



**Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Community Action Committee
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
Virtual Meeting - Platform: Google Meets
10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Minutes
3. Guest Speaker
 - a. Judy Stout, Master Gardener - Native Plant Species of Coastal Alabama; the benefits of native plants and their ecological functions; and what to consider when planting native species.
4. Q&A
5. Announcements/Updates
6. Adjourn



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Community Action Committee
November 10, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Google Meet Virtual Meeting



Minutes

Attendance:

Mimi Fearn, Dog River Clearwater Revival
Debi Foster, Dog River Clearwater Revival & the Peninsula of Mobile
Leslie Gahagan, Wolf Bay Watershed
Dennis Hatfield, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Ted Henken, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Vaughn Millner, Citizen
Ronald Phelps, Little Lagoon Preservation Society
Dr. Judy Stout, Master Gardener
Dorothy White, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Harold White, Fowl River Area Civic Association
Jenni Zimlich, Fowl River Area Civic Association

MBNEP Staff:

Kelley Barfoot
Madison Blanchard

Meeting Recap:

- Native Plant Species of Coastal Alabama: benefits, ecological functions, what to consider when selecting and planting natives
- Truck Bed Trash Can Competition Announcement
- Keep Mobile Beautiful Recycling Event Announcement
- Watershed Planning Status Update
- 2021 CAC Meeting Topic Suggestions

1. Welcome and Introductions

Madison Blanchard opened the meeting requesting each virtual participant to sign-in through the chat box on the google meet platform. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting and introduced the co-chairs and the guest speaker, Dr. Judy Stout.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blanchard requested a motion to approve the minutes from the CAC's August 11, 2020 virtual meeting. Ms. Debi Foster made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Mimi Fearn second.

3. Guest Speaker

Ms. Blanchard introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Judy Stout, who is a Master Gardener in Mobile County. Dr. Stout gave a presentation on native plant species found in coastal Alabama including the

benefits and ecological functions of native plants, and what to consider before selecting and planting native plants. Dr. Stout began by providing common definitions of 'Native Plants' and reviewing geographic areas also known as eco-regions. Dr. Stout states that links to eco-region maps can be found on the *Native Plant Resources and References* handout. A link to the handout is listed below. Due to internet connection issues, Dr. Stout's presentation was cut short while discussing the growth patterns of native tree species. After confirming that Dr. Stout would not be able to reestablish her internet connection, Ms. Blanchard asked meeting attendees to indicate desires to reschedule Dr. Stout's presentation via email to mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com. A recording of Dr. Stout's presentation and her full PDF Powerpoint can be viewed at links below.

Native Plant Resources and References handout:

http://mobilebaynep.com/assets/Native_Plants_Resources_References_11-10-2020.pdf

Recording of Dr. Stout's presentation (cut short at 26:00):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1azBXG8GvITb9BJGUmCr--iLtqj-iNYDw/view>

Dr. Stout's full PDF Powerpoint:

http://mobilebaynep.com/assets/CAC_Meeting_Presentation_NativePlants_JudyStout_11-10-20-compressed.pdf

4. Announcements and Updates

The next Community Action Committee Meeting will be held on January 26, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meeting will be conducted virtually using Google Meets. The topic for the next meeting will be Rain Gardens and the guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Howard who is a Master Gardener.

MBNEP's Truck Bed Trash Can Competition is being filmed at WKRG Studios this week and will air on WKRG's online network or television in the upcoming weeks. Please look out for the announcement for the Competition showing date and share with constituents. More info:

http://www.mobilebaynep.com/what_we_do/truck_bed_trash_can_competition_a_go_green_design_initiative/

Ms. Blanchard gave a status update of MBNEP Watershed Management Plans currently under development; the status update can be found in the CAC presentation here:

http://mobilebaynep.com/assets/MBNEP_CAC_Meeting_Presentation_11-10-20.pdf

Ms. Debi Foster announced that Keep Mobile Beautiful is hosting a recycling day on November 14, 2020 at Ransom Recycling in Chickasaw, Alabama. Accepted items include: electronics with a cord, paper for shredding, and yard signs. Participants can also receive a free grease recycling container on site. The recycling event is free to participants. Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate for the community Thanksgiving Basket. More info:

<https://www.facebook.com/KeepMobileBeautiful>

The Dog River annual membership and guest meeting is coming up in January; date TBD.

Ms. Jenni Zimlich and Ms. Blanchard announced that MBNEP, Krewe of Kindness and the Town of Dauphin Island have partnered on an access project to install 270 feet of ADA beach mat on the

Dauphin Island West End Beach during the first week of December 2020. 200 feet will be installed on the sound side, and 70 feet will extend the existing mat on the Gulf side toward the water.

Ms. Blanchard informed meeting attendees that the 2021 CAC schedule will be developed in the upcoming weeks and asked for meeting topic suggestions. Suggestions can include but are not limited to (1) extensions of topics we've already discussed, (2) topics related to what we've already discussed or (3) new topics. Please email your topic suggestions to mblanchard@mobilebaynep.com. Ms. Barfoot followed up by stating that one of MBNEP's goals for 2021 is developing a Volunteer Monitoring Strategy for Mobile and Baldwin counties with assistance from the CAC. The Volunteer Monitoring Strategy will be included as a portion of the 2021 CAC schedule.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. A motion was made by Ms. Debi Foster and second by Ms. Leslie Gahangan.