



# MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM



## 2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Hi there! Welcome to the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program Seasonal Newsletter.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program is an educational program that promotes the conservation of our local marine environment by influencing active stewardship within our community. This program is housed at the Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, MS.

Check out what we've been up to!

### Monthly Cleanups

Volunteers came out to the West Biloxi Boardwalk in June for a very hot monthly cleanup & removed **2,058 pieces of trash** from the beach-- totaling **123lbs**. In July, 35 volunteers picked up trash around the Biloxi Lighthouse Pier beach area. The top items found included **382 cigarette butts**, **227 small plastic pieces**, and **138 food wrappers**. At the Washington Street Pier & Boat Launch in Bay St. Louis in August, volunteers spent the rain-free morning on the beach picking up **867 pieces of trash** consisting almost entirely of **plastic**.



**Plastic Free Gulf Coast** performs brand audits on the plastic trash we collect at each cleanup. A **brand audit** involves recording data on the plastic collected to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution.



PLASTIC FREE GULF COAST

### Let freedom ring & the beaches be clean!


In an effort to remove firework debris from our beaches following the Fourth of July festivities, **114 volunteers** took to the beaches Saturday, July 9th for the **2022 Star-Spangled Cleanup**. There were 10 different cleanup site locations spanning from Pascagoula to Bay St. Louis where volunteers cleaned up at. Each cleanup site had a Site Captain present to provide volunteers with cleanup supplies.



Volunteers received popsicles and an event t-shirt for their participation. This cleanup will take place annually on the Saturday following July 4th. The **2023 Star-Spangled Cleanup** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 8th, 2023**.

STAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP

#### TOP TRASH ITEMS INCLUDED:

 **3061 fireworks**

 **1817 cigarette butts**

 **607 food wrappers**

**381 bottle caps** 

**334 plastic/foam packaging** 





## That **NEW NEW!**

We present a new program called “Sustainability With Awareness and Prevention Solutions”, aka **S.W.A.P.S.** This project is sponsored by the MSU Extension Service as a no-cost-to-you program that provides **litter and waste prevention solutions** and materials so the community can take an **active** part in preventing waste!

At this time, SWAPS serves the lower six coastal counties: Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, Stone, & George.

This program is run by a team of extension professionals from the **MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center**. The S.W.A.P.S. team will teach a different module each month, for four months, with one day spent in the classroom (either on-campus, or virtually for those public individuals wishing to participate) and one Saturday **hands-on workshop** on location with students and their invited family, friends, and neighbors. Each of the four modules also includes an online component containing **pre-recorded presentations, quizzes, and DIY videos**.

**Interested in learning more or about how to get the SWAPS program to your school or community? Visit their website!**

SWAPS



The folks with SWAPS can teach about the **impact of food waste** on communities, the climate, and possible solutions. They will work with communities and individuals to put this knowledge into action by teaching the fundamentals of **building a compost system** to the scale wanted. Participants will hone the skills needed to create **long-lasting management practices** for successful composting.



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## Join us!

Here are the **last** events of the 2022 cleanup season. All events have online registration volunteers must fill out prior to attending.

**September Monthly Cleanup on 9/17/2022 @ Long Beach Harbor in Long Beach, MS.**

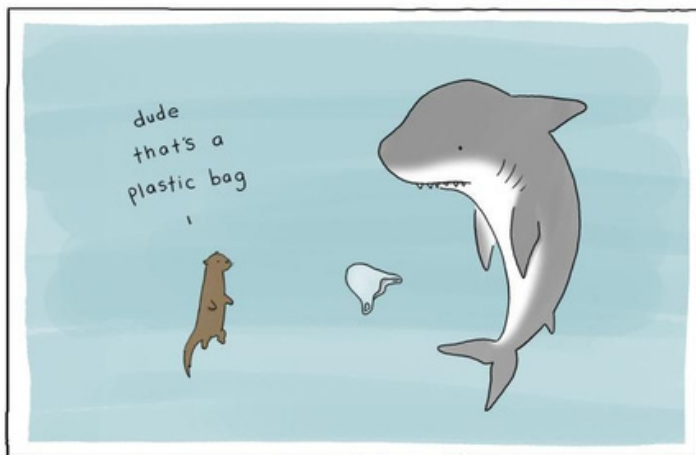
**Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event on 10/15/2022 @ multiple sites across the MS coast.**

### EVENT CALENDAR



### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly every piece of plastic **EVER** made still exists today. Plastic cannot naturally degrade in the environment. Instead, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces called microplastics.



### Can't make it to one of our scheduled events?

The MSCCP can provide groups with guidance and all the supplies they need to **perform their very own cleanup**. Our only requirement - volunteers must collect data! We do this at each of our events so we want to know how much and what types of trash you are picking up. Supplies provided include gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers, buckets, a first aid kit, hand sanitizer, and data collection materials.

[REQUEST A BIN](#)

### Our 2022 Top Sponsors:



See you at the beach!



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