



Newsletter

A publication of the Texas General Land Office • Jerry Patterson, Commissioner

AAB License Plates Available This Summer

Show your love for Texas' coast with official Adopt-A-Beach specialty license plates. When you buy these beautiful plates, you contribute \$22 to help the Adopt-A-Beach Program grow, fight beach litter and educate young Texans about our fragile coastal environment.

The plates cost \$30 in addition to regular vehicle fees, and personalized plates are available for \$10 more. The cost of purchase is tax-deductible.

When you display AAB license plates on your vehicle, you help raise awareness of the need to keep our beaches clean. It reminds others to do their part for one of our most precious natural resources.

The plates should be ready for public distribution this summer. If you're interested, please e-mail your contact information (name, address, phone number and e-mail address) to beach@glo.state.tx.us so we can notify you when



The new Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program specialty plates.

the plates are released by the Texas Department of Transportation. If you're unable to e-mail us, call us toll free at 1-877-TXCOAST (892-6278). Once the plates are available, you will be able to order them online at the Texas Online Web site, www.texasonline.com.

Show your support for clean beaches by reserving your plates today! 🌊

Spring Cleanup Just Around the Corner

Mark your calendars for the 22nd annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup set for Saturday, April 26th at 26 sites all along the Texas coast. From 9 a.m. to noon, volunteers will clean the beaches and bays from Beaumont to Boca Chica. Local Adopt-A-Beach Coordinators will check in volunteers that morning between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Large groups should pre-register prior to the event by contacting the local site coordinator. Contact information for each site location can be found on our Web site at www.texasadoptabeach.org.



Last spring 6,812 volunteers braved the weather and picked up 143 tons of trash.

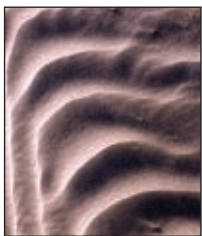
Volunteers are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses and bring plenty of drinking water. Each cleanup site location will have trash bags and disposable gloves for the volunteers. In addition, participants will receive a souvenir



Volunteers in Port Aransas.

for their efforts to help clean up our shores.

While current patterns in the Gulf of Mexico are responsible for dumping trash all along the Texas coastline, recreational activities are to blame for the majority of trash found on our beaches. According to the Ocean Conservancy, more than 70 percent of the trash found on Texas beaches is land-based, mostly left behind by the average beach goer who spends a day at the beach. With 367 miles of Texas coastline, a lot of help is needed to keep it clean. We're counting on you to join us on Saturday, April 26th and we'll see you at the beach! 🌊



2008 Children's Art Contest Draws to a Close

The 12th annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest came to a close on Monday, March 3, 2008. The entries were divided into four class categories and the winners have recently been notified. This year's grand prize winner is Emily Xiao of Friendswood. Emily is a sixth-grader at Westbrook Intermediate School. An exhibit featuring the children's winning artwork will be on display at the Texas State Capitol beginning Wednesday, May 14th at 10 a.m. to Tuesday, May 20th, at 2:30 p.m. The exhibit will be located in the Capitol Extension, Central Gallery, Level 2.



Emily Xiao, a sixth-grader from Friendswood, submitted this grand prize winning artwork.

The contest began in 1996 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Adopt-A-Beach Program. Each year, students are asked to draw what they treasure the most about the Texas coast. The annual competition encourages Texas children to learn more about the Texas coast and express what they've learned through their art.

The contest was open to all children who live in the state of Texas and who are in grades K-6. Ten winners were chosen from the following categories: Grades K, 1, and 2; Grades 3 and 4;



Winning entries from the 2007 contest were on display at the state Capitol.

Grade 5; and Grade 6. From these 40 winners, one grand prize winner was chosen. The grand prize winner will receive two round-trip, coach-class tickets from

Continental Airlines to any Continental destination in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America. The grand prize winner's class will be treated to a party at one of three Schlitterbahn Waterparks in New Braunfels, South Padre Island or Galveston.

All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn, prizes from Keep Texas Beautiful, prizes from the Texas General Land Office, a certificate of recognition from Commissioner Patterson and a 2009 calendar featuring the winning artwork.

A special thanks to our 2008 sponsors: Continental Airlines, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, the Texas State Aquarium and Keep Texas Beautiful.

For more information on the contest, or how to sign up for our mailing list to receive future mailings on the contest, please log onto our Web site at www.texasadoptabeach.org or e-mail us directly at beach@glo.state.tx.us.

Congratulations to the 2008 Children's Art Contest Winners!

Keilani Anguiano
Weslaco

Robert Bailey
Selma

Melody Boone
Spring

Brianna Brumfield
Laredo

Allea Campbell
Houston

Jessica Carmichael
Dripping Springs

Sarah Case
Austin

Amanda DeGrasse
League City

Natalie Rae Esparza
Batesville

Luke Farris
Flower Mound

Jaid Fernandez
Fort Worth

Alana Gilcrease
Vidor

Alex Guillen
Friendswood

Emily Han
Friendswood

Elisha Hehir
Friendswood

Jesus Hernandez
Houston

Rocky Hernandez
Port Lavaca

Lauren Jackson
Fort Worth

Keunah Jang
Euless

Ashley Johnson
Flower Mound

Arely Leyva
Houston

Emily Lopez
El Paso

Deyanira Macias
Brownsville

Summer Martin
Abilene

Ana Martinez
Friendswood

Oscar Martinez
El Paso

Cameron Muzny
Eagle Lake

Lourde Palomo
Houston

Jolee Rosa
Port Lavaca

Aubrey Rowley
Midland

Karina Sereno
Houston

Patrick Shore
Longview

Delaney Sloan
Dallas

Colin Toro
Beaumont

Carmela Urdaneta
Cypress

Arturo Vallejo
Corpus Christi

Savannah Wagner
Saginaw

Madison Worley
Watauga

Emily Xiao
Friendswood

Omar Zumaya
Laredo



More than 9,600 Volunteers Clean the Texas Coast During the Fall 2007 Beach Cleanup

The annual Fall Cleanup held Saturday, September 22nd was the Adopt-A-Beach Program's largest turnout in five years, with more than 9,600 volunteers removing almost 190 tons of trash from Texas beaches. The 2007

Texas Land Commissioner Patterson in January 2003.

In addition to cleaning the beaches, volunteers found some unusual items, including a toilet seat, ladies underwear, hypodermic needles, one-half of a bra, a Cadillac steering wheel, a bikini, a rubber chicken, a hair piece, a dog house, a personal massager, a headboard, fake fingernails, a tea cup, hair curlers, light bulbs, a rug and a broom.



Commissioner Patterson and a young Boy Scout clean the beach.



A volunteer at the Fall Beach Cleanup at Surfside.

Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup was held in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the

Statewide, 9,604 volunteers removed 189.84 tons, or 379,706 pounds, of trash from 185.5 miles of Texas beaches. Most of the trash consisted of typical items left by beachgoers: cigarette butts, soda cans, beer bottles, beach toys and tires. This mix of trash has changed over the years since Adopt-A-Beach volunteers began walking the beaches. When the program started in 1986, the bulk of trash on Texas beaches came from international ships that simply dumped it overboard. Since then, data collected by Adopt-A-Beach volunteers has helped to pass an international shipping treaty that bans such practices and requires all oceangoing vessels to dispose of their trash responsibly while in port.



Commissioner Patterson picks up trash at Surfside.

Ocean Conservancy. The turnout of volunteers was the largest since Jerry Patterson became

The success of the Adopt-A-Beach Program is made possible by the generous efforts of dedicated volunteers and the strong support of community leaders and sponsors across the state. Thanks again to all who helped make this cleanup a huge success! Please mark your calendars to join us for the 2008 Spring Cleanup set for Saturday, April 26, 2008 at sites all along the coast. 🌊



Lyondell Chemical Company volunteers at Matagorda Beach.



More than 150 Volunteers Take Part in the 11th Annual Winter Texan Cleanup at South Padre

The 11th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Winter Texan Cleanup took place at Edwin Atwood Park on Friday, February 15th at South Padre Island. Rio Grande Valley snowbirds, area students, and Beach Guardians at Isla Blanca Park enjoyed warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine while doing their part to keep our Texas beaches clean. The volunteers covered five miles of beach and removed 2.63 tons of trash from both the northern and southern ends of the island. Some of the more unusual items found this year were a full bottle of Budweiser beer, a \$1 bill, plastic toy flags, underwear, a hypodermic needle, a Spiderman T-shirt, a Home Depot T-shirt from Mexico, a golf ball, a house key, a CD, and part of a cell phone.



A Winter Texan.

The Winter Texans came from Canada, Minnesota, Illinois, Montana, Michigan, Colorado, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Gordonville near Lake Texoma. Other volunteers came from areas closer to home, like the students from the University of Texas Pan American, as well as students from Carlos F. Truan Jr. High in Elsa.

During registration that morning, the Winter Texans enjoyed orange juice, bottled water and donuts. H-E-B provided the donuts, Sam's Club provided the orange juice, and the Cameron County Parks Department provided the bottled water. After cleaning the beach, prizes were awarded for the most unusual items found during the cleanup.

Winter Texans—often referred to as “snowbirds”—come to South Texas each year to enjoy mild temperatures during the winter months. Most snowbirds reside in travel trailers, while others rent condos or hotel rooms for an extended period during the winter months to avoid harsh temperatures and shoveling snow. Many enjoy activities such as fishing, golfing and square dancing, while others come here just to relax and enjoy South Texas’ beautiful beaches.



Winter Texans receiving much needed refreshments.



An environmental youth group pitches in at Corpus Christi Beach.

Many heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and Winter Texans for a job well done! Thanks for your help and we'll see you in February 2009.

Two Tons of Trash Removed from Three Beaches in the Coastal Bend Area

The 4th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Winter Cleanup took place at three sites in the Coastal Bend area on Saturday, February 16th. Sites participating in this year's event were Aransas



Volunteers at Corpus Christi Beach.

Pass-Redfish Bay/Conn Brown Harbor, Corpus Christi Beach at the Texas State Aquarium, and the Padre Island National Seashore.

This year, 166 dedicated volunteers showed up to do their part to keep Texas beaches clean and pristine. The day began with cloudy skies but warmer temperatures than in recent years. With the threat of a cold front approaching later that afternoon, volunteers were able to remove the unsightly trash before the front reached the area.

The volunteers covered 17 miles of beach and removed 4,600 pounds, or 2.3 tons of trash. Some of the more unusual items found this year were shotgun shells, two fiberglass boat doors, a plastic cell phone toy, railroad tracks, rebar, a buoy and a channel marker sign.

Participants in this year's event were from area schools and youth groups. Some of the volunteers were lending a hand to complete community service hours for school while others just wanted to show their dedication to keeping Texas beaches clean.

Many thanks to our Coastal Bend volunteers for doing a great job! We'll see you next year. 🌊



A publication of the Texas General Land Office

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program has created a Youth Patch Program, wherein youth groups, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Youth or any other youth group members can earn patches for participating in an Adopt-A-Beach cleanup. The patches depict the Adopt-A-Beach logo and are free of charge. Patches are available during our bi-annual cleanup events at each of the check-in site locations. Please request a patch from the local cleanup site coordinator or contact the Adopt-A-Beach Program at beach@glo.state.tx.us or at 1-877-TXC0AST (892-6278).



Can't Attend the Cleanup? You Can Still Help!

Texans who are not able to attend the cleanup can help keep their beaches clean by making a tax-deductible donation online at www.texasadoptabeach.org.

There are several different Adopt-A-Beach sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, allowing both individuals and corporations to contribute to this major cleanup effort.

The Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program would like to thank the following statewide Cleanup Sponsors

Spring 2008



Thanks also to ExxonMobil, Halliburton, Starbucks and Storm Water Solutions.

Thanks also to In-Kind Sponsor Keep Texas Beautiful.

Fall 2007



Thanks also to ExxonMobil, Halliburton and Lyondell Chemical Company.

Thank you!



April 2008

Adopt-A-Beach Volunteer Coordinator Spotlight

Vickie Cleveland, McFaddin Beach



Vickie Cleveland.

Vickie Cleveland grew up in the Port Neches area and is the local Adopt-A-Beach Coordinator for McFaddin Beach in Jefferson County.

Vickie worked in the banking business for 18 years and during that time she was a personal banker and an executive assistant. She then left the banking industry to join Clear Channel Radio in Beaumont. She has been with Clear Channel for five years, working in the areas of advertising sales and promotions of special events. Vickie currently is a Senior Account Executive with the media outlet.

Vickie has been involved with the Adopt-A-Beach Program for five years. She began assisting with the event years ago and eventually became the local coordinator for McFaddin Beach, which is sponsored by the radio station.

Vickie has three children and three grandchildren who take up a great deal of her time. She is heavily involved with the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. She's an ambassador for the chamber and also serves on several committees.

Dwight Mutschler, Austwell

Dwight has been a resident of Refugio County for more than 37 years and he currently lives in Austwell. He is married to Bonnie Mutschler and they have two daughters, Heather and Megan. Bonnie is employed as an English and speech teacher at Austwell-Tivoli I.S.D., and Dwight is currently campaigning for a county commissioner seat in Refugio County.

In August 1970, Dwight began teaching at Austwell-Tivoli I.S.D. and retired there 34 years later in 2004. He was hired as a social studies teacher and taught a variety of courses—including physical education and speech. In effect, he was the social studies department for most of those 34 years, as well as the University Interscholastic League Coordinator, forensics coach, Student Council Sponsor and bus driver.



Dwight Mutschler.

Dwight has involved himself in numerous community activities throughout his life in the Austwell-Tivoli area and Refugio County. He has been an active member of the Austwell-Tivoli Lions club since 1971, served as President twice, and since 1982, he has served in the role of Secretary-Treasurer for this organization. He currently serves on the board of the Refugio Federal Credit Union and has been on the board for 10 years. Dwight also served on the Austwell City Council from 1989-2000 as a City Commissioner and Mayor, and then again as Mayor in 2003-2004.

Dwight has been involved with the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program as coordinator since its inception in 1986. He and his students actually started cleaning the beach in Austwell a number of years before the state got involved when a student needed a National Honor Society project. They decided to clean the Austwell beach. This project turned out to be quite an ordeal so the Student Council chose it for its community project the following year. As Dwight says ... "the rest is history." 🐾

Join us for the next two
 Texas Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups

Saturday, April 26

and

Saturday, Sept. 27

9:00 a.m. until noon
 all along the Texas coast.

