



The Delta News

5 Rivers Delta Resource Center



Volume III, Issue IX

September '11

Your Delta Fun Fact for the Month:



Have you heard of a little bird called the Chimney Swift? They can be found in Alabama between March and October, but migrate to South America

during our winter. Because of their short legs and tiny feet, they are unable to walk on the ground or perch on a branch. Historically, they would nest in large cavities of trees, but as our oldest forests were harvested and homes were built, swifts began to find suitable nesting cavities inside our chimneys! The chimneys of modern homes are not suitable for nesting, as they are essentially a pipe sheathed in a box. Last Spring, 5 Rivers worked with Davidson High School student Jason Brown to construct a chimney swift tower adjacent to our trail. We didn't attract any birds this year, but are certain that it will someday. Come see it on your next visit!

What's Up in the Delta this Month?



It's time again for the Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest! Grab your camera and begin snapping spectacular photos of the area, then submit them to Outdoor Alabama for a chance to win a spot in the February 2012 issue of Outdoor Alabama Magazine. Entries must be postmarked by October 31st. For more information or to check out last year's winners, please visit www.outdooralabama.com.



Join us for the 8th Annual

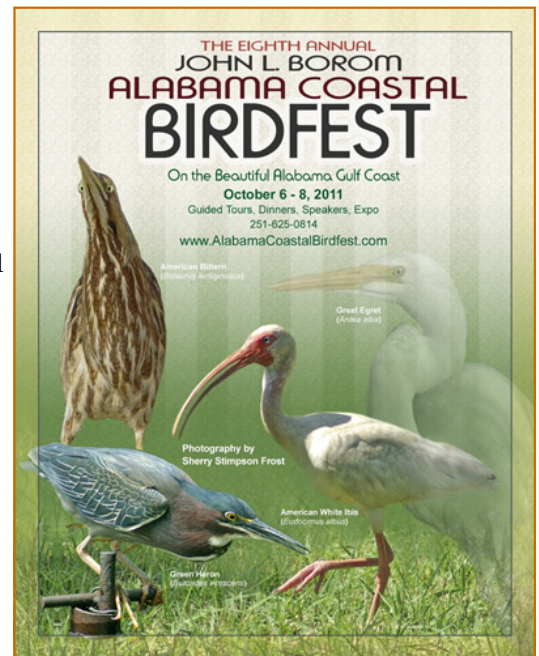
Alabama Coastal Birdfest!

It's time to register for the 8th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal Birdfest. This year, the three day event will take place **October 6-8**. Since 2004, this festival has been attracting birders from around the country with the amazing diversity the coast of Alabama has to offer. Every year the Birdfest coincides with the annual fall migration of many different species of birds from North America to Central and South America. Alabama's coast is an important stop for the birds as they head to warmer climates during the winter months. Birdfest trips allow birders the chance to glimpse the variety of birds as they make their long trek. This year's festival has one new trip to Fairhope Falls and Daphne Bayfront Park, which offers birders the chance to see Killdeer, various ducks, and many passerines. Of course, the favorite trips are also offered again to places such as Bayou La Batre, Weeks Bay, Fort Morgan, Dauphin Island, and other spots along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail.

A few things are different this year. First, there is a \$15 registration fee, which gives you access to a Welcome Reception on Wednesday October 5. The reception will offer a light meal and will feature a presentation of works of the area's best birding photographers assembled by photographer Kathy Hicks. You will also receive a copy of the 2011 Birdfest poster featuring photographer Sherry Stimpson Frost. Also new this year is a full schedule of free events to be held at 5 Rivers when you return from your morning tours. Kathy Hicks will teach the basics of wildlife photography. Dodd & Dodd Nursery is bringing native plants for attracting birds and butterflies. Joel Borden, a herpetologist with the University of South Alabama, will determine what came first... the chicken or the egg, as he describes the natural history of birds. Mobile's Environmental Studies Center will talk about raptor rehabilitation. More free items will be added through the month, so please check our website for the latest.

And speaking of free, 5 Rivers' Road Show will be at the Bird and Conservation Expo on the grounds of Faulkner State Community College in downtown Fairhope on October 8 from 9am-4pm. The expo has something for kids and adults alike! You can get an up close encounter with an Alabama snake or a raptor such as a Red-Tailed Hawk or perhaps visit with some of our marine friends at the Marine Resources touch tank.

Registration for the 2011 Alabama Coastal Birdfest is underway. For more information and to register, visit www.AlabamaCoastalBirdfest.com. We eagerly await this event every year, and we look forward to birding with you during the 2011 birding season!



"Get the Trash Out of the Splash!"

24th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup

23 years has passed since the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (State Lands Division, Coastal Section) and the Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS) first teamed up to help "get the trash out of the splash" and clean Alabama's coastline. So far 31,213 volunteers have come together to help pick up 1,169,844 pounds of marine debris along 3,917 miles of coastline! Now **YOU** can join the effort and help keep our coast clean by becoming a volunteer in the 24th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup. This year's cleanup is scheduled for



A 2010 volunteer bringing in an assortment of trash found in the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta

Saturday, September 17th from 8am to Noon. There are 28 different cleanup zones stationed throughout Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Each zone will have supplies, such as large trash bags, gloves, and water, but be sure to come early as supplies go fast. Also, be sure to bring sunscreen, bug spray, wear comfortable clothing and a hat, and of course even more water to drink. After all your hard work making sure our coastline is clean, you will receive a **FREE** t-shirt, valuable coupons, and other goodies.

5 Rivers will again be hosting a cleanup zone during this year's event. We'll set up at the Bartram Canoe Landing and encourage paddlers to hit the shoreline in their canoes and kayaks. If you would like to find a cleanup zone that is not restricted to canoes and kayaks, or one closer to your area, stop by the website at www.alcoastalcleanup.com. You can also get zone captain information and great tips to avoid heat stress. We look forward to seeing you this year as we clean Alabama's coast and "Get the Trash Out of the Splash!"

24th ANNUAL
Alabama
Coastal Cleanup
"Get the Trash out of the Splash"
September 17, 2011
 Saturday 8:00 AM




Since 1987...

- * **61,513 volunteers**
- * **1,169,844 pounds of debris picked up**
- * **3,917 miles of coastline cleaned**

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Saturday Adventure Series: Learn and explore the natural resources Alabama has to offer, great for all ages!

- 9/3: Saturday Crafts: Corn Husk Dolls (Free, 12pm-3pm)
- 9/9: Gators After Dark (\$10pp; 7-9pm; Register with 5 Rivers Delta Safaris at 259-8531)
- 9/10: Saturday Class: "Metamorphosis" (Free; Grades 3-5; Registration Required)
- 9/16: Gators After Dark (\$10pp; 7-9pm; Register with 5 Rivers Delta Safaris at 259-8531)
- 9/24: Saturday Craft: Leaf Wreath Craft (Free; 12pm-3pm)
- 9/30: Gators After Dark (\$10pp; 7-9pm; Register with 5 Rivers Delta Safaris at 259-8531)

Outdoor Adventure Night: Two Tuesdays a month, we host groups that can help you get outside and explore the delta! It's free and you don't have to be a member to come!

- 9/6: Alabama Hiking Trail Society (6pm)
Mobile Bay Canoe & Kayak Club (7pm)
Sierra Club (7pm)
- 9/13: Gulf Coast Association of Reptile Keepers (6pm)
Mobile Bay Audubon Society (7pm)

Special Events! Hosted by 5 Rivers. We're happy to welcome:

- 9/17: Alabama Coastal Cleanup (8am-12pm; free; www.alcoastalcleanup.com)
- 9/22: Cocktails for Critters (6pm-9pm; For tickets or more information visit www.joinacf.org)
- 9/24: Val Webb Workshop: Drawing Small Mammals (10am-4pm; \$50pp includes all materials; to register email Val at studio@valwebb.com)

5 Rivers Road Show: Come and say hi to us as we take our show on the road!

- 9/25-10/1: Baldwin County Fair

StoryTime: Sit back and let us do the reading! 10am-11am. Arts and crafts follow the reading. This month's stories are:

- 9/6: "Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson
- 9/13: "Frog Doctor" by Daniel Bertagnolli
- 9/20: "Whoop Turned Out the Lights" by Daniel Bertagnolli
- 9/27: "One Hundred Hungry Ants" by Elinor J. Pinczes

Growing Up Wild: Encourages our preschoolers to begin thinking about things found in nature. 1-2pm. Free, Registration Required:

- 9/2: Backbone Bonanza
- 9/9: Fishing Fun
- 9/21: Turtle Time

Sunday Matinee: From 2-3pm every Sunday, step inside our Tensaw Theater and catch a free film that is sure to please the whole family! This month's features are:

- 9/4: Life of Mammals: Insect Hunters
- 9/11: Prehistoric Predators
- 9/18: National Geographic: Appalachian Trail
- 9/25: Nova: Making Stuff Stronger

5 Rivers Delta Safaris Eco-tours: Go on a boat tour aboard the *Pelican* and explore the lower delta! Daily tours by reservation. Charter tours and canoe/kayak rentals also available. Call 259-8531 to plan your adventure:

- 9/3: Bottle Creek Indian Mound Paddle (9am-3pm \$35pp includes all necessary gear and guide)
- 9/10: Full Moon Paddle (7pm-10pm; \$35pp includes all necessary gear and guide)
- 9/17: Cypress Swamp/Historical Tour paddle (9am-12pm; \$35pp; includes guide and rental)
- 9/24: Lower Delta Wildlife Paddle (9am-12pm; \$35pp includes all necessary gear and guide)



Cypress Gift Shop Spotlight: Delta Resources

When you first hear the word "gift shop", you may think of trinkets to remind you of a particular trip. However, our Cypress Gift Shop is so much more than an average store. If you are looking for a book about any aspect of the delta we have it. Our hiking and paddling books will help you get to local spots of interest, and our field guides will help you identify just about anything from birds and butterflies to snakes and lizards. If you are looking to attract hummingbirds or build bird houses, we've got you covered there too! We even have great activity books to help you and your children get outdoors and discover some of the amazing animals and habitats in our area. So be sure to stop by the Cypress Gift Shop on your next visit, and if you would like more information, give us a call at 251-621-0782. The Cypress Gift Shop is open seven days a week, 9am-5pm.

