

Volunteers & Trips around Estero Bay...

- Greg Fretwell -

Estero Bay Volunteer of the Quarter

By Danielle Claar

Greg is a dedicated Estero Bay volunteer who has been monitoring water quality near the mouth of the Estero River (EBERS02) every month for over twelve years! He has also attended nearly all of the bi-annual Quality Assurance sessions during this time. He recently made and donated several protective cases for hydrometers (a monitoring device used to test the salinity of the water). Melynda Brown, the coordinator of the region-wide Charlotte Harbor Estuaries Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network, commended Greg's dedication saying, "He is knowledgeable of Estero Bay and its ecology and is innovative in storing his sampling equipment! Many thanks for volunteering his time and knowledge and making these containers to safeguard the hydrometers."

Greg is motivated by his experiences with coastal ecosystems, saying, "My grandparents made their living on the water. They settled on an island in Southern Maryland in the 19th century, fishing, tonging oysters in the winter and crabbing in the summer. That is how I got interested in preserving the quality of our water. I saw the Chesapeake Bay decline and fish stocks crash. I don't want to see that happen again." Greg is actively involved not only in water quality monitoring, but also with protecting Estero Bay. Cheryl Clark, an Estero Bay AP staff member who has worked with Greg for several years says, "Greg's efforts to protect Estero Bay have been continuous since I met him in 2008. He has fixed channel markers that no one else would take responsibility



for, he has brought in buoys that have broken free in storms, reported potential violations, and always sends us photos of the rare and unusual things he sees in the bay." Thank you to Greg and all of our dedicated volunteers, we couldn't do it without you!

Estero Bay Wading Trips

FT. MYERS BEACH – The 2013 season of Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve wading trips is open for registration. The remaining scheduled trips are listed below. Environmental Specialists from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve (EBAP) office guide each trip. Discover first-hand why estuaries such as Estero Bay are known as "cradles of the ocean"!

We will take a refreshing journey into the waters of the bay, wading into mudflats and seagrass beds at low tide to find many of the plants and animals that call this estuary home. Using dip nets and seine nets we will collect organisms such as fish, shrimp, crabs, snails and sea-grasses and place them in buckets or magnifiers to take a closer look. The guide will explain how each living creature plays an important role in the ecosystem. You'll be amazed at what can be found just past the shoreline. Come and let the estuary surprise you!

For your safety, it is required that you wear closed-toed shoes that can get wet, such as old tennis shoes or diving booties. Wear a swimsuit or shorts. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, water and a towel. This trip is free of charge, but registration is required.

Call EBAP at 239-463-3240 for more information and to sign up.

Trip Schedule

Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 10am

Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 10am



Show us How Much You Like
Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve!

By Cheryl P. Clark



Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve is now on face book www.facebook.com/EsteroBayAquaticPreserve and we would love for you to like us. See what we are doing in the field and in the office and let us know what you like about Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve!