philip Bird, Robert Sanders, and Jim Munro.

These individuals will help me plan programs that are meaningful to our coastal businesses and residents. The committee has been dormant for some time now, so it means even more to have these individuals stepping forward to assist me.

If anyone else is interested in becoming involved, just email or phone me. There will also be opportunities to work on specific task forces as projects and programs are refined. We can make a difference in our county.

LOW POWER RADIO

We are making progress towards getting on the air but still have volunteer opportunities available to any and all that would like to help write or record radio script segments. We can always use more writers, editors, proofreaders, subject matter experts, radio voices, etc.

Remember, our goal is to teach people about the rich local history, wildlife, flora, fauna, wetland ecology, beach safety, and other related topics. Our plan is to be on the air before summer starts.

Please help me collect as many tennis ball cans as possible. Just save them and either drop them off at my office at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds, or give me a call. We'll work out a pick-up.



Rhonda Cummins
Coastal & Marine Resource Agent
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
186 CR 101
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Phone (361) 552-9747
<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/>

Coastal & Marine Resource News

Calhoun County
April 2009

HAPPY EASTER!



LA SALLE SHIPWRECK PROJECT

The *Belle* is one of the most important shipwrecks ever discovered in North America. The excavation, conducted in a cofferdam in Matagorda Bay, lasted almost a year and produced an amazing array of finds, including the hull of the ship, three bronze cannons, thousands of glass beads, bronze hawk bells, pottery and even the skeleton of a crewmember. The one million artifacts represent a kit for building a 17th-century European colony in the New World. (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/belle/>)

CRISP BAKED FISH

2 lbs. skinless fish fillets
¼ cup milk
¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons melted margarine
1 cup finely crushed cornflakes,
bread or cracker crumbs

Cut fish into serving size portions. Combine milk and salt in a flat pan and place crushed cornflakes or crumbs in another pan. Dip fish portions in milk, then in cornflakes. Place on prepared baking sheet. Drizzle Fish with margarine. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes per inch of fish thickness.

ADOPT-A-BEACH

Seems like it's almost that time again, so grab the sunscreen and come on down on Saturday, **April 25th**. Check in time is at **9 a.m.** and the cleanup lasts until noon, rain or shine!

Check in for the **Magnolia Beach** cleanup is at the Crabbin' Bridge. The site co-coordinator is Sheri McMahan. Contact her at 713-557-0676 or magnoliabeach@texasadoptabeach.org for more details.

In Port O'Connor, check in at the **Kingfisher Beach** Park with Debbie Gayle. Her contact number is 361-983-

4647 or by email at debbie.gayle@texasadoptabeach.org

Don't forget to pick a site and call the coordinator. Wear sunscreen, shoes, sunglasses, and a hat. Bring plenty of drinking water. Be careful not to disturb the habitat of nesting shorebirds.

I will be where Hwy 87 ends at **Bay Front Park** in Port Lavaca with the tandem kayaks for anyone wanting to help me clean areas inaccessible by land. I need some seasoned paddlers to help with this cleanup effort along our city's recreational area.

April 22, 1970, is considered by some to be the first Earth Day, marking the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Since you probably cannot get off work to pitch in on that Wednesday, come on down Saturday to help beautify Calhoun County for our neighbors and ourselves.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

As I complete my work with Sea Grant on the economic loss assessment of the fisheries infrastructure in Galveston Bay and Sabine Lake caused by Hurricane Ike, the calendar moves us ever closer to the start of the 2009 Hurricane Season.

One can only hope that this season will be less destructive than last year. A record - setting six consecutive named storms

made landfall in the United States, and three of them were in Texas: Dolly, Edouard, and Ike. As we all know, hoping is not always enough. So please look for opportunities to learn more about how you and your family can have a plan of action and stock up on your supplies early as different items go on sale.

Port Lavaca Harbormaster Jim O'Neil and I are planning a workshop for boaters to be held at the Fairgrounds' Ag Building on the morning of Saturday, May 16th. Save the date and more details will follow next month.

EMAIL OR U.S. POST?

If I have an e-mail address for you, I am sending this to you via the internet. If I only have a mailing address for you, I am sending this to you by the postal service. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, send me an e-mail at rdcummins@ag.tamu.edu so I will have your address. Likewise, if you would really rather receive this in a stamped envelope, let me know that too. Also, if you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter, let me know who they are so I can add them to the list.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE @ <http://calhoun-tx.tamu.edu>

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