

KBCB Newsletter

Big Sweep

It won't be long before we kick off the world-wide Big Sweep event.

This year Big Sweep will begin on August 1, 2010 and will run through October. The official day for the North Carolina Big Sweep is October 2, 2010.

This event includes all 100 counties in North Carolina and over 90 countries world wide.

I will be announcing the designated areas scheduled for clean up on October 2, 2010 by next month. If you're interested in attending one of the designated sites please contact me once they have been announced. If you have a group or team that plans to host a clean up please contact me as soon as you have your area picked out and I can help with supplies. I will also give you data cards that you complete during your clean up and return them to me after the clean up is finished. These data cards are very important. It's the only way your efforts get counted by the state. The data also helps other organizations, such as NOAA, in their efforts to better the environment.

For more information about Big Sweep please contact me by email at kthompson@brunscos.net or by phone 910-253-2524. You can also go to the official NC Big Sweep website to learn more about this remarkable world wide event www.ncbigssweep.org.



Gulf of Mexico

The following information was released by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. I feel like this will ease some minds. I also attended a Big Sweep meeting last week and there was a NOAA representative present along with representatives from the group Clean Marina. Both organizations were very informative about the oil spill. They had several suggestions for our area. One suggestion was to hold a Pre-Oil Arrival Beach Cleanup just in case oil was to make it to the North Carolina coast. I will elaborate on this topic on page two of this newsletter.

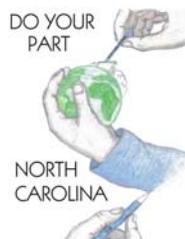
Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce June 4, 2010:

Oil Spill Information

Today the media has reported that models show the possibility that the Gulf of Mexico oil spill will eventually flow to NC's coast. We are sure these reports are causing a panic and you have already begun to field calls of concern from visitors. The NC Division of Tourism has prepared the below statement to respond to media and visitors about our beaches. **The key fact is that the U.S. Coast Guard, which is the lead agency in oil spill response in coastal waters, has said that there is less than 1% chance that oil will make its way to the North Carolina Coast.** We would also like to suggest because our area is 55-70 miles from the Gulf Stream it bears to reason that since our area is much further from the Gulf Stream than other areas of NC Coast, our percentage is even lower than 1%.

"North Carolina's Emergency Management team has a crisis plan that deals with situations that can occur due to natural or man-made incidents that impact our coast. We do not anticipate having to activate this plan due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, but it is there if needed. We are in regular contact with Emergency Management to update this plan and monitor the spill. The U.S. Coast Guard, which is the lead agency in oil spill response in coastal waters, has said that there is less than 1% chance that oil will make its way to the North Carolina coast. We anticipate a strong summer for tourism to North Carolina's coast as the nation's economy recovers. We encourage everyone to use VisitNC.com to plan and book their vacation. If anything changes, we will adapt using the steps in our plan and update our website accordingly."

To view talking points published by NC Emergency Management [Click Here](#)



Pre-Oil Arrival Beach Cleanup

With all eyes on the Gulf Coast oil spill a lot of people have questions. Most are asking, is it going to come up here? Others want to know what can be done. We have recently been advised that there is a very slim chance of the oil making it's way to the coast of North Carolina.

This being said, there is one thing we can all do to ensure that if oil or tar balls arrive on our beaches we are prepared. According to the International Coastal Cleanup and the Ocean Conservancy all coastal areas that are concerned that this disaster may affect their coastline should perform a Pre-Oil Arrival Beach Cleanup. They have provided guidelines and a checklist to follow during the cleanup.

The reasons a Pre-Oil Arrival Beach Cleanup is helpful is it removes debris from the beach or intracoastal waterways. Oil will attach itself to trash and debris. Once trash or debris comes in contact with the oil it then becomes hazardous waste. This cleanup can reduce the impact of the oil should it make it's way to North Carolina. By removing trash and debris you will reduce the potential for human contact and possibly reduce post arrival cleanup costs.

To organize a beach or waterway cleanup contact the Brunswick County Recycling Office at 910-253-2524. For more information on this topic go to www.nccrimecontrol.org.

Please do not remove any debris covered in oil as this could be dangerous!



The next Keep Brunswick County Beautiful meeting is on August 11, 2010 at 5 pm. The meeting will be held in Bldg. L of the Government Complex. The meeting is open to the public and we would love to see you there.

Clean Marina

While at the Big Sweep meeting last week I was introduced to an environmental program that I had not been aware of. The program's name is Clean Marina. It is an incentive based program that is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration better known as NOAA.

Marinas are located directly on the water's edge. Pollutants created by marina activities are often released directly into the water. Clean Marina offers information, guidance and technical assistance to marina operators, local government and recreational boaters. Marinas that participate in the Clean Marina Program are recognized for their environmental stewardship. As a member you receive many benefits such as free publicity, insurance discounts and free technical assistance along with the self satisfaction that comes from knowing that you are running an environmentally friendly business.

To learn more about the Clean Marina Program go to coastalmanagement.noaa.gov.



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