



# THE SALT LINE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
SOUTH ALABAMA LAND TRUST

Friends of Weeks Bay Reserve - Winter 2020 (Vol. 1, No. 2)



# 30

## YEARS OF PROTECTING COASTAL HABITATS

### TODAY

- **700**  
Members
- **9,500**  
Acres of protected habitat including  
along the Alabama coastline
- **\$11,780,946**  
Total value of protected land

## OUR HISTORY

**1986**  
2,693 acres of initial protected habitat  
of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine  
Research Reserve

**1990**  
Weeks Bay Foundation incorporated

**1992**  
Weeks Bay Foundation's first land acquisition

**1993**  
First land in Baldwin County donated  
to Weeks Bay Foundation

**1997**  
Acquired Safe Harbor RV Park  
and Fish River Marina at auction

**1998**  
First land in Mobile County donated  
to Weeks Bay Foundation

**2009**  
Accredited by the Land Trust  
Accreditation Commission

**2009**  
First conservation easement in Baldwin County

**2011**  
First conservation easement in Mobile County

**2015**  
Transferred 143 acres to State of  
Alabama Forever Wild program



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The mission of the South Alabama Land Trust is to protect land and promote environmental education so current and future residents can enjoy clean water and the marine life, wildlife, and outdoor recreation that define our area.

As the Board of Directors and staff of South Alabama Land Trust (SALT) reflect on our current global health crisis and the impact on our community, we find ourselves also reflecting on our organization, our mission, and our short and long-term impacts.

Now, more than ever, people need land – to provide fresh food, clean water and air, and places to experience joy and respite in nature. This is South Alabama Land Trust’s mission for the long haul.

As I look back on 2020, I see the challenges and uncertainties we’ve faced and overcome. But I also see accomplishments and new beginnings. This year, SALT partnered with two municipalities – the City of Gulf Shores and the City of Mobile – on land conservation projects totaling more than 900 acres.

We are currently working with a property owner to place a conservation easement on his 478-acre property in Blacksher, in north Baldwin County, on the Alabama River. The property has been in the family for decades, and the easement will ensure that it will always be protected and always retain its natural beauty. Through conservation, the legacy and memories will be passed on to future generations.

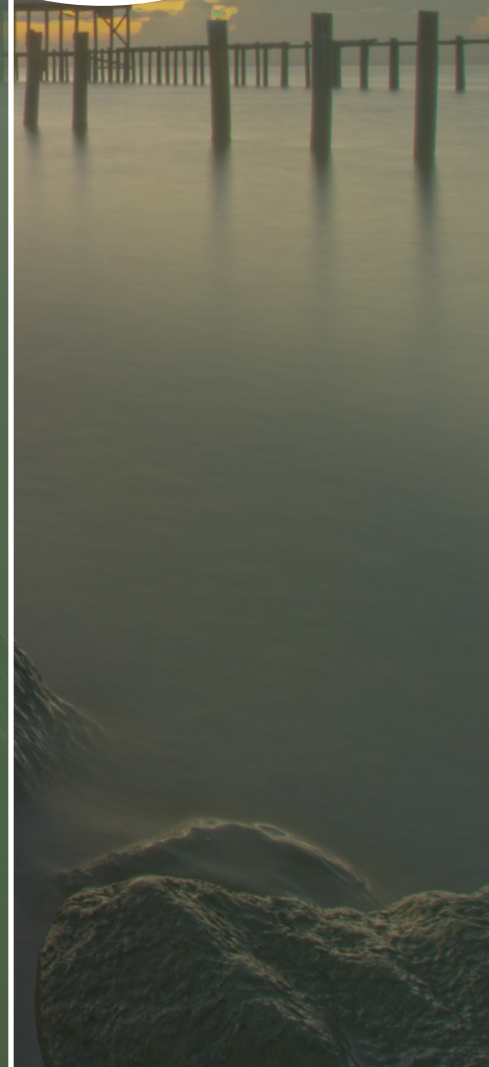
Lastly, we worked hand-in-hand with the Holmes family and the State Lands Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to protect 95-acres of waterfront property at the confluence of Magnolia River and Weeks Creek. Eventually, there will be walking trails on the property, as well as a nice stopping point on the river for kayaker or canoers.

Investing in the conservation of land, nature, and our environment is long lasting. We know that protecting vital habitats through purchase, donation and conservation easements are all important parts of that defense, and we will continue to make them a priority for this community. When we all work together, SALT can continue to preserve the scenic beauty, historic character and natural resources of coastal Alabama. Thanks to all of you who make up the fabric of our conservation efforts!

Please take care of yourselves and your families, and enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.



Connie Whitaker



FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Beth Tattersall

# SALT EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

One thing that unites us as a nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the open spaces they love. Since 1990, South Alabama Land Trust (SALT), formerly Weeks Bay Foundation, has been doing just that for the people of Baldwin and Mobile counties. Today, SALT announces it has been awarded renewed land trust accreditation – proving once again that, as part of a network of more than 400 accredited land trusts nationwide, it is committed to professional excellence and to maintaining the public’s trust in its conservation work.

“Renewing our accreditation shows SALT’s ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in south Alabama,” Ellis Allen, chairman of the board of directors said. “The accreditation renewal process is rigorous, but it makes us stronger. That strength means special places – such as the 91-foot parcel we recently protected on Magnolia River – will be protected forever, making coastal Alabama an even greater place for us and our children.”

South Alabama Land Trust provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded renewed accreditation, signifying its confidence that SALT’s lands would be protected forever.

According to SALT Executive Director Connie Whitaker, the land trust added another 1,200 acres this year to the 9,500 it had already protected from development. The most recent was a conservation easement agreement with the City of Mobile to protect 96 acres on Perch Creek.

“Our renewed accreditation should give our donors, our volunteers, and the communities within our watersheds peace of mind,” Daniel Galbraith, chairman of SALT’s Land Acquisition Committee said. “The Commission’s review and approval of our past land deals and conservation efforts is a big deal. We take conservation seriously, and we want our supporters to know we hold ourselves to high standards.” - DB

# LIVING SHORELINES OFFER NATURAL RESILIENCE



Wetlands and other natural, living shorelines are vital to the health and sustainability of our coastal lands in south Alabama. When those coastal buffers and the adjacent property are threatened, landowners are faced with protection decisions.

Living shorelines are designed to use natural materials to stabilize an area and maintain valuable fish and wildlife habitat. They present an ecological and economic alternative to hardening shorelines with bulkheads or allowing destructive erosion to continue. The strategic placement of natural components along the shoreline can provide erosion control and maintain coastal processes.

Like naturally vegetated coastlines, living shorelines can help reduce wave energy and storm impacts, reduce erosion and property loss, trap sediments, improve water clarity, filter pollutants and provide important fish and wildlife habitat.

"Living shorelines do it in a natural way that allows plants and sediment to fill in naturally," explained incoming SALT board member Brett Gaar and vice president at Volkert, Inc., an engineering and environmental services firm. "In that area where the land and water meet, that's important."

There are many reasons to use living shorelines instead of more structured controls like bulkheads, Gaar said. "The

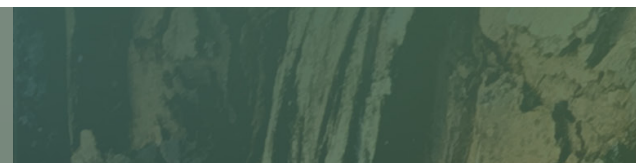
most important consideration is what non-living shorelines do to adjacent property. Downstream, it gets starved of sand, and upstream there's a sediment build up."

Gaar sees use of living shorelines as an important way to protect coastal lands and existing habitats. In that way, he said, they fulfill a mission similar to that of SALT—protecting land and water in south Alabama.

"The easiest habitat you can protect is on land that you own," he said. "That's as good as it gets. It's a whole lot easier to manage it from the beginning than to have to restore it." His company works with agencies and organizations to create watershed management plans to address the combination of protection, usage and restoration needs for local waterways and their surroundings.

In many cases, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a partner in implementing key elements of those plans, including living shoreline projects in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Protecting land and water is pillar of TNC's mission, according to Judy Haner, marine and freshwater programs director for The Nature Conservancy in Alabama.

"Building community resilience is a priority for The Nature Conservancy," Haner said. "To do this, we are using nature-based and hybrid solutions to enhance or restore the environment, but also to support the



economy and community.”

These projects, she explained, are successful because of the partnerships between organizations and the hard work of a collection of staff and volunteers.

“We rely heavily on partners for our projects, from local governments, coordinating their needs, to other non-profits supplying volunteers for the project, or to academics like Dauphin Island Sea Lab to provide monitoring support,” Haner said. “The communities have also been substantially engaged in our projects and are critical to our success. If an entity wants to be involved, I am sure there is a role. We would not succeed without our partners.”

Since 2005, The Nature Conservancy, Alabama Department of Conservation, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mobile County and other partners have worked with stakeholders to install more than 13 miles of reef at 23 locations across the Alabama Gulf Coast. Another five projects, encompassing more than five miles, have been approved for construction in the next couple of years.

Haner noted that monitoring is a critical



component of TNC’s work, determining whether the projects are working as intended or if adjustments need to be made for better results. Positive results are already being realized, she noted, as proven by the impact of the 2020 hurricane season on a current project at Lightning Point in Bayou LaBatre.

“This summer we have had four storms – Cristobal, Sally, Delta and Zeta – come through our project area,” she recalled. “The first occurred 45 days before construction was complete! Lightning Point performed to standards on all accounts and only had minor damage from Hurricane Zeta, which was the most impactful, with a 7.8-foot storm surge. If the project (living shoreline) were not in place, the site would have suffered substantial damage. If we can get more of these living shorelines in place, we have a solid chance of helping to protect our coastlines and communities.” -- CB

# PROTECTING WATERWAYS

What better way to protect a beloved river and bay than to protect the critical land and waters upstream?

South Alabama Land Trust recently entered into a Conservation Easement (CE) agreement with the City of Mobile to protect 96 acres on Perch Creek off Dauphin Island Parkway, just west of Mobile Bay and north and east of Dog River.



Beth Tattersall

"The Perch Creek Preserve will protect critical fish and wildlife habitat, coastal streams, forests and brackish marsh that are all essential parts of our estuary," Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson said. "Perch Creek also includes some of the last undeveloped areas of the Dog River

watershed, and this property serves as a natural filter for runoff from adjacent roads and residential and commercial properties."

The brackish marshes on the property provide nursery habitat for fish and other aquatic life, while the forested areas provide habitat and natural corridors that allow wildlife to migrate to and from natural areas near the property. The wetlands also store stormwater and help control flooding.

"We believe it is important to protect these sensitive areas where we can, but the Perch Creek Preserve will also help connect Mobilians to nature and to each other," Stimpson said. "Preserving these parcels in Perch Creek allows us to explore low-impact features like nature trails and kayak and canoe launches that can help expand public access to our natural resources."

"Thanks to trusted partnerships and conservation supporters, crucial land and water resources on this property are now permanently protected," Connie Whitaker, executive director of South Alabama Land Trust said. "What happens upstream affects the quality of life of everyone who enjoys Dog River and Mobile Bay. We commend the City of Mobile for taking this important step toward protecting the quality of life of this and future generations." -- DB







# WEEKS BAY RESERVE FROM THE MANAGER'S OFFICE

Greetings from the manager's desk at the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. We hope the upcoming holiday season finds you celebrating the bounty of coastal living. 2020 continues to be a year of curve balls, and like many on the Alabama coast, the Reserve is continuing to recover from the damaging effects of Hurricane Sally.

While the buildings at the Reserve were thankfully spared significant damage, our visitor center boardwalk and hiking trails took the brunt of the storm and were impacted by numerous downed trees. We appreciate the patience of our many visitors as we work towards removing hazardous overhead snags and repairing the boardwalk structures. We will update the public as we reopen segments of trails and boardwalks.

Flexibility has been key to overcoming the obstacles experienced by all in 2020. The WBNERR education team has been working hard to adapt field trips, along with experiences that time spent outside can provide, to virtual or distanced programs.

One opportunity educators Angela Underwood and Clara Zubrick facilitated involved a visit to Elberta Middle School. They spent a full day sharing the natural history and ecology of Weeks Bay with more than 100 7th and 8th grade art students.

As schools are not allowed to take field trips this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff brought the estuary into the classroom! They brought interactive presentations on Weeks Bay habitats, including videos from around the Reserve, and preserved animal specimens. This served to showcase the biodiversity and abundance of life found in Weeks Bay, inspired a mural painting, under the direction of art teacher Linda Hill, that will be submitted to the 2020 Wyland National Art Challenge.

The competition is just one example of how art and science can work together to instill in students a curiosity and passion for the natural world. The art challenge enriches their education in coastal sciences, and encourages them to become involved in conservation issues.

The Reserve educators also spoke to the students about marine debris and how it is one of the major threats to coastal ecosystems.

**continued on page 11**

# NATURE CORNER

*We are surrounded by natural beauty in south Alabama. From native plants to aquatic species to bird and wildlife habitats, there is much to see and much to learn. In **Nature Corner**, we will cover all things indigenous to our place on the planet. The more we know, the more we grow to love and protect the beauty that surrounds us.*

## **American Beauty Berry**

American Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*) is a large, open, irregularly-shaped woody shrub that grows to about 10 feet tall and has distinctive bright-green foliage. The pointed leaves with their sharp teeth on the edges are deciduous and can be up to about 8 inches long. They are a favorite of white-tailed deer.



In the spring, masses of small white or pale pink flowers occur near the stalks of the opposite leaves. Rounded clusters of small fruits, noticeable as they ripen to an attractive purple color in late summer and fall, follow the flowers. Unfortunately, the fruit does not taste nearly

as good as it looks, but is sometimes made into jelly, preserves, and wine. The fruit is an important winter food for many birds, including thrashers, cardinals, mocking birds, and bobwhite quail.

Since pioneer times, farmers and stockmen have inserted leafy American Beauty Berry twigs beneath the bridles of horses and mules to keep biting insects away from their faces. For many years, herbalists have reported that *Callicarpa* leaves, when rubbed on the skin, are an effective insect repellent. Apparently, it really works! United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) researchers established that four chemicals isolated from *Callicarpa* are effective as insect repellents. According to Science Daily, one of them, Callicarpenal, has been patented by the USDA Research Service as an insect repellent.

American Beauty Berry is a common shrub in the southeast, from Maryland to Missouri, west to Texas, and south through Florida. It grows on well-drained sites, including at the South Alabama Land Trust properties on Fish River, and throughout the Weeks Bay Reserve.

Since it is so frequently seen, it is often dismissed or viewed as a weed. Our familiar American Beauty Berry deserves another look as an attractive, durable, native shrub that feeds the birds, and can even keep the bugs away! -- **Fred Nation**

## FROM THE MANAGER'S OFFICE continued from page 9

Students then asked about ways they could become active in preventing, or solving, the problems plastic pollution creates in their watershed.

As we move into another season of change, we encourage you to integrate nature into other aspects of your daily life. Take time to enjoy the subtle changing of colors in our native trees and vines. You may be surprised by the beauty you find. Take a drive along rural roads and marvel at the numbers and diversity of wintering birds-of-prey driven south by each approaching cold front. Take pause at the end of each day to watch the kaleidoscope of colors provided by the setting winter sun. Most importantly, take a few minutes each day to be thankful for restorative power of spending time in nature and for those who work hard to protect it.

Pictured opposite page -  
Mural created by  
Elberta Middle School students



## 2020 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



Gifts of \$250 or more will receive the 2020 South Alabama Land Trust/Weeks Bay Reserve ornament celebrating our 30th anniversary.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

So far this year, you've helped protect 1,200 MORE acres for plant and wildlife habitat, clean water, nursery grounds for marine life, storm surge protection, and outdoor recreation, bringing our total protected properties to more than 9,500!

From Oyster Bay in south Baldwin County, to Perch Creek in Mobile County, this has been a big year for conservation across south Alabama. And we are not done yet!

With another project scheduled to close by year-end, and new projects next year, WE NEED YOUR HELP to continue this momentum and protect critical natural resources.

Please consider a year-end, tax-deductible donation today! For online donations, visit [southalabamalandtrust.org/general-donation](https://southalabamalandtrust.org/general-donation), or mail to:

South Alabama Land Trust  
11401 US Hwy 98  
Fairhope, AL 36532

# 30 YEARS 30 SUPPORTERS

South Alabama Land Trust has thrived for 30 years thanks to hundreds of supporters ranging from casual volunteers to major donors to landowners.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we are telling stories of 30 individuals who have put their stamp on local conservation through their time, talent or treasure. We hope that in reading their stories you will meet an assortment of like-minded people who enjoy the abundance of natural resources—the land, the water, and the wildlife—in south Alabama, and who are doing their part to protect what we have today, and for the tomorrows of those who come behind us.

## JIMBO MEADOR

In south Alabama, our natural resources define our way of living, our daily pleasures. There are some people, however, who know better than most of us just how precious these resources are, and how not protecting them can change our lives in ways we can only imagine.

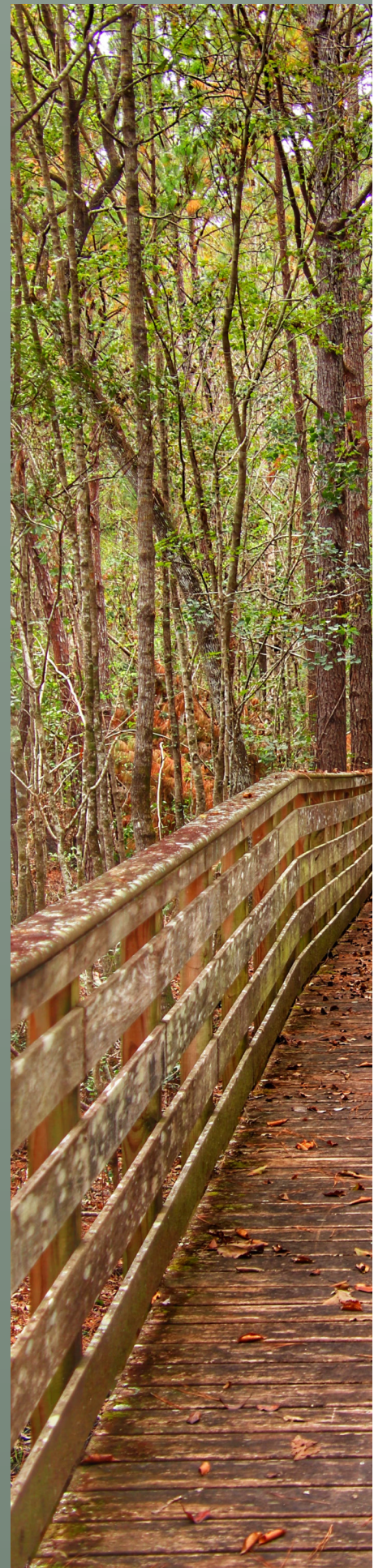


Jimbo Meador

Jimbo Meador is one such person. A certified Master Naturalist, Jimbo has more than 60 years of experience roaming the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. He's made a living on or from the waters here, including running tugboats and shrimp boats, teaching fly fishing and acting as a fly fishing guide for Orvis, covering the entire Gulf Coast as regional business manager for Orvis, and designing fishing kayaks and paddle boards.

"I've been making a living in the outdoors and outdoor-related business since I was a kid," Jimbo said. "My first boat, when I was 5 or 6 years old, was a cross-plank cypress skiff that you row. My buddy in Mobile made me my first cast net back then, and we would go fishing every chance we could. We sold everything we caught, except what we ate."

Back when the water was clear in Mobile Bay, Jimbo would swim from his house on the bay to the Grand Hotel every day he was home. Today,



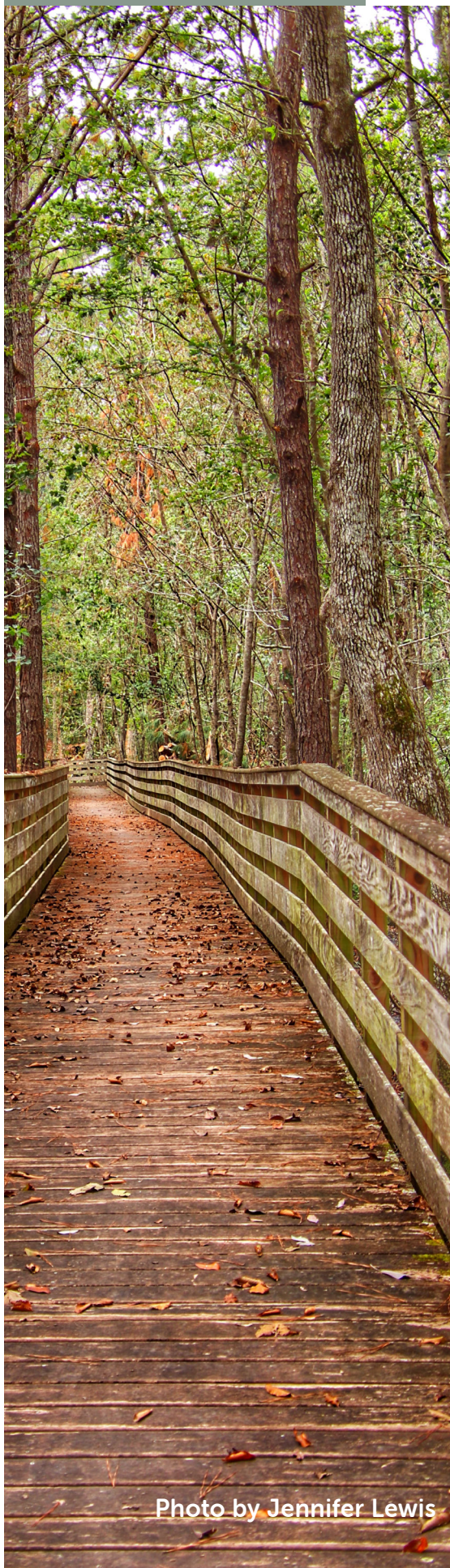


Photo by Jennifer Lewis

he makes the trip on a paddle board or in his kayak. He also recalled being able to go spearfishing and floundering. "You could walk right out in the Bay and scoop up mullet off the bottom because the water was so clear."

Up until COVID, Jimbo was known for his tours of the Mobile Tensaw-Delta. Part of his motivation was to educate people about "what we're doing that harms the Delta, and what we can do to protect it." He understands all too well what's at stake if we don't protect these invaluable resources.

The Delta is a huge nursery ground for marine life. Years ago, there were huge grass flats in Mobile Bay that served as nurseries for juvenile seafood, Jimbo recalled. Those grass flats are gone now. "You can't have clear water without grass flats, and you can't have grass flats without clear water. It's a serious problem, but what are we going to do about it?"

Jimbo talks about creating buffer zones between developments and waterways. "When I take people up in the Delta, I talk to them about why buffer zones are important. I hope it will encourage landowners – developers, farmers, homeowners – to set aside some land to create those buffers between the land and the water."

## DAVE WIRTES

More than 10 years ago, Point Clear resident Dave Wirtes became the first landowner to enter into a conservation easement agreement with the then Weeks Bay Foundation. This was an important step toward protecting wetlands and pristine wildlife habitat, and it set into motion



Julie and Dave Wirtes

other conservation easements with individuals and organizations, thus protecting land in perpetuity.

The Wirtes easement is on a 100-acre parcel toward the south end of Caldwell Swamp, on the east side of Scenic 98 in Point Clear.

"I saw the value in preserving and protecting the wetlands," Dave, a resident of Point Clear since 1990, said. "I saw this pristine habitat that is in close proximity to a lot of houses on Mobile Bay. Protecting it in perpetuity, and allowing South Alabama Land Trust to manage it, seemed like the right thing to do." -- DB

# PICTURES OF BEAUTY



1st Place Flora - Teani Parker



1st Place Habitat - Beth Tatersall



Tie - 1st Place People in Nature - Brent Cole



Tie - 1st Place People in Nature - Kaylei Bryant



1st Place Fauna - Laurie Schaerer

With more than 220 submissions, South Alabama Land Trust's 2020 Photo Contest judges had a tough time narrowing down the stiff competition to a few winners.

But in the end, there can be only one Best in Show, and only one first, second, and third place winners in four categories: Flora, Fauna, Habitat, People in Nature. The judges were Colette Boehm, George Fuller, and Rodney Kilgore, a member of the SALT Board of Directors.

According to Kilgore, one of his favorite parts of being involved with SALT is judging the annual photo contest.

"This was my sixth year to judge and one of the most difficult, as there were over 220 photographs entered, with some of the categories having over 50 entries," Kilgore said. "Whittling down that many great photos to first, second, and third place is quite a challenge as there are so many deserving photographs. I am always amazed at the talented photographers living in south Alabama, especially the young photographers. We had a large number of entrants in the youth division."

Now in its 20th year, the purpose of the SALT Photo Contest is to showcase the spectacular natural beauty in south Alabama from the perspective of local photographers. It is their gift to the rest of us to be able to witness up close that which we may overlook in our daily lives.

**BEST IN SHOW**

Carol Messer - "Break Time" (Seen on Page 3)

**ADULT FLORA**

- 1st - Teani Parker - "Pink"
- 2nd - Errol Joseph Wright - "Water Lily"
- 3rd - Benjamin Rollings - "Live Oak at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge"

**ADULT FAUNA**

- 1st - Laurie Schaerer - "Fox Kits"
- 2nd - Delphine Burton - "What are you Looking at?"
- 3rd - Beth Tattersall - "Dragonfly at Sunset"

**ADULT HABITAT**

- 1st - Beth Tattersall - "Baby Slider - Gaillard Lake"
- 2nd - Michelle Gourgues - "Promises"
- 3rd (TIE) - Brent Eanes - "Bay Pilings Holding Up the Morning Sky"
- Steve Cole - "As Far West as You Can Go on Dauphin Island"

**ADULT PEOPLE IN NATURE**

- 1st (TIE) - Brent Eanes - "Casting Kayak"
- Kaylei Bryant - "Japanese Gardens"
- 2nd - Laurie Schaerer - "Island Surfer"
- 3rd - Steve Cole - "Let's Catch Some Bait"

**JUNIOR FLORA**

- 1st - Sophia Hanes - "Whispering Longleaf Pine"
- 2nd - Henry Dowhan - "Morning Droplets"
- 3rd - Grace Atalee Williams - Black Eye Susan

**JUNIOR FAUNA**

- 1st - Sophia Hanes - "Wandering Snowy Plover Chick"
- 2nd - Callie Morgan - "I See You, Too"
- 3rd - Grace Atalee Williams - Tree Frog"

**JUNIOR HABITAT**

- 1st - Amelia Marron - "Summer Sunset"
- Second - Nina - "Bubbles"
- Third - Sophia Haines - "Human Impact"

**JUNIOR PEOPLE IN NATURE**

- First - Kate Vanderheyden - "Madelyn the Heron"
- Second - Madelyn McKean - "Oh the Things I Wish I Could Be"
- Third - Virginia McCrory - "On the Horizon"



Junior 1st Place Flora - Sophia Haines



Junior 1st Place Fauna - Sophia Haines



Junior 1st Place Habitat  
Amelia Marron



Junior 1st Place People in Nature  
Kate Vanderheyden

# WINGED ENDURANCE

## BIRDS AND COASTAL STORMS

When storm winds blow, the landscape changes in more ways than one. Birds, both resident and migrant, must adapt to their fate as storms interrupt their habits and travels. For local species, from nesting shorebirds to soaring eagles, habitats are often in peril. For non-native birds, new flight patterns result. For local birders, a chance arises to witness the resilience of these winged creatures, large and small.

Kathy Hicks, birder, photographer and educator at Five Rivers Delta Resource Center explained.

"Beach nesting usually happens in June and July, maybe early August," she said of native shorebirds. "If a storm comes through that early, it can interrupt the beach nesting birds."

These species, such as least terns and the scarcer oyster catchers, nest in the sand along Alabama's beaches. "To any kind of tidal issue, they can be very vulnerable," Hicks added.

Birder and nature tour guide Andrew Haffenden agreed. The 2020 hurricane season brought storm surges up to five feet to common nesting areas like Dauphin Island and nearby Gaillard Island, an important site for colonial nesting seabirds and shore birds in coastal Alabama.

"Chicks can usually survive, but with this one," he said, "we lost hundreds of nests."

For birders, though, there can be a silver lining. Many times, seabirds or other vagrants can be blown off their usual course and found outside their normal territory. This brings opportunities for rare sightings along Alabama's coast.

Hicks, a longtime member of SALT's Alabama Coastal BirdFest committee, noted that Magnificent Frigatebirds and several species of shearwaters (long-winged oceanic birds), as well as uncommon tropical migrants, have been spotted on Alabama's coast after storms.

**Brown Booby - Photo by Andrew Haffenden**



"Last year a white-crowned pigeon was spotted at the [Dauphin Island] shell mound. It's a tropical bird that's seen in Key West," Hicks said. "It was only the second state record of one."



**Andrew Haffenden**

Haffenden noted a rare spotting of a young brown booby, a large seabird, following Hurricane Zeta this year. "That's a very rare bird here," he said. "The closest breeding area is in the Dry Tortugas. Depending on the winds, we can see birds that are usually only seen in Florida. It can be interesting birding."

He also noted that fall storms can be particularly harsh for juvenile brown pelicans, which are typically born in July and are just learning to fly.

"They tend to get blown around and can get hurt. They don't have the stamina yet," he said. "The same can be true of young terns and gulls. They are blown around more easily and injured more easily."

He remarked that tree-nesting birds can also suffer from storms. One example of that was found in Gulf State Park following Hurricane Sally. Of the two known Bald Eagle nests in the park, one was damaged and the other destroyed. In a true show of resilience, as of November both nests had been rebuilt, with adult pairs preparing for a new nesting season.

While the eagles' nests bore the brunt of the storms, the overall habitat, according to park naturalist Kelly Reetz, may have benefitted in the long-term.

"Storms change the dynamics of the habitat," she explained. "Just by changing the dynamics they could add to habitat or they could take it away. For us, this one gave us lots of fuel, so we were able to have a prescribed burn."

Prescribed burns rid wooded areas of excess underbrush which, if left at bay, can choke out some important plants. "Now that the underbrush is gone," Reetz said, "the habitat is opened up for new grasses to grow." That growth, she noted, will in turn foster growth of a variety of bird species.

Haffenden, originally from Australia, noted that Alabama is rich in birding diversity, with more than half of the 850 species of U.S. birds found here. "Half of the U.S. species have been seen in Alabama. It's pretty amazing.

"In terms of what SALT does," Haffenden said of land preservation efforts, "what they are doing is helping. The more places we have for [birds] to nest, the more hope we have for their survival." -- CB

# OUR SUPPORTERS

SEPT 1, 2020 - NOV 30, 2020

## ANNUAL MEMBERS

### Guardian \$2,500

Baldwin EMC  
Ann Klumb  
Rob and Tela Constantine

### Steward \$500

Kevin and Jill Carrier  
Mike Healy and Marilyn Mannhard  
Riviera Utilities  
Lynn and Cori Yonge

### Advocate \$250

Joe and Kristin Babington  
Skip and Barbara Jones  
Brian and Charlotte Naylor  
Osprey Initiative  
Daniel and Susie Schambeau

### Supporter \$100

Carl and Francie Albertson  
Chesley Allegri  
Jack Anderson  
Galen and Becki Brey  
Milton and Margaret Brown  
Mitzi Childs  
Evan Clark  
Kim Collum  
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W. Allen Oaks  
Janet Perkins  
Susan Posey  
Amy Rice  
Barker and Susan Stein  
Donald Stewart  
Mike & Kim Suchan  
Mac and Gina Walcott  
John and Nancy Watson  
Ike Williams

### Friend \$50

Floyd Agnew  
Joanne Brandt  
Elizabeth Brinkley  
Grant and Sarah Brown  
John and Rhonda Carlasare  
Jeff and Christine Conrad  
Jerry Curran  
Cary DeShaw  
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Valerie Faddis  
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Cheryl Maher  
Ginger Moore  
Sigrid and Jerrold Oaklief  
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Lillian Schubert  
Weatherby Stallings  
Bob and Renee Taylor  
Ivan and Rosella Turner  
Nancy Wolfe

## JOIN THE SOUTH ALABAMA LAND TRUST

South Alabama Land Trust memberships, renewed annually or in monthly payments, start at \$50.

As a member, you are joining a group of people with similar interests and concerns for the places we love.

You are protecting land, water, wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Legacy	: \$5,000
Guardian	: \$2,500
Conservators	: \$1,000
Steward	: \$500
Advocate	: \$250
Supporter	: \$100
Friend	: \$50

Join us by returning the enclosed envelope today, or visit [southalabamalandtrust.org](http://southalabamalandtrust.org).

## QUARTERLY MEMBERS

Mac and Michelle Tonsmeire

## MONTHLY MEMBERS

Connie Baggett  
Jared Busen  
Karen Chiasson  
Suzanne Corrington  
Mike and Amy DePriest  
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Sandy Geddes  
Mike and Carol Gordon  
Mike and Trish Howell  
Rodney and Mary Katherine  
Kilgore  
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Edward Panacek  
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Nanette Peturis  
Jeff and Donyale Rawson  
John and Emily Riser  
Randy and Kay Roach  
John Craig Shaw  
Judy Stout  
Betty Suddeth  
Elizabeth Walker  
William Wallace  
Lundy Wilder

## YEAR END APPEAL

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Duncan Greenwood

**\$500 - \$999**

Richard and Judy Thompson  
Gena Todia

**\$250-\$499**

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Walter Kirkland and Judy Culbreth

Ken Niemeyer  
Gus and Teresa Smith  
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**UP TO \$99**

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John Brown  
Chuck and Karen Diard  
Bill and Loretta James  
John W. Jones  
Maggie Mosteller  
Tim and Sandy Russell  
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## GENERAL DONATIONS

**\$94,086**

The Estate of Otilie Halstead

**\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Robert and Pat Meaher

**\$2,500 – \$4,999**

The Erie Hall Meyer Charitable  
Fund, Inc.

**\$500 - \$999**

J. Tunstall Inge

**\$250-\$499**

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Escambia Sand & Gravel  
Company, Inc.  
Thompson Holdings Foundation  
Skipper Tonsmeire  
Lance Brendan Young

**\$100-\$249**

Leslie Colglazier  
Charlotte Cooksey  
John and Erin Goodloe  
Eleanora Mauritsen  
Michael and Debbie Quinn  
Johnny Wise

**UP TO \$99**

Van and Mary Finger  
Champ Meyercord

## TRIBUTE GIFTS

*In Memory of James E. Gaston -*  
Ron Perry and Laurie Labbitt Perry

*In Memory of Marian Macpherson*  
*Currin -*  
Mr. and Mrs. Hobert McWhorter

## 2021 BALD EAGLE BASH

Committee to Elect Kevin Boone

## PARTNERS

Alabama Department of  
Conservation & Natural  
Resources  
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Dauphin Island Bird  
Sanctuaries, Inc.  
EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
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Mobile Bay National Estuary  
Program  
National Estuarine Research  
Reserve Association  
National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation  
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and Assessment  
Partnership for Gulf Coast  
Land Conservation  
The Conservation Fund  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Weeks Bay National Estuarine  
Research Reserve  
Weeks Bay Volunteers



SOUTH ALABAMA  
LAND TRUST

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(251) 990-5004

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## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Looking for gift ideas for that hard-to-buy-for person on your Christmas list? How about honoring them with a \$50 membership in South Alabama Land Trust? They will appreciate knowing they are part of a group of like-minded individuals who want to help protect this place we all love - south Alabama.

Our members receive early notice of things like our guided paddle trips and nature walks, as well as discounts on event tickets.

With each gift membership, we will send a card letting your friend or loved one know they have received this awesome gift! It's simple and can be done online at: [southalabamalandtrust.org/salt-gift](http://southalabamalandtrust.org/salt-gift).

For more, information,  
email [diana@southalabamalandtrust.org](mailto:diana@southalabamalandtrust.org).

Photo by Steve Cole