



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

Office of Communications • Mark Dallas Loeffler, Director
1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • Fax: 512-475-1415

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

Two tons of trash hauled off area beaches during Adopt-A-Beach Winter Clean-up

Cold front fails to deter scores of volunteers

Austin - A total of 166 volunteers hauled more than two tons of trash off Coastal Bend beaches Saturday, making the Fourth Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Winter Cleanup a big success. Dedicated volunteers picked up 4,600 pounds of litter from 17 miles of area beaches.

The 4th Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Winter Cleanup took place at three sites in the Coastal Bend area. Sites participating in this year's event were Aransas Pass – Redfish Bay/Conn Brown Harbor, Corpus Christi Beach at the Texas State Aquarium, and at the Padre Island National Seashore.

The day began with cloudy skies and unseasonably mild temperatures. With the threat of a cold front approaching later that afternoon, volunteers were able to remove the unsightly trash before it reached the Gulf of Mexico.

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 they care about Texas beaches. All were committed to keeping Texas beaches and bays clean of debris.

The Winter Texan Beach Cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated through the Adopt-A-Beach Program of the Texas General Land Office. The next cleanup will be the Spring Adopt-A-Beach effort set for Saturday, April 26th, 2008.

Texas beaches receive large amounts of marine debris due to a convergence of currents in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1986, more than 365,000 Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 6,900 tons of this debris, some of it originating from as far away as South America. Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline.

For additional information on the Winter Texan Beach Cleanup and the Adopt-A-Beach Program, visit www.texasadoptabeach.org, or contact the GLO at 1-877-TXCOAST.

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Jim Suydam, Press Secretary
General Land Office, 512-463-2716, cell 512-417-5382