



**Back Bay Restoration Foundation “State of the Bay” Conference
FY2007**

**Prepared by: Susan Wenzel, Executive Director
Back Bay Restoration Foundation**

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Product #1 Title: Forum Agenda/Registration Form and Name Tags
15% Deliverables

Back Bay Forum Agenda

March 13, 2008 at the Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach

0800 **Registration**

0830 *Welcome and Introductions*
Todd Barnes, BBRF President

0845 *“Back Bay: The Gateway”*
Lillie Gilbert, President, Wild River Outfitters, Inc.

0910 *“SAV Status in Back Bay”*
John Gallegos, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Senior Biologist

0935 *“Fisheries Population Sampling in Back Bay, Virginia”*
Chad Boyce, District Fish Biologist, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries

1000 **Break**

1015 *“Low-impact Development”*
Mick Hurney, Stihl Incorporated

1045 *“Horse Waste Management and Its Impact on Water Quality”*
Willie Woode, Senior Conservation Specialist, Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District

1110 *“Phragmites Control Program”*
Dorie Stolley, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Biologist

1135 *“Rain Barrels as a BMP”*
Karen Forget, Lynnhaven River Now

1200 **Lunch / Visit Displays**

1300 *“Green Ribbon Committee Update”*
Barry Frankenfield, Green Ribbon Committee

1330 *“Land Conservation in Virginia”*
Diane Dunaway, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Land Conservation Specialist

1400 *“Farm the Best—Conserve the Rest”*
Grace Botitta, Manager, Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited

1430 *Closing Remarks and Collect Surveys*
Todd Barnes, BBRF President

Back Bay Forum Registration

Arnold, Gretchen	Virginia DARE Soil & Water
Bahringer, Nils	BBRF Board of Directors
Barbour, Kyle	False Cape State Park
Bernick, Clay	City of VB, Planning Department
Bonilla, Leslie	City of VB Planning Department
Bowen, Rhonda	HRSD
Brandwein, Jared	BBNWR
Brown, Molly	Friends of Back Bay
Cahill, Ann Taylor	
Childress, Gentry	Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and Birders
Christie, Faith	City of VB Planning Department
Coulson, Eric	Surf & Adventure Co.
Creedon, Dan	BBRF
Davis, Joe	Concerned citizen
Devlin, Tim	BBRF Member
Diamond, Randy	Concerned citizen
DiBona, Doug	BBRF Member
Duke, Barbara	City of VB - Parks and Rec
Ellin, Charles	BBRF Member
Felini, Rick	BBRF Member
Fortier, Ren	BBRF Board of Directors
Freytes, Cesar	BBNWR
Gallegos, John	BBNWR
Gilbert, Spooky	BBRF Supporter
Godfrey, Sharon	City of VB
Harr, Karen	HRSD
Henley, Barbara	City Council
Henry, Lila	BBRF, Volunteer
Hopson, Shawn	City of VB
Jarman, Wayne	Ducks Unlimited
Johnston, Bill	City of VB
Kerr, Sallie	BBRF Board Member
Kight, Otis	BBRF Member
Kincaid, Jim	BBRF Member
Kincaid, Mary Ann	BBRF Member
Lasley, Karen	City of VB Planning Department
LeBlanc, Norman	HRSD
McKenna, Charles	City of VB, Planning Department
McLaughlin, Steve	City of VB
Meadows, Debbie	
Melendez, Leticia	BBNWR
Moran, Kim	HRSD
Nicholson, Debra	Concerned citizen
O'Keefe, Jim	BBRF Member
Pascarosa, Paul	Map Environmental

Pascarosa, Terra	AH Environmental
Petticrew, Cheryl	Friends of Back Bay
Pocta, Myles	Map Environmental
Pridmore, Cynthia	Virginia DARE Soil & Water
Prochilo, Karen	City of VB Planning Department
Reidy, Frank	BBRF Member
Riggs, Kevin	BBRF Member
Riggs, Lloyd	BBBRF
Runyon, Don	
Shufer, Vickie	Naturalist and Publisher
Smith, Carolyn	City of VB Planning Department
Swoope, Gina	BBNWR
Tegge, Walt	BBNWR
Valentine, Sterling	BBNWR
Vinson, Steve	BBRF, Former Director
Waterfield, James	BBRF Member
Wenzel, Susan	BBRF, Executive Director
Wessel, John	Concerned citizen
White, Stephen	City of VB Planning Department
Whittemore , Waller	BBRF Conservationalist of the Year
Whittemore, Richard	BBRF
Youngs, Donald	BBRF Member
Todd Barnes	BBRF Board President
Dean Carpenter	DENR
Vickie Shufer	Naturalist and Publisher
Chad Boyce	District Fish Biologist G&IF
Lillie Gilbert	Wild River Outfitters
Barry Frankenfield	Parks and Rec Dept
Peter Schmidt	Parks and Rec Dept
Mick Hurney	Stihl
Willie Woode	VA Soil & Water Conservation
Dorie Stolley	BBNWR
Karen Forget	Lynnhaven River Now
Grace Bottitta	Ducks Unlimited
Mike Budd	Ducks Unlimited
Shep Moon	VA Coastal Zone Management
Diane Dunaway	Land Conservation in VA
Jody Ullman	Master Naturalist
Susan Foxworth	Master Naturalist
Dianna McDowell	Master Naturalist
Margaux Kerr	BBRF Volunteer
Louise Brandwein	BBRF Member
Dawn Alleman	BBRF Volunteer
Shannel Forehand	BBRF Member

Back Bay Forum Name Tag



Shep Moon
Virginia Coastal Program,
DEQ

Product #2 **Title: CD of the 2007 Back Bay Forum Presentations** **15%**
Deliverables

(3) Copies of CD in hand

Product #3 **Title: Action Plan** **45%**
Deliverables

Back Bay Restoration Foundation Action Plan
(Follow up actions to the Back Bay Forum 2008)

The Action Plan for the restoration and protection of the Back Bay watershed focuses upon items gleaned from comment forms provided by Forum attendees. Specific Action Items include the following:

- 1. Encourage networking of related interest groups.**
 - a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to coordinate efforts with local watershed and wildlife groups and government entities in an effort to share contacts and resources, ensure coordination of projects and proposals, garner support for efforts, and facilitate the widest dissemination of information relating to pertinent environmental initiatives.
 - b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to provide speakers from local watershed and wildlife groups for future forums and bi-monthly membership meetings.
 - c. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will include the information booths (a new trial initiative at the 2008 Forum) at future Forums. This effort provides an additional outlet for distribution of pertinent information and well as affords local watershed and wildlife groups and government entities the opportunity to advertise/present their group to a varied subset of individuals.

- 2. Develop a Report Card format for the Back Bay Watershed.**
 - a. Back Bay restoration Foundation will develop a report similar to the formats used by both the Chesapeake Bay and Lynnhaven River. This will focus upon various water quality concerns including overall bay health, water quality

(dissolved oxygen, coliform bacteria, pH, etc), water clarity, wildlife populations, SAV numbers, and others.

- b. Data will be compiled from associated government agencies including Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, VA Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries, Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District and others. Specific intentions include putting to use the data gathered during BBRF water quality testing efforts.

3. **Workshops and hands-on restoration activities**

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue its riparian buffer projects in the Back Bay watershed. The Foundation has identified two area schools interested in planting riparian buffers in the Back Bay watershed. The City of Virginia Beach has expressed an interest in continuing its support of these efforts and will coordinate with the BBRF Executive Director via monthly Clean Water Task Force meetings held in coordination with the city Environmental Management Office.
- b. Use of City Storm Water Management Program funding to provide additional volunteer opportunity by marking storm water drains within the Back Bay Watershed. Funding has been awarded to develop metal drain markers for each watershed within the city. All necessary equipment as well as the markers are available to BBRF from the city Storm Water Management department.

4. **Further Current Educational Mission**

- a. Back Bay Restoration Foundation membership meetings and newsletter articles will feature information about storm water and erosion control BMP's. A series of articles has been developed by the Executive Director focusing upon the anthropogenic influences affecting the Back Bay Watershed including the results of non-point pollution in the form of run-off containing any combination of the following: pesticides, household chemicals, and fertilizers; sediment from improperly managed construction sites and land clearing; and pet and livestock waste.
- b. Back Bay Restoration Foundation will continue providing information to local schools and area civic groups relating to issues concerning Back Bay watershed. Additional grant money has been acquired to expand the educational program specifically at the middle and high school levels. The goals include raising awareness, securing a volunteer database, and fulfilling our educational intentions. Available topics include but are not limited to: What is a Watershed; Endangered and Protected Wildlife of Back Bay; Who is BBRF and What Do We Do.

Product #4 **Title: Web site link for Forum 2007**
15% Deliverables

<http://www.bbrf.org/forum.htm>

126 participants (speakers and attendees) provided with Survey and Comment form. 48 surveys returned complete. Compiled information follows:

Rate the overall effectiveness of the topics (1 lowest and 10 highest)

Back Bay: The Gateway	9.2 (average)
SAV Status in Back Bay	9.2 (average)
Fisheries Population Sampling	9.3 (average)
Low-impact Development	7.6 (average)
Horse Waste Management	9.8 (average)
Phragmites Control Program	8.8 (average)
Rain Barrels as a BMP	9.7 (average)
Green Ribbon Committee Update	8.3 (average)
Land Conservation in Virginia	6.4 (average)
Farm the Best – Conserve the Rest	7.9 (average)

1. What topics would you like to see covered in future Forums:
 - How governing agencies work together on Back Bay water quality efforts (2)
 - City council efforts
 - Historical evolution of commercial and recreational uses of Back Bay (9)
 - Continue water quality topics
 - More water conservation topics (rain gardens, bioretention, etc) (7)
 - Stormwater runoff
 - Urban sprawl abatement (4)
 - Low impact development (green building, etc) (6)
 - Erosion control
 - Water turbidity solutions
 - More wildlife topics (song birds, migratory, crabs, waterfowl, Canada goose) (4)
 - Continue with many same topics
 - Provide evolution/progress reports on efforts (report card format similar to CB) (4)
 - Predicted state of Back Bay for future generations
 - Horse facilities - impact
 - Ground water, hydrology and effects on Back Bay
 - Wells and other fresh water sources
 - Provide information about public involvement opportunities
2. What specifically of value did you learn at the Back Bay Forum?
 - Phragmites control (5)
 - Fish populations (2)
 - Composting (horse manure) (2)
 - Rain Barrels/water conservation (5)
 - There are still people that care
 - Great mix of information (3)

- Air and water quality effects (2)
 - Conservation easements
 - Low impact development/Stihl Green Roof (2)
 - Focus was on what general public can do to help than just on the problem itself (4)
 - Resource agencies for various topics
 - Many agencies care about Back Bay
3. What changes would you like to see in next year's forum?
- Topics/Speakers:
- Less "alphabet soup" more explanation of acronyms
 - Panel discussion of speakers (2)
 - More political/government participation
 - More study results/actual data (less emphasis on how data is collected) (3)
 - Ensure speakers stick to topic
 - More about how "average citizen" can help (2)
 - None. Continue with current mix/format (7)
 - Sea level rise and effects (2)
 - Land conservation as it relates to landowner (not just government)
 - Ensure speakers quit on time/limit questions to stay on schedule
- Comfort/hospitality:
- More vegetarian meals (3)
 - Provide hot tea/hot water
 - Darken room or brighten presentations (2)
- Other:
- Enjoyed "fair" format with information booths. Continue with this and add more (aquarium, stranding team, etc.) (5)
 - Suggest having "workgroups" tackle specific topics
 - New bumper stickers for other watersheds (only Back Bay was represented)
 - Consider holding forum every two years

Additional Comments (from back of form)

- Good to see cooperation of Lynnhaven River Now group, Currituck Sound (APNEP) and City Green River Committee – all watershed groups should work together more and share assets and information.
- Need official city proposal to prevent feeding of wildlife
- Excellent job on the forum – especially for new Executive Director (2)
- Excellent facilities
- A couple topics were excellent but had poor speakers
- Thank you for including related area groups such as Back Bay Wildfowl Guild and Back Bay Birders