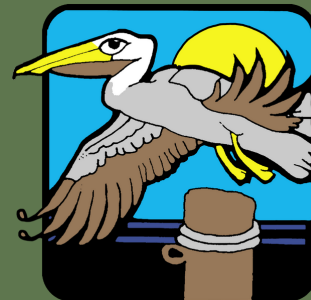


# This Weeks Bay



## Animal Highlight

The brown pelican is a constant fixture here at Weeks Bay and all over coastal Alabama. We see them in their juvenile brown phase, as pictured below, through their more colorful grey, white and yellow adult phase. They weren't always so populous though - because of a chemical called DDT, pelicans were endangered for a while! Thankfully, local, state, and federal governments were able to work together with local citizens to help bring this icon of the beach back.



## Plant Highlight

The white-topped pitcher plant is one of Alabama's most common carnivorous pitcher plant species. You read that right - carnivorous! These unique plants evolved specially adapted leaves, capable of luring, capturing, and consuming bugs. These adaptations make up for the poor soil conditions that carnivorous plants live in. These poor soil conditions can be found in bogs - carnivorous plants favorite habitat.

## Whats Happening in the Bay

The summer season is nearly at its end, but the heat is not going anywhere anytime soon here at Weeks Bay! Despite the shortening days, the temperatures will stay high for a while longer. National Estuaries Week is this month - September 16th through the 24th, and Weeks Bay will be hosting events to celebrate, including seining and kayaking. Find the link to read about and sign up for these events on Facebook or Instagram.

## Test your Estuary Knowledge!

What species of butterfly caterpillar only eats milkweed?

- a. Tiger Swallowtail
- b. Gulf Fritillary
- c. Monarch

answer: c. monarch butterfly

What do brown pelicans like to eat?

- a. Fruits and veggies
- b. Fish
- c. Milkweed leaves

answer: b. fish

What type of carnivore is a pitcher plant?

- a. Insectivore
- b. Piscivores
- c. Oviovore

answer: a. insectivore

