



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Nearly 7,000 volunteers haul 212 tons of trash off Texas beaches *23rd Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup a success*

AUSTIN — A total of 6,954 volunteers — including President George H. W. Bush, former Secretary of State James Baker III and Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson — picked up more than 212 tons of trash off of Texas beaches Saturday in the 23rd Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup.

On the Bolivar Peninsula, the Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Program, the Bush Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund and the Points of Light Institute joined forces to bring national attention to the Bolivar Peninsula's ongoing recovery from Hurricane Ike for the first time ever.

Bush, Baker and hundreds of volunteers from Crystal Beach and the Houston area converged on Bolivar and enjoyed a fantastic morning working together on the biggest cleanup effort in Adopt-A-Beach history. On Bolivar alone, an amazing 1,277 volunteers worked together to haul more than 75 tons of trash from the streets, rights of way and beaches.

“Texans are always willing to help lend a hand for a good cause,” Patterson said. “On Saturday, we proved that.”

All along the Texas coast, volunteers spent Saturday morning combing the beaches for trash. Among the more interesting items volunteers found was a live snake, a TV remote, an ice chest full of beer, a jockstrap, a pregnancy test, a mattress, a record player, a Dallas Cowboy pinky ring, beer bottles from Mexico, a turquoise toilet, bottles from Rome and Germany, a cheese slicer and candy from Mexico and China.

Most of the trash found consisted of typical items left by beachgoers: cigarette butts, soda cans, beer bottles, beach toys and tires. This mix of trash has changed over the years that Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have walked the beaches. When the program started in 1986, the bulk of trash on Texas beaches washed ashore from international ships that simply dumped it overboard. Since then, data collected by Adopt-A-Beach volunteers has helped to pass an international shipping treaty that bans such sloppy practices and requires all oceangoing vessels to dispose of their trash responsibly while in port.

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The Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup is an all-volunteer effort to remove trash from Texas' shores. Coastal cleanups are held three times each year and the program's success is due to the hard work of volunteers, including local coordinators who work many unpaid hours publicizing the cleanups in coastal communities.

Texas beaches continue to receive large amounts of marine debris due to a convergence of currents in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 1986, more than 382,000 Adopt-A-Beach volunteers have picked up more than 7,300 tons of this debris, some of it originating from as far away as South America. Volunteers record data on the trash to learn more about the causes of marine debris and to help mitigate pollution along Texas' 367 miles of coastline.

The Adopt-A-Beach Spring Cleanup is one of three all-volunteer seasonal cleanups coordinated through the Adopt-A-Beach Program of the Texas General Land Office. The next coastwide cleanup will be the Fall Adopt-A-Beach effort scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2009.

The success of the Adopt-A-Beach Program is made possible by the generous efforts of dedicated volunteers and the strong support of community leaders and sponsors across the state.

Texans who were not able to attend the cleanup can help keep their beaches clean by making a tax-deductible donation online at www.texasadoptabeach.org. There are several different Adopt-A-Beach sponsorship levels ranging from \$25 to \$25,000, allowing both individuals and corporations to contribute to this major cleanup effort. Statewide coastal cleanups are held every spring and fall.

Those who want to help Bolivar but could not participate in the cleanup may make a donation online to the Bush Clinton Coastal Fund by visiting its Web site at www.BushClintonCoastalFund.org.

Shell Oil Company was the lead cleanup sponsor for 2009. Other statewide sponsors were Flint Hills Resources Community Action Council, Johnson Controls, Newfield Foundation, Halliburton, AkzoNobel Surface Chemistry LLC, HNTB, Tetra Technologies, Beaumont Coca-Cola Bottling Company, ESPEY Consultants, Inc., Grainger, and McCoy's Building Supply.

To learn more about items collected at the cleanup, and for information on the health of the Texas coast, visit the Adopt-A-Beach Program Web site at www.texasadoptabeach.org, or contact the Texas General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST (1-877-892-6278).

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