1699 1999 TRICENTENNIAL

DAUPHIN ISLAND CELEBRATES
LANDING AND SETTLEMENT 300 YEARS AGO

Jim Hall, DICN Editor - On an overcast and rainy day in early February, 1699, Pierre Le Moyne Sieur d'Iberville anchored off shore of what later became know as French Louisiana. Today, we know the area as Mobile Bay. Earlier in his voyage, d'Iberville, had found the territory we call Pensacola to be occupied by the Spanish. Without specific instructions from the crown, he had sailed westward to find a place to establish the first French settlement along the Gulf coast.

As his ships approached the mouth of the large bay (Mobile Bay), an island was visible to the northwest, but did it have a suitable harbor? He dispatched two long boats, one under the command of his younger brother, Bienville, a brash 21 year old lieutenant. The boats returned to the ships the next day, but rain, wind, and fog had made soundings difficult and Bienville had failed to find a harbor.

On the following day, a break in the weather led d'Iberville to search for a harbor himself. At about two o'clock in the afternoon, his party was met with a hard rain, a brisk gale, and such dense fog that they could not see their ships. By evening the men were exhausted to row back to their ships, so d'Iberville elected to spend the night on the island.

The next morning, d'Iberville began to explore. In his journal he recorded finding on the "southwest end" of the island a "spot where more than sixty men or women had been slain." Along with the skeletal remains were "some of their household belongings." Thus, the name Massacre Island.

Due, probably, to the bad weather, d'Iberville failed to find the narrow pass into the harbor on the north side of Spanish Island. Again moving westward, he established Fort Maurepas, at the site of present-day Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Within a short time of establishing Fort Maurepas, d'Iberville realized that access to the vast river systems which led northward from that large bay where he had first landed, was key in

THE BEACH... NO SAND... NO DUNES... WHAT TO DO!

Jim Hall, DICN Editor - The number one problem which faces Dauphin Island, as a community, is finding and developing a solution to the loss of beach sand and property on the Gulf (south) shore of the Island. The problem exists from the eastern end at Fort Gaines to the west end of the pavement, and beyond.

In a recent conversation with the Town Mayor, Jeff Collier, he stated the problem, "Constant erosion over the years and especially two hurricanes in the last two years. The storm surge as result of Hurricane Georges severely impacted our Island. The storm destroyed beach homes, damaged several structures, washed away beaches in some areas and badly eroded the shore in other locations." He added, "The already poor drainage problem on the west end of Bienville Blvd. has become critical. But that's not news to us today. I am painfully aware of conditions, we all know what the storm has done. The challenge facing us is what can we, as a community, do to prevent further damage and erosion on the south shore of the Island, what can we do to prevent additional damage to our streets, to personal property, and"

TOWN MEET CALLED SUBJECT: WEST END BEACHES

Jim Hall, DICN Editor - Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier and the Town Council have called a public Town Meeting for Thursday night February 11, 1999. The purpose according to the Mayor, "We want to explain to the community, and have discussions concerning what actions are being taken by the Town to rebuild the beaches and dune system on the west end, and to prevent the flooding of Bienville Blvd." The meeting will be in the Chamber of Commerce Building, starting at 7pm.

"Our plan for the meeting" Collier continued, "is to define the
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DAUPHIN ISLAND FOUNDATION
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD’S REPORT
Admiral William Stewart

It was an interesting year. As I look at the happenings on our Island during calendar 1998, I find several events which highlight the importance of your Foundation to the future of our community.

First is the Hiking and Bike Trail. Thanks to the personal commitment of time and money on the part of many Islanders and the on-going partnership of the Town and the Foundation, the next section of the Trail has been substantially completed. The elevated walkway over Salt Creek is in place and open. This attractive walkway, plus the site preparation for path paving between Navarre St. and Orleans Drive has been completed entirely with private funds. It is planned to complete the paving of that block in the very near future. Generous donations by individuals and by groups, commemorating, and the sale of many T-shirts have raised the necessary money. Additional private funds are being collected, more T-shirts are being sold, and plans for the extension of the trail to at least the Little Red School House are being made. Some site preparation work is already completed. Special thanks go to Pat and Bill Edwards for their personal commitments and community spirit.

Second is the establishment of a “beach nourishment and west end street drainage system rehabilitation” fund by the Foundation. At the request of the Town and supported by the Property Owners Association, over $6,000 has been deposited, and commitments for some $15,000 have been promised.

With a goal of $500,000 the fund is designed to accomplish several objectives. First, it’s existence and magnitude illustrates the community commitment to beach restoration. Without that commitment, matching grants and other support would not be possible. Second, Foundation funds can be used for restoration and nourishment of both private and public beaches. Although the town has requested an Alabama Attorney General’s ruling on whether it can use public funds for the town’s 15% matching funds (some $200,000), there is no indication that such a ruling will be made. There is no guarantee that such a ruling, even if favorable, would be applicable to future storm damage.

Several methods are being considered by the Mayor and the Town Council: Trucking sand to the Island and spreading the material on the beaches; and, Corps. of Engineers (COE) dredging and depositing the material by pipeline on the south Island beaches. All of this will be expensive and time consuming. Trucking will furnish some quick relief at a total cost of nearly $1.3 million dollars.

No “short term fix” will solve the beach erosion problem there is no long term plan as well. The Town and the Foundation are working with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the COE for a long term solution. By joint public notice, dated December 4, 1998, a plan has been developed to deposit approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of sandy material in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area (SIBUA). COE experiments have shown that this material deposited in the SIBUA will be moved by the littoral current system to the south face of Dauphin Island.

Once the beach sand has been moved and west end is somewhat protected from overwash, the remaining funds will be used by the Town to rehabilitate the storm drainage system on the Island’s west end. Long a marginal system, the drainage infrastructure was destroyed by the storm surge and overwash of Hurricane Georges. Blindly digging ditches is not likely to solve the problem. The town will need the service of a professional engineer to plan and supervise reconstruction.

The Island’s west end is very fragile now. The slightest weather disturbance in the Gulf causes overwash and flooding. We saw an example of this January 23 when a front moved through the area and created Southerly winds.

Continued in next column
Dauphin Island Celebrates 300 Years

forging military and trading alliances with the large local Indian societies which lived in the interior. So in late December 1701, he issued the order to move the colony back to Mobile Bay.

Only a few years later, the growing population in the island disliked the name Massacre finding it “harsh” and perhaps Bienville, then governor, thought a new name would bring a new image. He decided to change the name of the island to Isle Dauphine and the port to Port Dauphin. In French, dauphin refers to the male heir to the throne and his wife is the dauphine. King Louis XIV approved the name change in 1712.

Dauphin Island can claim an important and colorful place in the history of French Louisiana as the oldest permanently occupied settlement in the region. Since those days of the early 1700s, the Island has also been occupied by the British, the Spanish, the United States, the Confederate States, and following the end of the Civil War, the United States - six flags!

Today, Island residents, the Town government, businesses and owners of property on Dauphin Island are commemorating the original landing of Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d’Iberville 300 years ago with a year-long Tricentennial Celebration.

Mr. David Graves, Chairman of the Island’s Tricentennial Commission, said “Every event, every thing we have planned is focused on bringing the community closer together.” He continued, “we believe that sometime during the year, everyone will find an activity in which they are interested, can participate in, will be fun, and will provide lasting memories.” Mr. Graves emphasized, “visitors and guests are especially welcomed to every event on the Island.”

On Sunday, January 3, a ribbon cutting and the dedication for the Tricentennial Commemorative Brick Path was conducted at the Water Tower Plaza. Roughly 1,200 bricks will be used in the 75-foot long path, Graves said. Each brick will cost $35 and will cover the cost of engraving a dedication or message from the donor for future generations. Volunteers have mailed applications for the commemorative bricks to 1,500 full-time residents. “We intended for the residents to have the first opportunity,” Graves said, “and we have additional plans to put applications out in the area to give everyone an opportunity to buy bricks.”

January also saw Mardi Gras parades; the Krewe de la Dauphine paraded on Saturday, Jan. 16, as the first Mardi Gras parade of the season on the Gulf coast. Their theme was a salute to the Island’s Tricentennial. The Island Mystics covered the same parade route from the Sea Lab, on Bienville Blvd., to the Park and Beach public beach parking lot on Saturday, Jan. 24.

In February, the Battle of Mobile Bay 5K race will be run on the streets of the Island starting at 9am. Also on Feb. 6, a Living History Day at Fort Gaines. On Feb. 12, a Harp Duet concert will be performed at the Methodist Church. The Dauphin Island Art Show, a juried show, will be in place at the Little Red School House on March 6 & 7. Also on March 6, the Murphy High School Jazz Band will perform at Fort Gaines. A schedule of all the events in 1999 may be found on the last two pages of this DICN issue.

Planning for the Tricentennial got under way in early 1996 with the original idea formulated by the Town’s former Development Network director, Jimmie Morris, and Islander Marti Harding. Mrs. Harding became the President of the Dauphin Island 300 Commission. Jimmie Morris now lives in Daphne. Since those early days, over 100 Islanders and Mobileans have worked on plans for the year-long celebration.

Editor’s note: credit for the details of the Island’s early history to Mr. George Shorter, Center for Archaeological Studies, University of South Alabama. Longer version written and published in the DICN, Vol 1, No.3, Spring of 1997.

TRICENTENNIAL CALENDARS AND TOWN FLAGS ON SALE

Jim Hall, DICN Editor - Official Town of Dauphin Island flags and banners, such as the ones flying from the LeMoyne and Bienville intersection light poles are available for sale. The 2 X 3 ft flag is $35; the 3 X 5 ft flag is $45; and the 2 X 3 banner is $35. The Dauphin Island emblem used on the flag was created by James Meade. They are available for sale at Town Hall.

Calendars

The Tricentennial Calendars in blazing colors with the Town crest on the front cover, are available from most Island businesses for $6. This is a fund raising project of the Island Tricentennial Commission. Inside are reproductions of antique maps, historic photos, and narratives of Island events of the early days of settlement, and a history of today’s community. The monthly calendar pages include historic events of the past 300 years on the day of the event. This calendar is a collection item useful well past December, 1999. The calendar was compiled by Doris Anderson and Frances
From the Mayor's Office

Jeff Collier, Mayor, Dauphin Island - As we begin yet another new year, 1999 also marks the year of our Island’s Tricentennial! Three hundred years ago King Louis XIV summoned Iberville and Bienville to protect his territory in the French New World, thus bringing them to this part of the Gulf of Mexico. It is our time to reflect on our heritage of these three hundred years and to understand that we are walking in the footsteps of history each day we remain on this notable island. To honor this historic event, a year long celebration of activities are scheduled for your enjoyment and participation. On behalf of the Town Council, I want to recognize the many volunteers, Tricentennial Chairman David Graves, and especially 300 Commission President Marty Harding and former Development Director Jimmie Morris for having the desire, the determination, the enthusiasm, and above all, the dream of organizing such a gallant endeavor! As you Mayor, I encourage all Islanders to seize the significance of our Tricentennial year, by pledging to ourselves, that we will do something to invigorate our alliance with our families, our neighbors, our friends and our associates, and to enhance the richness of this island we call home. The Hurricane Georges recovery efforts have made remarkable progress in just three short months. By far, the most serious damage was realized on the Island’s west end, where numerous streets, headwalls, and drainage infrastructure (in addition to some 40 to 50 private homes) bear the scars of George’s fury. The Town-owned boat ramps at “Billy Goat Hole”, on the Island’s east end, also received heavy damage from the high winds and violent storm surge. Negotiations with FEMA were recently completed clearing the way for the start of the repair process. I salute the efforts of the entire Town staff for going above and beyond the call of duty to insure the safety and expectations of our residents while enduring less than optimum conditions. I, too, applaud the many local state and federal agencies who provided vital assistance during our hour of need. In December, I had the pleasure of representing our Town at the First Annual Project Impact Summit which was held in Washington, D.C. Project Impact is a new FEMA program that is targeted at “Building Disaster Resistant Communities” by focusing the combined energy of our communities, voluntary agencies, states and federal government and corporate America. Dauphin Island, in partnership with Bayou La Batre and Mobile County, was selected as a participating community in the Project Impact program. Funds will be made available to help formulate a plan so that our community can be better prepared when the next disaster strikes, thus mitigating potential losses. Initially, we plan to pursue the retrofitting of homes and upgrade substandard drainage systems as our first projects. The retrofitting of homes could include items such as storm shutters and additional hurricane straps for those in high risk zones. It could also involve elevating and/or relocating of structures in similar instances. Inadequate drainage systems can be enhanced so that flood events are reduced substantially. As a member community of Project Impact, our Island will realize many benefits for years to come. Neal Schaefer, Inc. of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has been selected to formulate a comprehensive plan for the Town of Dauphin Island. The company was chosen from a pool of over thirty others, partly due to the high marks they have received in working with coastal communities. In addition, Coastal Environments, Inc. will be used as consultants to specifically address any and all environmental concerns. A “kickoff meeting” was held in early October where a number of Island residents shared their ideas and suggestions for future growth. The Zoning Ordinance will also be reviewed (and revised as necessary) to accommodate our goals. Other public forums will be offered to allow for maximum input from you, the Island resident. Seize the opportunity and help shape our Island’s future! The comprehensive plan is expected to be completed in the Fall of 1999. In closing, I want to extend my personal invitation to you to take part in the Town’s government. I encourage each of you to attend Town Council meetings which are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm. Finally, I thank you for the privilege to serve as your Mayor. Best regards...

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Construction to begin soon!! Only 6 units left. Three and four bedroom units on three floors. Four bedroom unit is unique in that it can be divided into two units. Prices start at $199,000 pre-construction
NEWS FROM THE DAUPHIN ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

A Message From the President
- ROBERT C. CAMPBELL, III, President -

As the Association's President for the fourth consecutive year, I must say there never seems to be a dull moment for your Board members. We are constantly facing new challenges while performing our responsibilities to ensure that the assets of the DIPOA are protected and that our covenants and restrictions are enforced. Roger Geil, the chairman of the Architectural Review Committee and its members, have done a superb job in making sure that the quality of life for all property owners is enhanced. This could not be accomplished without following and enforcing the rules of the Association. It is a thankless job, but one that needs to be done and done properly.

Hurricane Georges certainly had a devastating effect on the Island, especially on the West End. The Mayor, the City, the Water and Sewer Board, the DIPOA, the Chief of Police, the Park and Beach Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Foundation all joined hands in a tireless effort to help bring things back to normal. There is still much to be accomplished, but the spirit of Dauphin Islanders will prevail.

We suffered substantial damage to the golf course, but thanks to Jeff Collier, Red Collier and his crew, the course is back in good shape. We owe all of our employees a great deal of thanks. The restaurant also suffered severe damage, but thanks to Jim Robertson, his Operations Committee and Bill Lindley we are back in business providing excellent food service. The grill operated by Michael Johnson is providing good service and excellent food. We have re-carpeted the restaurant, the pro shop and the entire grill area. We continue to make any and all necessary repairs to the Club facility and are replacing worn out equipment when necessary. All this is being accomplished under a very tight budget because we have not received the oil royalty payments as expected. Although it was anticipated that the Aloe well would provide the Association approximately $25,000 per month for the next twenty years, we are receiving approximately $3,000 per month with no anticipation that the amount will increase. Apparently the production estimates were incorrect, but we shall continue to investigate further with the hopes that production will increase.

Beach erosion appears to be the biggest challenge for all of us Islanders. Hurricane Georges certainly changed the landscape of our dunes. People have suffered severe hardships as we try to re-establish dune lines and coastal construction lines. We must do everything in our power to protect our beach property. We must all join together to find a real and permanent solution to our erosion problems. Every faction and every entity on the Island needs to come together for this common cause. We must zealously guard our environment to ensure that generations to come will enjoy the benefits of a beach community rather than be told years from now how great it used to be.

The toll booth idea is a controversial project, but it is fully supported by the Board. The City of Dauphin Island needs additional revenues to continue to provide municipal services to its residents and visitors. Due to the destruction of real and personal property caused by Hurricane Georges, the City of Dauphin Island will lose current tax monies resulting in a substantial loss in tax revenues. Roads must be improved. The Chief of Police needs a new building. The beaches need to be re-nourished. The public facilities need to be enhanced. None of these worthwhile projects can be accomplished without funds. The toll booth proposal is not an "elitist tax" on the people but rather a "survival fee" for survival. The proposal can provide additional funds which will greatly benefit full-time residents, part-time residents and our visitors. In fact, the projected monies to be received through the toll booth would equal approximately three-fourths (3/4) of the City's annual budget.

The same people in the "Sound Off" column who complain about an anticipated fee of one or two dollars to park on the Island and enjoy its pleasures would complain if they were asked to spend one dime to improve the quality of life on the Island. Those who show no compassion for the needs of the Island have no argument. Just as courage takes its stand by others in challenging situations, so compassion takes its stand with others in their distress. The Island is in a state of distress. Compassion is a virtue that takes seriously the reality of other persons, their inner lives, their emotions, as well as their external circumstances. It is an active disposition toward fellowship and sharing, towards supportive companionship in distress.

We must contribute to the preservation of the whole species. We must hurry without reflection to the relief of those who are in distress. Our beaches are in distress. Our roads are in distress. Our environment is in distress. Our quality of life is in distress. We need to join together as neighbors. We all are in the same boat and we all have to take our turn at the oar. Please, let's work together in the year 1999, and make our Tricentennial celebration a great success knowing that we all individually contributed towards a better place to live and to visit.

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and will be blessed with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Bob Campbell, President
Property Owners Assn.
and #4 were also opened at ( or near) their original design. The lakes have been flushed free of salt by the abundant rains. Georges is fast becoming but a memory.

DAUPHIN ISLAND TRICENTENNIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Isle Dauphine is proud to host the “Dauphin Island Tricentennial Golf Tournament” which is sponsored by the Dauphin Island Veteran’s Association. The tournament is set for Saturday, March 13, 1999 at 12:30pm and will offer a scramble format. Watch for additional information and make your plans to join us for an afternoon of fun while supporting a very worthwhile organization.

THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER GOLF PROGRAM

The third annual “Summer Golf Program for Juniors” attracted 73 local youths to test their skills. This amount is equal to the number of participants who competed in 1996 and 1997... combined! Player competed for top honors in their respective age divisions which included “Most Improved Player” and “Lowest (Average) Score”. The results were as follows; Age 7 & under - Most improved Boy - Ben Dickey Most improved Girl -N/ A Lowest Score Boy - Sam Moore Lowest Score Girl - Maria Tafral Age 8-10 Most improved Boy - Zachary Spear Most improved Girl - Camae Ellington Lowest Score Boy - Kenny Crow Lowest Score Girl - Laura Curtis Age 11-12 Most Improved Boy - Lucas Spear Most Improved Girl - Darlene Looney Lowest Score Boy - Trey Taylor Lowest Score Girl - Ashley Alex Age 13-14 Most Improved Boy - Chase Dindo Most Improved Girl - Jill Hagy Lowest Score Boy - Frankie Wallace Lowest Score Girl - Stephanie Alessi Age 15-17 Most Improved Boy - N/A Most Improved Girl - N/ A Lowest Score Boy - Josh Dindo Lowest Score Girl - Sammi Jo Hagy 100% Attendance Melissa Megginson & Zachary Spear

The course was quite stinky with holes-in-one in 1998 as local golfers could only muster three for the entire year. We are pleased to share their “moments of Glory” with you.

Al Hibbert March 1, 1998
Hole # 16, 158 yds Club used - 4 wood Witnesses: Joyce Wood, Pat Hibbert, Bill Nichteing

Frank Hawkins July 30, 1998 Hole # 13, 110 yds Club used - 9 iron Witnesses: Arnold Farmer, Bill Mitchell, Chris Mitchell

Al Hibbert December 19, 1998 Hole # 13, 110 yds Club used: Pitching Wedge Witnesses: Tom Sawyer, Mel Flynn, Maurice Ludwicg Congratulations to you both!!

New to the game? Need a little help? Call PGA Professional Jeff Coster, and make an appointment for a lesson... or two individual and group lessons are available. New for 1999... video taped for you to take home and review as necessary. If your New Year’s resolution was to get better at golf - now is the time to start. Call the Golf Shop at 861-2433 today! Note - Isle Dauphine also offers swim lesson and water aerobics each summer. Group & private lessons are available. Sessions usually begin in late May or early June. Call for details.

If you are looking for a “friendly Game” and some enjoyable company, Isle Dauphine is the place. The Men’s Golf Association tees off every Tuesday & Thursday at noon and Saturdays at 8:30am for “points play” competition. The Ladies’ Golf Association gets started every Wednesday at 9am and offers a variety of Formats for your convenience. Mixed scrambles are scheduled every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 12:30pm and teams are paired by the Golf Professional. If you would like to participate in any of these events but need additional information, please feel free to give us a call. We’d like to have you!

ISLE DAUPHINE GRILL

Public Welcome

Sandwiches:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamburger</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Dog</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeseburger</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chili Dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philly Steak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn Dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grilled Chicken</td>
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<td>Tuna Salad</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pecan Chicken Salad</td>
<td>$4.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Strips</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Pacific Burger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grilled Cheese</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh onions, pineapple, lettuce w/special sauce</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Fries</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chips</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iced Tea</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee (espresso).</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$15.00 PER PERSON 1 to 4 Players Per Round Green fees & cart for 18 holes Must Present This Ad. Tuesday - Sunday

Expires Feb 28, 1999
DI TOWN AND BUSINESSES ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Jim Hall, DICN Editor - Dauphin Island has an attractive presence on the World Wide Web. DI Town may be found on the Internet with a wealth of information. The Home Page, or first page one finds when calling up www.gulfinfo.com/ditown, has a welcome and selections for a Town profile, businesses and services, Town government, attractions and activities, Tricentennial information, an Island calendar of events, and other useful information.

When selecting the map, the surfer will find a scrollable map which includes a street schematic and identification for some interesting spots on the Island. Finding many spots “hot” - a click on any one will give the surfer full screen pictures and narrative about the subject.

When choosing Business and Services, the Gulf Information Pages comes up. On this Home Page, one finds a menu many businesses, activities, and services on the Island. An example would be links to the Shell Mound Page, the Sand Island Light House page, and of course, the Fort.

An interesting selection is the BBS, or the DI Bulletin Board. This page is a site which anyone on the Internet can post questions, make statements, and/or give answers. In the few weeks following the Hurricane, many people from out of state asked questions about conditions on the Island. Several Island people answered most of these inquiries.

On the Gulf Information Page, www.gulfinfo.com, most of the realtors may be found with their listings for sales and rentals. Several of the charter fishing and excursion boats are displayed. The Chamber of Commerce is developing a Web page for the benefit of their members. Other agencies on the Island are working on Internet pages which should be on line soon. The Webmaster is Billy Dunn, the Home Page address is www.gulfinfo.com.
Chairman's Report

Dauphin Island Water & Sewer Authority

Fred Rounsaville, Board Chairman - The Dauphin Island Water & Sewer Authority sustained substantial damage to the water distribution and wastewater collection systems on the Island as a result of Hurricane Georges. The cost to date has been in excess of $500,000 of which FEMA disaster aid assistance has amounted to about $160,000. We estimate the total costs for repairs will be $900,000 with FEMA disaster aid contributing $765,000. The balance of $135,000 needed for repairs and reconstruction will be absorbed through loans, creative financing and from the Authority's contingency fund established to be used only during disasters.

Even though the damage was severe, because of the quick actions of the Authority's personnel, water and sewer was available to many residents shortly upon their return to the Island following the storm. After immediate emergency repairs were made, Authority personnel began locating and capping broken sewer and water lines, and marking water meter locations. A contractor was hired to clean out clogged sewer lines, identify where major water infiltration was occurring and make the required immediate repairs.

The quick response in some cases caused additional difficulties. When the National Guard and contractors began the clean up process, the heavy equipment damaged numerous manholes requiring replacement. Another problem experienced was as property owners hired contractors to repair their homes and replace missing sand, many more lines were damaged by their equipment. In some cases, water meters were located and replaced two or three times during this period. Additional delays were experienced during the recovery when there was water on the roadways. The storm removed most of the dunes on the West End, and, with high tides and strong south winds, water covered the roadway restricting work periods.

The Board of Directors is extremely proud of the response of the Authority's personnel and wants to again express our thanks to each for their outstanding contributions during this critical time.

Please note: There are no charges for reconnecting existing water and sewer service for customers.

The Board is in the process of evaluating the economic impact on the water and sewer systems and we are considering how to continue to meet the needs of the Island. At this time, no increase in rates have been formalized but discussions are continuing. As needs are identified and the costs evaluated, information on how to meet the economic impact will be provided to the Island residents.

Fred Rounsaville, Chairman
Board of Directors
Dauphin Island Water & Sewer Authority

FAITH FELLOWSHIP
GREET NEW MINISTER

In October, Rev. Marion Berry, assumed the position of Minister of the Dauphin Island Faith Fellowship Church. The relatively new church group formed only a year ago on the Island and is now affiliated with the Church of God. Rev. Berry is married to his wife Cathy and they have three children. He finished his Ministerial Internship Program in May of 1993. He served as Youth Pastor at the Bayou La Batre Church of God from April, 1993 until October, 1995. He served as associate pastor at Victory Life Christian Center from January 1996 until this past October when he moved to the Dauphin Island Church. Rev. Berry is presently conducting services in the Island's Catholic Church Fellowship Hall with services on Wednesday evening at 7 and on Sunday morning at 11am.

Country Club Villas
(334) 861-0044
1400 Osprey Lane, corner of Osprey and Orleans.
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

We would like to show our appreciation to anyone who sends us a productive referral by giving them their choice of:

Daily Greens Fees and Cart for one at Isle Dauphine, A Pro Shop Gift Certificate, or Dinner for two at your choice of fine Island restaurants.

- Each large decked dune-side air conditioned two bedroom unit includes your choice of full size or bunk beds, Sleeper sofa, full size kitchen containing full size appliances Stove, Refrigerator, microwave, Dishwasher, Coffeemaker, Dishes, pots and pans, utensils, Remote control Cable TV, local telephone, Washer and Dryer.

"Don't miss the Tricentennial at Country Club Villas on Dauphin Island"
- A quarter-mile walk from the Isle Dauphine Golf Club and fishing Pier.
- A hundred yards from the Surf
- A quarter-mile from Island restaurants


- Accommodations for groups as large as 24 people, using multiple units, as many as Six golf foursomes at one location.
- Golf packages can include greens fees, cart rentals, meals, linens and laundry.
- Industrial & business groups, Temporarily assigned groups, gatherings, and business meetings are welcome, packages can include meals catered on site, with linens and laundry. Meeting rooms available. No Pets, Deposit required.

Country Club Villas
Fax (334) 861-0055
call or write for rental rates
Email imпортсе@bellsouth.net
AUDUBON BIRD SANCTUARY GAINS NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

One thousand foot disabled accessible boardwalk and lake pier constructed!

The new pier out into the lake in the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary is an improvement constructed by the Park and Beach Board.

Mike Henderson, Executive Director - The Dauphin Island Park and Beach is delighted with the public recognition of recent improvements to the Audubon Bird Sanctuary. Thanks to a matching grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs a 1,000 foot disabled-access boardwalk has been built from the parking lot to the lake. The Friends of the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. secured this grant, and later asked the Park and Beach Board’s help to handle construction. The total project cost was $186,52 part of which was reimbursed by ADECA through a grant secured by the Friends of the Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuary. The balance was provided by the Park and Beach Board.

To complement the boardwalk, the Park and Beach Board also built a disabled-access pier into the lake itself. It is forty feet long with an enlarged "T" on the end, complete with built-in benches. This structure provides visitors with a completely new vantage point to experience this beautiful environment. Both projects have resulted in unqualified appreciation from the public.

When the projects were first completed, we realized that many who might enjoy it the most, were not aware of the opportunity. Therefore, we staged a formal grand opening and invited Lamona Lucas, State Director of Rehabilitation Services, to speak and encouraged representatives of walking impaired organizations to attend. Other speakers included George Waldron; Dauphin Island Town Mayor Jeff Collier; Laurie Bailey, President of the Friends of the Sanctuary; and Phillip Hinesley, of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. The event was a great success and more importantly served to inform greater Mobile area citizens of this new resource.

This benefit was summed up by one of the guests, bound to a wheelchair, who stated as he was leaving, "I doubt you can understand what this means to me, but this is the first opportunity I have had to go out on a pier in a lake since my accident 12 years ago."

Dauphin Island is becoming internationally recognized as one of the top bird watching locations in the entire United States. As the owner of the Audubon Bird Sanctuary, (the only site in the State so designated by the National Audubon Society), the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board continues to improve this beautiful resource. The site is rich with an incredible range of ecosystem including a freshwater lake, dune system, Gulf beaches, pine forest, swamp and hard wood clearings. Over the years trail systems have been established to provide walking paths through each of these areas.

Bird Sanctuary Advisory Committee is Created

George J. Walton, III, Chairman of the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, invited the National Audubon Society to participate in an advisory committee for improving the Island’s Audubon Bird Sanctuary. Mr. Waldron summed up the Park and Beach Board’s position in the first committee meeting by stating "our goal is to make this Island Sanctuary, the best bird sanctuary in the southeast".

Members include, George Waldron, Lee Levitt, a permanent resident of Dauphin Island; and Norman Brunswig, Assistant Director of Sanctuaries for the National Audubon Society. Also participating are John Porter, Executive Director of the Friends of Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. Dwight Cooley, Deputy Manager of Wheeler Wildlife Refuge of the Fish and Wildlife Service; Mike Henderson, Executive Director of the Park and Beach Board, and Diane Wakeman, Assistant Director.

The general consensus is that the Committee has proved to be an unqualified success. The Committee was formed to improve communication between the organizations and provide opportunities to work together on common goals. For example, the Park and Beach Board coordinated with the Committee regarding the raised walkway and parking lot expansion projects as well as basic maintenance plans. A matching grant application from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program was obtained to seek funding for a project to control Cogin Grass in the Sanctuary. This grass is listed as one of the ten worst weeds in the world and destroys natural vegetation very quickly. John Porter volunteered, on behalf of the "Friends" organization, to act as point man on this project.

Other common goals the committee has include using controlled burns as a management tool, steps to limit the impact of popcorn trees, and an interpretive center related to a coastal birding trail.

RAISED WALKWAY THROUGH THE TUPELO GUM SWAMP

The DIPBB is proud to announce a new project to provide controlled access to one of the most beautiful sections rarely seen by visitors. It is the Tupelo Swamp lying between the lake and the main swamp area to the east. It differs from the other swamps because, although wet it is rarely...
Controlled Burn Planned in Audubon Bird Sanctuary

John Porter, Executive Dir., Friends of the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. - You may recall the wildfire that started in the Sanctuary one February afternoon several years ago. Gave some of us a real start, our first thoughts being for our neighbors living on Audubon, Bienville and in the Campground. Fortunately our Fire Rescue service, with the help of the Alabama Forestry Commission, quickly brought the blaze under control before any harm was done. In fact, that fire really turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It cleared the tangled underbrush from the area and opened up the canopy, making it better for the trees and birds. Two days afterwards I walked through the burned area and was surprised to see the whole place covered in new spider webs! Mother Nature was at work restoring the natural order of her work. A few months later while walking down by the lake I was treated to the beautiful spectacle of a Scarlet Tanager feeding in the blackened remnants.

Fire is a part of the natural process of forest life, usually starting from lightning strikes. Pine forests, particularly long-leaf, depend on an occasional fire for their natural growth, to keep the underbrush down and reduce the competition for sunlight. Even young long-leaf pines, less than a foot tall, will survive a fire. Other desirable plants also depend on fire for their existence, some seeds will not germinate without a fire.

Since the development of the Island in the fifties, fire protection has interrupted these natural processes in the Sanctuary. These good intentions have created a problem. The underbrush has grown tall and thick and the debris from countless storms, fuel for a possible fire, has piled up on the forest floor creating a severe hazard. And it also reduces the value and effectiveness of the Sanctuary as habitat for migrating birds.

This is a problem common to all managed forests, National Forests or Parks, Wildlife Refuges or pulpwood plantations. The solution lies in controlled burns, a forest management practice where small sections are burned under carefully controlled conditions eliminating the fuel for possible larger wildfires. To this end the Management Plan for the Sanctuary, adopted by the Friends of the Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. in 1996, suggested a systematic program of controlled burns. The accidental burn in 1997 was an unintended beginning for the planned program. Recently, the Friends and the Park and Beach Board working together have enlisted the help of the Alabama Forestry Commission to start this much needed series of controlled burns.

Last fall, Mike Henderson and I walked the Sanctuary with a forester from the Commission and he identified several areas that would be good for burning now, under proper weather conditions. One of these is the area west of Guillard Lake, the area that burned earlier. The fire breaks cut for the earlier fire are still present and can easily be recleared making the area readily accessible for burning. This would amount to some 20 acres or so, not a big burn by the Forestry Commission standards. The second potential area for immediate burning is a triangular plot just southeast of the parking lot, protected on all three sides by wide trails that make good fire breaks. This is a small area probably less than ten acres.

Current plans are for the Alabama Forestry Commission, under contract from the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board to conduct a burn of the lake area or perhaps both areas the last week in February, weather permitting. They will bring four trucks with pumps and one dozer, also with a pumper. Under the terms of the contract the Forestry Commission will assume full liability and responsibility. They assure us that with the equipment described above they easily control burns of as much as six hundred acres.

So...if you see a cloud of smoke on the eastern end of the island in late February you’ll know what’s going on. Not a threat. Not a problem. We’re just trying to make the Sanctuary an even better place for birds, birds and other visitors while removing a hazard to our neighbors and giving them a better sense of security. Any questions call Mike Henderson at 861-3607 or me at 861-2120.

Continued on page 12
Rest Stop continued.
swing. We wish to thank Mobile
County Commissioner Gary Tanner
for providing the large storm drain
pipes needed to provide road
access and the employees of the
Town of Dauphin Island for putting
them into place. We encourage all
Island residents and visitors to
enjoy this park when you are in the
area.

NEW BATH HOUSE
ON BEACH

The original bathrooms at the
public beach withstood
Hurricanes Frederic and Elena, but
finally fell victim to the rampant
erosion affecting this location. For
the last several years, the Park and
Beach Board has leased portable
toilets to accommodate the public's
need. The Dauphin Island Park and
Beach Board is happy to announce
plans to construct a new bath house
structure at this site. The award of
a matching grant from the Alabama
Department of Economic
and Community Affairs will allow us to
build a facility similar to the one the
Town constructed at the ferry
landing. Special thanks go to Gil
Gilder and Phillip Hinesley of the
Coastal Programs Division of
ADECA for their assistance.

FRIENDS OF FORT GAINES
SUPPORT GROUP IS
CREATED

The Dauphin Island Park
and Beach Board is pleased to
announce the creation of the Friends
of Fort Gaines. It is the inspiration
of Dr. Ed Sellers, our newest Board
Member and, as a fund-raising
group, will help augment the
financial resources needed for
restoration projects at the Fort.

The group's mission is to
work toward the improvement of
the Fort's basic structure and expand
the enjoyment and educational
benefit to guests. Because of its
role in the Battle of Mobile Bay
(Damn the Torpedoes- Full Speed
Ahead!), Fort Gaines is recognized
as one of the most famous sites of
the Civil War era. It has also been
described as one of the best
preserved examples of mid-nineteenth
century seacoast fortifications in
the east. Unfortunately, our coastal
environment causes more damage
than the cannons of the Union
Forces so restoration and continuing
maintenance are a constant
challenge.

In this year of the Island's
Tricentennial Anniversary, the
importance of preserving our local
history is recognized more than ever. An
dozen is invited to join the Friends
of Fort Gaines and help in this effort.
More information is available by
calling 861-6972.

PARKING AREA EXPANDED

Due to the increasing
popularity of birdwatching, the
Sanctuary's parking lot is quickly
filled which results in many guests
having to park on the roadside and
walk in. The Park and Beach Board
and others such as the Friends of the
Sanctuary agreed that this problem
needed to be addressed prior to the
beginning of Spring Migration. We
recently completed a project to more
than double the number of cars
which can use this facility. All
underbrush was removed by hand,
and the large pines and beautiful
magnolias were incorporated into the
parking scheme.

Dauphin Island Boy Scout Troop 5, active members are: Tony Menotti,
2nd Class & Patrol Leader; T.J. Esteller, 2nd Class; William
Overstreet, 2nd Class; Butch Thierry, Tenderfoot; Brandon Ezell, 2nd
Class; J. D. Ellington, 2nd Class; A. J. Ladnier, 1st Class; and,
Assistant Scout Master, Jeff Ellington. Troop 5 is always looking for
new Scouts. Any young man, 11 years old, or older, who would like to
join, please call 861-8209 or 861-2363. The Troop meet every Monday
night from 6 to 7:30 pm in the old Town Hall. Adult participation is
always needed and appreciated. Jeff Caldwell, Scout Master

TRICENTENNIAL ARTS & CRAFTS
SET FOR MARCH 6 & 7

Jim Hall, DICI Editor - The Tricentennial Arts & Crafts Fest
will be on display Saturday and Sunday, March 6 & 7, on the grass
near the Park and Beach public pier and beach area on Bienville Blvd.,
just west of the Little Red School House. A number of the artists
will be entering their work in a Juried Art Show in which prizes will
be awarded in several categories.

The Arts & Crafts Fest is sponsored by the Dauphin Island
Tricentennial Commission and the Dauphin Island Art Guild. Work
will be on display by most all the 30 member Art Guild, plus many
other artists from around the South. Most of the work on display
will be available for sale.

A sampling of the artists from beyond the shores of the Island
are: Conrad Lippert, from Athens, Al, with Raku Pottery; Madeline
Busby, from Mobile, with her water color / mixed media; Joe
Sheffield, Mobile, with water colors; Jim Baumgartner, Vanneumont,
AL, with painted gourds and traditional cultural crafts; Richard
Britnell, Auburn, with graphics, treasure maps, Mobile Bay map, and
crests; and Steve Burdi, of Ocean Springs, MS, with pottery.

In addition to the Juried Show for professional artists, the
event will include a Student Art Show. Students from Mobile Middle
Schools and High Schools will be on site. Prizes will be awarded to
First, Second and Third Places.

Celebrating 100 years of operation, the Dauphin Island "Little
Red School House" will be conducting tours of the building during
the weekend and will have on display old pictures and memorabilia
of their history.

On the grounds will be food and beverage concessions: the
School PTO and the DI Veterans Assoc. will have booths, as well as
local restaurants.

Awards and prizes for the Juried Art and the Students' Art Shows
will be presented Saturday evening at Fort Gaines at 6:15 pm. The awards
ceremony will be followed by a concert by the Murphy High School Jazz
Band. Organizer, Barbara Louis-Williams says spaces are still available for artists,
craftsmen, and other vendors. She may be contacted at (334) 861-5760.
ISLAND RE-ENTRY TAGS CONFIRMED

Residents, businesses, and those who work on Dauphin Island need to be aware of the re-entry tag system adopted by the Town of Dauphin Island. Ordinance No. 56 was adopted June 3, 1998. This ordinance established procedures for the distribution and purchase of re-entry tags for the purposes of prioritizing and controlling re-entry to the Island during, and following, emergency evacuation conditions.

The system identifies the vehicles of residents, non-resident owners of improved real property and other persons who would seek entry to the Island during those conditions. The Town assumed responsibility of this plan last year when the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency announced they would no longer sponsor the re-entry authorization cards.

The Ordinance establishes that eligible persons to receive tags shall include owners of improved and unimproved property; owners, managers, and employees of businesses physically located in the Town; residents who lease or rent; contractors; and approved workers/helpers so designated by one or more of the above persons.

Individuals wishing to obtain tags for their vehicles will be required to provide documentation as proof of eligibility. Some requirements are: proof of residence (physical address), voter registration card for Dauphin Island, valid driver's license with a Dauphin Island address, or a car tag registered to a Dauphin Island resident or a power bill or water bill for Dauphin Island. For renters, a statement from an owner or landlord providing physical address and identification of the renter; a power bill, water bill, or phone bill.

The re-entry tags are issued in different colors to identify the status of the occupant's vehicle. Reflex blue is a five (5) year tag for full time Island residents; sky blue is a two (2) year tag for part-time residents; teal green is a one (1) year tag for those who rent; yellow is a one (1) year tag for business owner/business employee; orange is a one (1) year tag for contractors; gold is a one (1) year tag for unimproved property owners; and green is a three (3) month tag for workers/helpers.

There is an issuance fee of $5 per tag. Tags may be purchased at the Dauphin Island Police Dept. A replacement fee of $10 is charged for lost tags.

Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue
Brad Cox, Assistant Chief - Your Volunteer Fire Department needs you!
Have you ever thought about being a firefighter or an EMT? This may be your chance. No matter if you are young or old, male or female, experienced or a novice, we can always use some help. We are especially in need are people who can respond during the daytime but anyone is welcome. We are an organization made up of accountants, engineers, truck drivers, house wives and teachers who average age is 40 year. We will provide all of your training and equipment along with fellowship and a good time. If you are interested please contact us at 861-3992 or email us at dmir@gulfinfo.com.

DI Fire & Rescue's new ambulance arrived on the Island in the Fall of '98. The state-of-the art vehicle is equipped for Fire Medic operations and for patient pre-hospital transportaion. The cost was $110,000, and it has over $30,000 in equipment. Funding was arranged by the Fire & Rescue Squad along with major assistance from the Town of Dauphin Island.

Dauphin Island's Premier Source
For Vacation Rentals and Sales
We are proud to be Dauphin Island's biggest and best source of quality vacation rentals. We have more than 50 houses available to choose from.

Please call, come by or visit us on the web at www.gulfinfo.com/boardwalk or www.boardwalk-realty.com

1804 Bienville Blvd.
P. O. Box 155
Dauphin Island, AL 36528
334-861-3992
THE ESTUARIUM WOWS PUBLIC IN SIX MONTHS

Lisa Young, Dauphin Island Sea Lab — It's been open for less than a year, and already the Estuarium is making waves, its reputation rippling from the shores of Dauphin Island to the far off corners of the world. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab is gratified by the tremendous support this localized aquarium has received in the short time since the doors have been open to the public. Over 50,000 visitors have come through its doors, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Here are some of the comments we've received in our guest book:

"Fantastic displays and educational component," Montgomery, AL
"Money well spent," Lewisville, Texas
"Thanks for the bulkhead story! They're a nightmare," St. Paul, MN
"Education is the key to the future. This offers great education," Dawson, AL
"Wanna move down here to be a marine biologist! Great!," Kingston, ON
"Best exhibit of it's type I've seen," Prattville, AL
"My husband and I grew up here, and you still taught us a lot," Mobile, AL
"As an educator - WOW! What an opportunity!" Russellville, MO
"Wish we had something like this back home! Felicidades!" Puerto Rico
"Very educational," Hamburg, Germany
"Beautiful fish, very educational, helpful, friendly aides," Mobile, AL
"Cool. Not for Alabama," Bay Minette, AL
"Wonderful. The children AND adults enjoyed it. Very educational," Mobile
"Good Bay explanations," White Rock, British Columbia
"It was 'da bomb,'" Bossier City, LA (We hope that's a good thing! - Lisa)

And of course there were fans of the individual inhabitants of the Estuarium. The octopus, the snakes, the frogs and the horseshoe crabs all seem to have quite a following of devoted admirers. And to all the visitors who asked why we didn't have any dolphins, alas, our facility simply does not have a tank large enough to hold those magnificent mammals at this time.

One common theme we found in the guest books were all the remarks about how helpful the staff is - thank you! Our Estuarium staff aims to please. And one significant component of our staff is our wonderful docents, many of whom live right on Dauphin Island. These dedicated and friendly volunteers go through a rigorous training program at the Estuarium — a mini-course in marine ecology and biology. We certainly could not operate without them.

The international presence has been tremendous at the Estuarium. China, Australia, Zimbabwe, Chile, Switzerland — we've had a visitor from every continent except Antarctica, twenty-three foreign countries in all. We hope we've added some environmental insight to their visit to Mobile Bay.

Guests from down the street and in the community have been pouring in to learn more about the natural ecosystems in their own backyards. We couldn't be more delighted with their response, and we will continue to work hard to bring you attractive, engaging visual and interactive exhibits.

One big change 1999 will bring is our operating hours. Due to popular demand, the Estuarium will be open seven days a week, with extended hours.

"When I said I wanted to hold it, I didn't mean A SHARK!" School students who visit the Dauphin Island Sea Lab sometimes get more than they expect at the Touch and Feel displays.

Our new hours are:

Winter: October 1 to May 31
- Mondays to Saturdays - 9am to 5pm
- Sundays - 1pm to 5pm
Summer: June 1 to September 30
- Mondays to Saturdays - 9am to 5pm
- Sundays - 1pm to 6pm

And keep an eye out in the spring, when the Estuarium will be introducing a new exhibit on the wonderful, mysterious world of jellyfish!

Would you like to support the Estuarium? Consider becoming a member — you'll receive a year's free admission, 10% discount in our gift shop, and much more. Or consider purchasing a fish plaque with your name on it, part of the permanent display of community supporters on the Living Marsh Boardwalk. Call 334/861-2141 for more information.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

Jim Hall, DICN Editor
Dealing with the Internet, we receive lots of questions about Dauphin Island and sometimes, people just want to tell us, the Island, how they feel about our little island in the sun. The following messages were received and I thought your might enjoy reading them.

Beth Loffler, Jan 15, 1999
"My first trip to Dauphin Island was in April of 1997 for my honeymoon. My husband had visited the island as a child, as did his mother. I fell in love with it. We came back every year for our anniversary, and hopefully will continue to do so for a long time. We hope everyone is recovering from the hurricane."
What Others Think, Continued

"2 years ago, my family was there for spring break and it was the most beautiful place on earth to me. I spent Easter morning walking to the east end of the Island (we stayed in the campground) to watch the sun come up...I had always dreamed of coming there. I have yet to figure out why. I just know once we got there, that would always be our heaven. We even canceled plans to go to New Orleans because it was so beautiful there, someday we want to get back. It is a joy to be able to hop on line and see it when I get a longing for it. I think people on the Island have got to be the best, cause we really felt "at home."

Keep it beautiful and just as it is. We will be back." Love, Darin & Jacqueline, and Joyce, Star and Darin, II Luttrell, Kalamazoo Michigan. (yes, we really are from Kalamazoo, Michigan) Dec. 2, 1998

Christen Bennewitz, Lund, Sweden, Dec. 18, 1998, "Dauphin Island (my kids call it Dolphin Island) is our family's favorite spot. We go there as often as we can, which unfortunately is not so often nowadays that we live some distance (2 time zones) away."

Posted by Maxwell Chen, Dec. 31, 1998, "Hi, Just browsed in and saw your next homepage. It brings back some nostalgic memories since I last saw Dauphin Island in Fall 1992 when I was a postgraduate student in USA. Those are the times where me and a group of friends fished, camped and had a jolly good time by the beach next to the jetty. Now after gotten my degree and back to my country in Malaysia, with a steady job with an American firm here, and a small family, its time to get some wind. It always still in my wishlist to visit your beautiful Island again. I am thinking of a holiday exchange where you and your family will stay at my house in Malaysia for, say 2 weeks, I play host, and the reciprocal is my family will stay in your house for the same duration, and you play host. I reckon I can play host first, no problem. Any takers? Glad to hear from y'all." Sincerely, Maxwell

"Dauphin Island is our favorite vacation spot. We try to enjoy it every summer!" Keith Gerald, Bogue Chitto, MS, Jan. 3, 1999.

Symposium cont from pg 3

House and Senate Coastal Caucuses as well as other members of Congress, Executive Branch officials, and allied private sector interests.

On the agenda, Dr. Scott Douglas, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, University of South Alabama. Dr. Douglas will present a report from the Alabama Coastal Erosion Task Force. The report was funded, in part, by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant. The report carries the title of "State-of-the-Beaches: Alabama 1998." Subjects in this presentation directly relate to Dauphin Island.

Another presentation for the workshop will be made by Mr. Chuck Hamilton, Dir. Public Works, City Engineer, and Airport Manager for the City of Gulf Shores. His subject: "Hurricane Recovery; Beach Replenishment in Gulf Shores."

Also on the agenda, "New Technology Initiatives Within the Corps of Engineers" with Charles Chestnutt, US Corps of Engineers, Headquarters - Directorate of Civil Works, Washington, D.C. A panel discussion from 1 till 3pm will follow lunch in which the audience will be able to ask questions of those in attendance. Joining the program speakers will be representatives from the Alabama Department of Emergency Management (ADEM), the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL).

The Coastal Issue Symposium is sponsored by the Alabama Coastal Foundation, ADECA, the Dauphin Island Foundation, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Town of Dauphin Island, and the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce.

Registration must be received by February 26, 1999. Seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. Checks should be payable to the Dauphin Island Foundation and mailed along with registration information to: Coastal Issue Symposium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, 101 Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island, AL, 36528.
Beach Sand
to the Island’s water and sewer
systems, and public utilities. Of
extreme importance is a permanent
“fix” to prevent flooding of Bienville
Bouglevard,” he said. “Also, what long
term steps can be accomplished to
preclude extensive damage when a
future hurricane comes our way,”
Collier said.

Plans Being Examined
The Mayor continued,
“Representatives from the Corps. of
Engineers, FEMA, and the Alabama
Dept. of Economic and Community
Affairs (ADECA) have been
working closely with us on possible
solutions for short term solutions.
Four plans are being examined.
Three plans involve dredging. And
one possibility would utilize trucking
sand material to our south shore.
The sand deposit which could be
trucked to the Island is located in the
Theodore Industrial area. There is
approximately 78,000 cubic yards of
sand available. The material would
be free to the Town, but we,
collectively, would have to absorb
the cost of transporting, loading and
unloading the sand. Then, the
distribution problem would have to
be faced about where to dump and
spread the material.”
“Dredging and
pumping the sand to the shoreline
from two optional sources has
possibilities,” he said. “One plan
would be to pump sand from south
of the Island, from off shore, to our
beaches. The distance in which the
material would have to be moved
from off shore is several miles. This
may become cost prohibitive.”

Concept Looks Good
Mayor Collier explained
further, “Another concept will be to
pump the sand from beyond the
north shore of the Island, in
Mississippi Sound, across the Island
and Bienville Blvd. to the south
beaches. The sand material would
come from locations, as much as, a
mile north of the Island’s north
beaches. A study is being finalized
to estimate how much sand is out
there, the locations, and the quality.
Recently, folks from the Corps.
were on the Island, with a
representative from a dredging firm,
looking at the situation. We
discussed the possibilities of where
to have the dredging pipes cross
Bienville, or possibly going under the
street. The Town will need the
cooperation of the residents in
certain areas to grant a “right of
entry” to cross their property with
the dredge pipeline in order to reach
the affected area.”

“This option looks very
good, at this time,” he said. “The
cost would be nearly 1.3 million
dollars. FEMA would provide 75%,
the State of Alabama would fund
10%, and we would have to come
up with the remaining 15%,
approximately $200,000.”

Action Taken
During the January 19th
Tuesday night Town Council
meeting, a draft letter was read to
the Council and those in attendance,
asking Alabama State Attorney
General Bill Pryor for an opinion on
the legality of using public funds for
the placing of sand on private beach
property eroded by the elements.
The letter asked Pryor to consider
that restoring damaged beaches on
the Island benefits the general public
by “providing protection to private
homes which are a base of tax
revenue.” The letter also stated that
beach and dune repair will protect
public infrastructure such as the
streets, and the water and sewer
lines. Locally, there is no indication
as to what position the Attorney
General will assume. “We may or
may not like the answer we get from
Montgomery,” Collier said.

A second matter addressed
last week was in a meeting with the
DI Property Owners Association
Board of Directors. The beach
property is owned by the POA from
the south side of the private owners
boundary to the high tide line. South
of that high tide line is public
property. The Town asked the POA
Board for a resolution of support for
the project and authorization for the
sand to be placed on the POA
property, plus, allowing the
necessary equipment access to the
property. The Board approved the
resolution.

Outlook
“I believe, at this time, this
option is going to happen! Things
are progressing rapidly. Right now, I
don’t know where the $200,000 is
going to come from. The Town may
have to borrow the money, or
hopefully, we can raise the funds
from within our own community,”
Collier said. “Just think, if 100
owners of property would donate
$2,000 each to improve their own
property, and the beaches on the
water side of their land, we would
have the $200,000 and not have to
borrow it. Actually, it doesn’t stop
there, more matching funds we
raise, the more sand we can place
on the Island’s beaches. We could
have 150,000 or 200,000 cubic yards,
instead of just 78,000.”

45 Foot Berm
Explaining the plan further,
The Dauphin Island Mayor said,
“The idea that has been drawn up by
FEMA would place sand material
from St. Andrews Street, west to
the beach adjacent to the end of the
pavement. This sand would be a long
mound, a berm it’s called,
approximately 45 feet wide with a
crown 6 feet wide and 6 feet high,
with slopes on both sides. The sand
berm would follow the contours of
the private property owners’ south
boundary lines. The sand would be
placed just south of these property
lines.”

“This is a plan drawn up by
consultants at FEMA. It is intended
to protect the west end private
beach property, go a long way in
preventing Gulf water from flooding
Bienville, and it would further
protect the Island’s water and sewer
systems, and public utilities.”

Ship Channel Material
“The third dredging option I
mentioned,” Mayor Collier said,
“would be that, hopefully, on a long
term basis, the Corps. would place
the spoil taken from the Mobile Bay
ship channel in an area which would
allow the natural flow the Island’s
south beaches. We are continuing to
talk with the Corps. and other
agencies about this possibility, some
motion is evident but no decisive
action has been taken. It is believed
by many that to nourish this is a
solution which may give us relief on
a long term basis and nourish our
beaches. But, we’re still working on
this one.”

The Mayor concluded, “We
have to help ourselves. We can’t sit
around and wait for someone to take
care of us. If we did that, the
“someone” won’t do anything. We
have got to do our part, show the
Federal and the State agencies that
we are willing to work and
contribute. There are many
interests on the Island and we all
need to talk about this common
problem, come up with solutions and
work together. Together, we can do
anything! On this Island, and in this
country of ours, we have a
reputation of taking care of
ourselves. Now is the time to
display that character.”
STATE OF THE BEACH REPORT
M AKES RECOMMENDATIONS

Jim Hall, DICN Editor -
Preceded by a three page summary memo, at 32 page report, by Dr. Scott Douglas, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, USA, is being distributed to the Alabama Coastal Erosion Task Force, by Mr. Gil Gilder, ADECA.

In the report by Dr. Douglas, findings show that "about half of the Alabama Gulf beaches narrowed from 1970 to 1997. Most of the beach erosion appears to be partially due to man's engineering."

Suggestions for future management efforts include: 1) Bypass sand at inlets - Dredging to maintain inlets interrupts the movement of sand that nourishes beaches unless that sand is placed back in the system. This is being done partially at Perdido Pass and Little Lagoon. A major effort should be made to place sand dredged from the Mobile Ship Channel back in the system in order to nourish the beaches on Dauphin Island.

2) Beach nourishment engineering - The placement of sand on beaches can widen beaches and decrease storm damage and may be economically justified in heavily developed areas. A means of funding beach nourishment projects needs to be identified or created.

3) Return overwashed sand - Sand that is overwashed onto land during storms should be returned to the beaches. Local or state ordinances or statutes should require replacement of overwashed sand on beaches.

4) Change the role of government in beach management - Shoreline erosion crosses political boundaries; however there is currently no agency in state government with overall responsibility for shoreline management. This responsibility, along with legal authority and funding, should be established in the executive branch of state government.

5) Increase public access - Public access to Alabama Gulf beaches is fairly limited in developed areas. However, these are the areas for which there will be the greatest demand for government funded shoreline protection and nourishment. There may be little public support for, even opposition to, funding the restoration of beaches to which the public has little access.

6) Improve beachfront building codes and practices - Building codes already have contributed significantly to reduction of storm damage. Additional loss reduction could be attained by local governments raising the minimum building flood elevation and requiring hurricane resistant structures on beachfront properties.

In the report, Douglas states that, from 1974 to 1997, more than 16 million cubic yards of sand were removed by dredging from Alabama's shoreline, or littoral, system - enough sand to widen Dauphin Island beaches by more than 1,000 feet.

"The removal of this sand from the littoral system has contributed to the beach erosion on Dauphin Island, both on the east end and the west end, and possibly to the beach erosion of Fort Morgan Peninsula." Douglas says. The removal of this sand from littoral system is not a sustainable development practice if the future of Dauphin Island is considered."

The report did not survey the undeveloped western section of Dauphin Island.

Dr. Douglas will present his report on March 5 at the second annual Coastal Issues Symposium on Dauphin Island.

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BIRDING ECOTOURISM AND DAUPHIN ISLAND

Dr. John Proctor—A survey was conducted in the Fall of 1996 and the Spring of 1997 by the Friends of the Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuary, Inc. and the Alabama Ornithological Society. The survey of the visitors to Dauphin Island concerned their economic impact on the island during their stay. Following is the Executive Summary of the data, analyzed by Dr. Paul Kerlinger, New York, NY:

A study of the economic impact of birding ecotourism and the demographics of these ecotourists was conducted at Dauphin Island, Alabama during the prime birding seasons of autumn (October-November 1996) and spring (April-May 1997). The study focused on birding ecotourism because Dauphin Island and the area nearby is a very important destination for birdwatchers in eastern North America. A total of 379 questionnaires were completed from an estimated 10,000 seasonal visitors who are birders.

Ecotourists who visit Dauphin Island tended to be middle aged (40’s-60’s), well educated (93.8% had attended some college), had incomes that were well above the national family average (55.1% had incomes in excess of $50,000 per year), and women slightly outnumbered men (44.1% male). A majority did not fish (58.2%) or hunt (85.8%). Visitors came from 30 states (including Alabama), 8 states west of the Mississippi River, and 20 counties in Alabama. Thirty-three percent of visitors were from out of state and 91.8% stayed more than one day in the area (31% spent 3 days at Dauphin Island). Visitors averaged 3.48 days in the area and slightly more than 2.5 nights.

The average amount spent on their entire trip to and from Dauphin Island averaged $354 yielding a total of $7.1 million with an economic multiplier of 2. The economic impact on the local communities was estimated to be nearly $4.30 million (multiplier of 2.0) of which $975,000 was spent on lodging, $725,000 was spent on meals, and $450,000 was spent on miscellaneous other items. The average visitor was about $213 in direct spending to the local economy. Birders and other ecotourists are an important economic factor in the area economy. They visit the area because of the preserved open space on the Island such as the Bird Sanctuary and the Shell Mound as well as nearby Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Morgan, Blakeley Island, Battleship Park/Pinto Pass, Gulf Shores, the Mobile Delta, among other sites. These open spaces provide the high quality birding experience necessary for ecotourism as an economic activity to flourish.

Recommendations for improving marketing strategies are suggested along with better public relations efforts on the part of the Chamber of Commerce members and area planners regarding the important economic role of birding and other ecotourism in the area. Support for this project was provided, in part, from Friends of Dauphin Island Audubon Sanctuary, Inc. and the Alabama Ornithological Society (no federal or other tax dollars were used). Paul Kerlinger, Ph.D.

SAND ISLAND LIGHT HOUSE

Jim Hall, DICN Editor

In and around the Mobile Bay area, a lot of attention has been paid to the Middle Bay Lighthouse; however, there is no less interest in the Sand Island Lighthouse located a bit over four miles south of Dauphin Island's east end. The Lighthouse is no longer functional, but still stands almost 125 feet tall as a landmark for mariners.

In 1837, $10,000 was authorized for Alabama’s first and only seacoast light. Completed in 1838, the first light, standing 55 feet, held 14 lamps, in 16 inch reflectors, and could be seen 13 to 15 miles at night. Of the original grant, $1,101 was returned being leftover from the construction cost of $8,889. The first lighthouse keeper was John McCollum and he was paid $500 at year starting in 1839.

A new tower was required by 1856, and the magnificent tower at Sand Island was first lighted in January, 1859. Only two years later, Confederate soldiers discovered Yankees spying on Fort Morgan from the tower. The structure was blasted into the waters by a half dozen soldiers who rowed out to the island.

A barely-adequate white wooden tower marked Sand Island from 1864 to 1873. By 1871, plans for the present 125-foot brick tower were being made. On September 1, 1873, the Sand Island Lighthouse was in operation. A two-story keeper's house was added shortly afterward.

After a hurricane struck on September 27, 1906, the light was out! The structure itself was standing, but the dwelling was washed away. A couple of days after the storm hit, one of the keepers had gone ashore. He was lucky! Following the storm, his wife along with the other keeper and his wife were no where to be found.

A second hurricane struck in 1919. After the storm, a landing party was dispatched to investigate the reason for the light being extinguished. The party found the station deserted. The station's log stated that the keepers had gone ashore to pick up a new employee. They were never found, apparently, never having reached shore.

The existing tower has withstood the devastating hurricanes that have struck this area with a strength that we cannot seem to replicate in our modern buildings. Today, the lighthouse is in the daily company of small boats of fishermen and seagulls overhead. At night, it stands bravely in the dark amid the lighted natural gas structures of the oil industry.
DAUPHIN ISLAND
STREET NAMES
In the early 1950's a "Committee on
Nomenclature" selected names which
were significant in the long, romantic
and colorful history of the Island.
Audubon Street - named for the
artist John James Audubon, who is said
to have painted the hummingbird in his
famous Birds of America while visiting
the Mobile.
Belleview Boulevard - named for
Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur de
Bienvile, the founder of Mobile, who
spent much of his time at Dauphin
headquarters, Dauphin Island being the
port of entry from France to the New
World. Bienvile is said to have had
extraordinary charm and real genius for
diplomatic relations with the Indian
nations.
Cadillac Avenue - named for
Antoine de la Motte Cadillac,
appointed by the French government to
succeed Bienvile as the second
Governor of Louisiana (for which
Dauphin Island was the capital).
Pelican Street - named for the
great fishing bird of the Gulf area and for
the ship "Pelicam" which brought 23
carefully selected young ladies to
Mobile to marry men in the colony who
had no homes of their own.
Jeansville Drive - named for Pierre
Lemoyne, Sieur de Jeansville, chosen by
the French king to carry out LaSalle's
dream of establishing a French colony
on the Gulf coast. He persuaded the
French king to let him establish his
colony on Mobile Bay at Isle Dauphine
and on Mobile River at Twenty-seven
Mile Bluff. As French commander for
the New World, he sent his young, 21
year old brother, Bienvile, to establish
the Fort at Mobile and the base at
Dauphin Island.
The above information is derived
from "History of Dauphin Island"
published by Mobile Chamber of
Commerce and the Dauphin Island Land
Sales Corp. in the 1950's.

1999 CALENDAR
FOR THE ISLAND
August cont. from pg 20
8/26 - TBA - Retirement Sale - St. Frances
9/1 - Labor Day
9/2 - Island Hurricane Run
October
10/10 - Mobile Symphony Pops Band,
Water Tower, 7pm
10/11 & 10/12 - Annual Colonial Isle
Dauphine, Ft. Gaines
10/31-6 - Dauphine Island
November
11/2 - TBA - Renaissance Festival, Ft.
11/20 & 11/21 - Annual Women's
11/21 & 11/22 - United Methodist Church
Women's Annual Christmas Banquet &
continental breakfast, Tournament,
ft Gaines, 8am till 1pm, breakfast
11/22 - Thanksgiving Day
December
12/4 - TBA Island Santa Clause Parade
12/11 - Christmas At The Fort
12/12 - Christmas Boat Parade
12/12 - Light Up Dauphine Island
12/13 - Dauphine Island
12/24 - Christmas Day
12/31 - The Last Day of the 20th Century
BIG NEW YEAR'S EVE
Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve
Community Party, Chamber Bldg.
1/1/2000 - First Day of the
21st Century

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1999 CALENDAR
FOR THE ISLAND
CELEBRATING THE TRICENTENNIAL ALL YEAR LONG

February
2/6 - 4th Annual 5K Race, Ft. Gaines 9am
2/6 - Living History Day, Ft. Gaines All day
2/12 - Harp Duet, Methodist Church 7:30pm
2/14 - Valentine's Day
2/16 - Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras

March
3/6 - Mobile High School Jazz Band, Ft. Gaines, 6:30pm
3/6 & 3/7 - DI Art Gallery/Juried Art Show, DI School
3/12 thru 3/14 - Taste of the Colony, Ft. Gaines
3/13 & 3/14 - DI Vets Assoc. Golf Tournament

April
4/4 - Easter Sunday (Daylight saving time begins)
4/14 - Seminar of Coastal Resources
4/17 - Harp and Flute Duet, Ft. Gaines, 7pm
4/16, 4/17, 4/18 - Alabama Ornithological Society: Bird Migration Meeting
4/24 - D I Sailing Regatta
4/30 - Mobile Pops Concert, Water Tower, 7:30pm

Opening of the DI Spring Festival

May
5/1 & 5/2 - Dauphin Island Spring Festival
5/1 - United Methodist Women's Annual Fish Fry/Bake Sale/Rummage Sale, 8am till 2pm, Fish Fry 11am-2pm
5/1 - Mullett Toss, Galley, 11-4
5/6 - Taste of Dauphin Island, Chamber of Commerce Building, 6pm
5/15-16 - Thunder On The Bay/Ft. Gaines
5/29 & 5/30 - Saltwater Sports Assn., Fishing Tournament
5/29 - Renegade Brass/Ft. Gaines, 7pm
5/31 - Memorial Day

June
6/11, 6/12 & 6/13 - Dauphin Island Spearfishing Tournament
6/26 - French Boat Landing Recreation

July
7/2 - Choral Society Concert
7/4 - Independence Day Island Parade & Fireworks
7/10 - DI Young Anglers Tournament
7/16, 7/17 & 7/18 - Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo
7/30, 7/31 & 8/1 - Alabama Open Spearfishing Tournament

August
8/7 - Conde Cavaliers Mardi Gras Fishing Tournament
8/14 & 8/15 - "Damn the Torpedoes"
135th Anniversary of the Battle of Mobile Bay, Ft. Gaines

Continued on pg. 19