



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Winter Texans haul 2.5 tons of trash off South Padre Island

Volunteers endure chilly, windy day but turn out strong to clean the beach

AUSTIN — A total of 165 volunteers braved a chilly wind while hauling more than 5,000 pounds of trash off South Padre Island beaches at the 12th Annual Texas General Land Office Winter Texan Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup.

Friday's cleanup had to be relocated to Andy Bowie Park, because the restroom facilities at Edwin Atwood Park needed repairs. But once volunteers found the cleanup site and began their work, the day warmed and the sun came out from the clouds. Working together, the 63 volunteers picked up 2,500 pounds of trash off of 5 miles of beach. Before the cleanup, volunteers enjoyed donuts from HEB and bottled water, provided by the South Padre Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

On Saturday, "Friends of Isla Blanca Park" went to work, but were not blessed with good weather at all. A cold front had arrived, providing a rainy, windy day for these stalwarts' beach cleanup. Regardless, 102 volunteers cleaned 2,500 pounds of trash from just one mile of beach.

Among the unusual items found: Four headless chickens, a plastic flamingo, guitar picks, three unopened bottles of Miller Lite and one unopened bottle of Jagermeister.

The Winter Texan Beach Cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated through the Adopt-A-Beach Program of the Texas General Land Office. The next cleanup will be the Spring Adopt-A-Beach effort, set for Saturday, April 25th, 2009.

Texas beaches receive large amounts of marine debris due to a convergence of currents in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1986, more than 375,000 Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 7,100 tons of this debris, some of it originating as far away as Greece. Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline.

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

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