

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



2018 WINTER EDITION

Pam Williams, Editor

THE PREZ SEZ...

GREETINGS: From our front deck in Bay Harbor....

It has been an unusual and extreme winter with snow, sleet and many windy days. Many of our neighbors have lost valuable plants that will need replacing and suffered damage to their beach houses from frozen water pipes.

Already, most of us are longing for "THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME" with longer days of sunshine on our semi-tropical island. The frozen pipe situation has been addressed in our newsletter by Charlie Winsor. He does an excellent job of explaining how to protect exposed pipes from freezing weather. As you replace your pipes and plants we want to caution all neighbors to be especially mindful of rattlesnakes. "YES RATTLESNAKES", Rattlesnakes tend to hide under foliage and around steps. "BE CAREFULL", Many rattlesnakes have been spotted in our neighborhood. The rattlesnake's colorization especially helps them blend into the sand.

As a board, we would like to remind everyone of their responsibility to keep our neighborhood safe and peaceful. Because we are in a low crime area, it is easy to let our guard down. Here are a few suggestions to secure your property.

Get to know your neighbors

- Exchange phone numbers (home, work, cell)
- Learn each other's routines, schedules (guest visits, scheduled workers)
- Check on elderly neighbors
- Volunteer to pick up your neighbor's newspaper when they are gone

Don't be a Target

- Have plenty of lighting around your home
- Don't leave windows or doors open
- Leave lights on inside your home or use a timer when you're gone
- Lock your car

Get out and About - Walk around your neighborhood or sit on your front porch

Report Suspicious Activity

- Call 911 whenever something looks unusual (strange cars, people checking out houses)
- Have a pen and paper handy to write down details that could help police

Keep Our Neighborhood Neat and Clean—

- Pick up trash, even if it's not yours
- Keep yards maintained and looking good

These five easy steps can help protect your community.

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**Bay Harbor Improvement Association
Board Members**

July 2017- June 2018

Bob Seay <i>President</i>	281-487-6192 robsea1234@aol.com
Gail Choate <i>Sec./Treasurer</i>	409-737-1707 gschoate@sbcglobal.net
Tim Kurtin <i>Vice President</i>	713-254-8166 fishbaffin@comcast.net
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Cathy Winsor <i>Web Master</i>	281-955-8502 cathyfwinsor@gmail.com

Website: WWW.BHIATX.ORG

The Prez Says, cont.

In closing, have a safe spring and see you on the beach.

Be sure to check out our website: www.bhiatx.org for additional information.

Your Prez, **Bob Seay**

FROZEN PIPES?!

Greetings Bay Harbor residents. As you might have heard, the President, Bob Seay and myself drove the streets of Bay Harbor after the last freeze to check on leaking pipes. Please understand, we drove the streets and viewed each home looking for evidence of broken water pipes that might be visible from the street. During our drive we identified approximately 6 homes suffering from leaky pipes. Three residences had residents at the homes taking care of the problem. We turned off the water of three homes where water could be observed spraying.

If you have a sprinkler system then you most likely have an anti-flow valve which is extended up out of the ground. During a freeze those valves will freeze as most are plastic. I have a sprinkler system and I insulate the pipes and wrap a towel around the top valve and then cover with a plastic bag. I've never had my anti-flow valve break.



Another "weak point" to freeze is where the water comes into the house. Normally, there is a shut off valve on that line which controls all the water coming into the house. The water line coming out of your slab or the ground should surely be fully insulated. It is advised if you turn your water off due to an upcoming freeze then be very sure you open all faucets downstairs and even a few faucets in the house to drain water out of the pipes. Water standing in a pipe during a freeze will surely cause you concern once the frozen water thaws.

It would help all neighbors for all to forward contact information to our association secretary, Gail Choate, at gailchoate@sbcglobal.net. If any irregularities are spotted at a home like water leaks, etc., then it can be reported to Ms. Choate and she can contact the home owner. We all work together for the protection of each other's property.

Charlie Winsor, Past President



BAY HARBOR WINTER FISHING REPORT

BY CAP'N GAZE

Chili Dog and Me

For the first time in years, we've actually had a winter in Bay Harbor. IT'S COLD... Luckily, no fish kills reported in West Bay of any magnitude. Bay water temps in the low 50's and pipe busting air temps as low as 24°, we definitely dodged a bullet. Fishing pressure has been light to non existent and I'm hoping this cold spell shocks the West Bay fishery back into existence. Harvey flushed our back bays and marshes thoroughly. The winter weather, clear water and low tides hopefully will force our game fish into a more consistent pattern this spring. Fifty inches of fresh water run off from Harvey and a fish killin' freeze could have put the kibosh on our fishing for the rest of the year. In fact, it's been so cold that even Debbie Downer packed her bags and left.

News We Can Use

It's the 15th of February and 73°, winds light out of the south about 5 mph, the fog has lifted and hope springs eternal. Every optimistic angler on the coast has the flu or is that big time cabin fever? Usually by April 15th, fishing The Pass and West Bay will start to get serious. You definitely want to be there by the middle of May when the tide runners cruise the guts and flats of one of the most legendary fisheries on the Texas Gulf Coast. Large female trout searching for the perfect salinity to spawn. May thru July are possibly the best months of the entire year to fish. We'll have plenty of time to get our gear back in shape and make a few scouting runs the next 60 days. Here are some spring strategies that may help put some fish in the box.

In the fall, as days grow shorter and bay water cools, less sunlight kills the suspended plankton and algae. Visibility of the water can double or triple with less organic material to reflect light. The super clear spring water is beautiful but certain death for any type of fish. No bait, No fish. Light winds and cooler water forces the bait and most game fish deep, in search of warmth. Beginning in May, game fish can be targeted on the flats an hour before sunrise. You can almost always count on a bite at sunrise and sunset in West Bay if the conditions coincide with favorable winds and tides. Bait slips up on the flat under the cover of darkness, drawing trout and reds with them. Game fish can take advantage of the shallower water and marsh grass to trap bait on the flat. As the sun ascends, bait will gradually slip into deeper water for protection and the game fish will follow. You can target trout and reds usually catching a majority of your fish standing in waist deep water casting towards the transition or edges between 3-5 feet of water. Of course current, water movement and wind direction are major factors in fish behavior. You will need to adjust your strategy accordingly. Wind can be your friend on those Mansfield clear, ice cream mornings in the spring and provide just enough turbidity and camouflage for both bait and game fish to be active. Wind can also ruin your day and excessive turbidity can be just as challenging as clear water. Don't pass up streaks or stained water, both can be refuge for game fish and bait. Fish the edges, finding ambush points associated with turbidity or structure can be a very successful pattern as well.

Down sizing your soft plastic bait or "match the hatch" is just as important as establishing a pattern. Right now, shrimp in the marsh are just whiskers and eye balls. Millions of bait fish hatch in the spring, all of them will be small, some microscopic. Game fish will gorge themselves on shad, mullet, glass minnows, crabs, shrimp and their own species. A majority of the time, size (similar length and shape) will be the more productive lure. In the early spring from March thru May, I prefer darter baits, Norton Sand eel Jr's, Lil Johns, 1/8th to 1/4 oz jig head. I will go as light as 1/16 oz in 1-2 ft water. May thru June I move up to 3-4 inch paddle tails, Bass Assassin Sea Shad, Norton Sand Shad. Most of the summer I like the 5 inch baits, throwing Hoagie Paddle tails and Rat tails, Bass Assassin Rat tails and paddle tails, Mirror Lure Provoker is a rat tailed bait that's proven lethal.

Color comes into play according to time of day (light conditions) and water clarity. Dark baits silhouette better in both low light and lower visibility water. Plum, Roach, Chicken on a Chain, Slammin Chicken all darker baits with a few crossing over to clear water. Natural and lighter colors work better in bright light and clearer water. Salt and Pepper, Pumpkin Seed, Chartreuse, Chicken on a Chain. Of course, the bait you see in the water while your fishing is the golden ticket to a fish dinner. Constantly scanning the surface of the water look for any movement that catches your eye. You can see shrimp jump, shad flick their tails, mullet jump. Sometimes you'll see the water vibrating like a light rain sprinkling on the surface of the water, those will be glass minnows. Birds diving, Terns, Pelicans and Seagulls. White Birds on the shore line wading, you can see fish fins breaking the surface, swimming directly under the bird. I've seen Egrets catch fleeing shrimp in mid air that were evading a ravenous school of red fish. It's crazy business! The best way to learn how to fish artificial soft plastic baits is to leave the live bait at home. This spring get yourself some 4 inch Bass Assassin Sea Shad in Chicken on a Chain and 1/4 oz jig heads, tie it on to 12 inches of 30 lb leader add a swivel and go fishing. Fish that bait until you catch a fish on the soft plastic bait.

But Capt, Gare where do I go? Here's a for sure deal. During April and May keep an eye on the weather. You want to pick a day when there is light to no wind, north wind days are preferable. No waves breaking on the beach front, green to the beach as the fishermen say. The best way to know when to go? Get up an hour before sunrise and drive down to the Rusty Hook Access point and look at the surf. If its flat and calm, 30 minutes before sunrise wade into the water to the 2nd sand bar, you'll be waist deep. Wear your blue jeans/long pants and your sneakers and start casting toward Cuba. Hold on !!!!

For up to date fishing reports and info go to my Facebook Page.

TideWaterGuides © Come and fish it!!!

~gb~





MIGRANTS ARE BACK



ANGLETZ OF THE YEAR
2017



1st TROUT



RED DOG

YOU, TOO, CAN RECYCLE !!!



RECYCLING CENTER

702 61ST Galveston, TX

Office (409) 797-3958

MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT RECYCLING CENTER

Refrigerators, Air Conditioners (**Must Have Compressors Removed**)

Stoves, Washers, Dryers, & all other appliances

Bottle Glass Only

All Types of Paper

Cardboard

All Scrap Metals

Aluminum

5 Tires per Week – **Proof of Residency Required**

Used Gas, Used Oil, and antifreeze

Printer Ink Cartridges

1-9 Plastics except #6 ** Please Place All Plastic Bags in One Bag

Computers and All Electronics – **Proof of Residency Required**

Automotive Batteries and Rechargeable Batteries

Cell Phones

All Styrofoam (**Please Remove all Food**)

Before Bringing Your Items To The Center Please Wash Them Out!!!

All Items MUST Be Sorted Each Category Separate.

Do Not Bring Broken Glass, We No Longer Accept It.

We Do Not Accept Paint or Household Hazardous Waste!!

We Do Not Accept Pane Glass or Mirrors!!

We Do Not Accept Any Furniture of Any Kind!!

We Do Not Accept Air Filters, Airbeds, Tarps, or Water Hoses!!

How to safely dispose of your latex paint:

1. Buy cat litter.
2. Open can of paint.
3. Mix equal amounts of cat litter and paint.
4. Store in a dry place with lid off until completely dry.
5. Leave out by trash with lid off.

Our "Afterhours Recycling Drop-Off Center" is open for your convenience from 4:45pm until 8am every day except Holidays.

Any questions, please call (409) 797-3958

REMEMBERING DEAR NEIGHBORS

Sadly, two long time residents of Bay Harbor have passed away recently.

Hal Condara, whose beautiful gardens will always be remembered, passed away Nov.21, 2017

(see <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=187320533>) and

Terry Bradshaw, otherwise known as the lighthouse of Bay Harbor for the number of boat rescues he assisted with in our channel, passed away Jan. 24, 2018.

(see http://www.galvnews.com/obituaries/article_83dd0a23-6642-5fe7-aaf7-17d1e0a0dda9.html)



Garden Club



The annual Christmas party sponsored by the garden club was held at the home of Margaret & David Labbe who hosted the event along with Dana and Tim Kurtin. Over 50 residents attended sharing the delicious hors d'ouers and an Italian dinner prepared by the hostesses and participating in the always fun Chinese present swap.

The club presented the past president, Pam Williams, with a commemorative Christmas stocking and Irene Burgess was elected as the new President for 2018. Many thanks to the Labees and Kurtins for a most memorable party! Pictures follow.

Irene has started planning activities for the new year and is open to ideas from all. The first meeting will be held at her home, 4111 6th Street, on Saturday, February 24th at 10am. Peggy Cornelius of Tom Thumb Nursery will speak about the organic garden. Snacks and drinks will be provided and Peggy usually brings a small seasonal plant to offer attendees.

Members are reminded that it's dues time so bring your \$20 per family annual dues. There are 6 meetings per year that are scheduled for the last Saturday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and the Christmas Party held some time in December



LATEST WORDS ABOUT OUR BIRD ISLAND FROM PHILIP SMITH...

2/1 I have not touched base in awhile but wanted to give you a quick update on a small grant GBF has received from USFWS for the island.

Initially we were looking to band-aid the failed geotubes on the west bay side, similar to what we did a few years back with the reef balls.. However, after seeing the erosion from Harvey and recent high tides we are looking to have a detailed elevation survey of the island.

The new survey would be compares to surveys after initial construction to see how the island has changed since 2011. We would then use this info to hopefully be able to pursue larger funds to add more material back to the island (while at same time dredge channel again) and provide more significant protection of the island for a longer term benefits to wildlife. Of course if we are fortunate to get to a point of being able to do more work to the island we would work closely with the community to make sure y'all on board with the project, what it hopes to accomplish, what it would look like, etc.

If you have any question or concerns let men know. I would be happy to meet with board, etc if needed.

2/13 I am sure you have heard that GBF has a small grant and would like to survey the project area to get a good snapshot of the state of the island and compare that to pre-project and post construction state. We are hopeful that this information may allow us to seek additional funds to restore the island once again and to be able to provide a more long term solution to protecting the island. This would hopefully include dredging the channel once again.

We are currently reviewing survey transect locations and hope to be able to survey in the very near future. I will let you know when we have dates of survey and at that time we would most likely request access to launch a boat a the boat ramp. I have old keys to the ramp but do not have current keys.

I just wanted to make sure to get you in the loop and I will be in touch once we have the survey lined up. If you have any questions, etc. don't hesitate to give me a shout.

Thanks!
Philip

psmith@galvbay.org Phone: 281-332-3381 x 210 | Fax: 832-284-4982
www.galvbay.org 1100 Hercules Avenue, Suite 200, Houston, TX, 77058



2017 Christmas Party!





"LET'S GO FISHIN"
 DRUM SPRING SPECIAL

2018 Dues Reminder !!

Just a reminder to pay your dues of \$150 to BHIA.

Your dues supports our Bay Harbor Improvement Association including access to the piers, boat launch, pavilion, socials, civic updates and more.

If you believe you have sent your check, make sure it has cleared your bank and Bay Harbor's account was stamped on the back.

If you had a pier/boat launch key last year, you must turn it in to receive a the key for 2018.

Call me if you wish to discuss your status with BHIA.

Sincerely,

Gail Choate, BHIA Secretary/
 Treasurer
gschoate@sbcglobal.net
 409-737-1707
 4016 Fourth Street

Visit our website at www.bhiatx.org

Heron Advertising Rates

Rate:	Per Edition	4 Editions get 1 Free!
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1/8 page (2.75 x 5.5)	\$15.00	\$45.00
1/2 page (5.5 x 8.5)	\$25.00	\$75.00
Full page (8.5 x 11)	\$50.00	\$150.00

To provide an article or place an ad, you can call or write Pam Williams, Editor of the Heron.

(409) 750-2400 or pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net

Bay Harbor Classifieds

Rates: For a 2" wide, \$2.00 per line (minimum of 3 lines).

Bay Harbor Improvement Association

Bay Harbor, Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul-Orner, BeeGee Bay

Route 4, Box 190 B26

Galveston, Texas 77554



Visit our website at www.bhiatx.org

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 2-13 **Mardi Gras! Galveston**
- 10 **BHIA BOARD MEETING—home of Dale Mohn**
- 17 **WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club**
- 21 **GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion**
- 24 **BHIA Garden Club Meeting—home of Irene Burgess, 4111 6th St.**

MARCH

- 03 **Galveston Art Walk 6-9p**
- 17 **WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club**
- 21 **GAIN meeting 5:30am at Moody Mansion**

APRIL

- TBA **BHIA Board Meeting—home of Bob Seay, 4122 7th St.**
- 5-9 **Tall Ship Festival-Galveston Seaport**
- 08 **Ironman 70.3 Texas**
- 21 **Galveston Art Walk 6-9p**
- 17-22 **16th Annual Featherfest and Nature Photofest**
- 18 **GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody**
- 21 **Galveston Island Wine Festival**
- 21 **WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club**
- 21 **Historic Downtown Lofts Tour**
- 28 **BHIA GARDEN CLUB MEETING-TBA-see website for update**
- 28 **Galveston Island Beach Revue**
- 26-29 **Third Coast Music Festival**