



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Diana Brewer, Development and Communications Coordinator

251-990-5004 / [diana@weeksbay.org](mailto:diana@weeksbay.org)

**Save the Date for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Bald Eagle Bash  
Great food, great music, local beer—for a great cause**

FAIRHOPE, AL -- Are you ready for the **Party for Preservation**? What better way to cap off Earth Day than watching the sunset over Weeks Bay while enjoying fresh local seafood and listening to awesome local music for a great cause? The 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Bald Eagle Bash**, set for April 21 from 4-7 p.m., at the Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center, is the Weeks Bay Foundation's largest event, raising funds to restore vulnerable coastline, protect wildlife, and educate folks about how they can help ensure we have clean water.

This "taste of Weeks Bay" brings more than a dozen area restaurants together to create dishes based on delicious Gulf shrimp. From fried shrimp, to stuffed shrimp, to shrimp and grits, shrimp ceviche, and jalapeno shrimp sliders, each chef prepares a signature dish that is sure to delight all participants.

And while seafood is the main attraction, the local music is always a big draw.

This year, for the first time, **Johnny Hayes and the Loveseats** will take the stage. Mobile's own Johnny Hayes spent time in Nashville, where he learned to play and write with some of the country's most talented artists and songwriters. He started his band in 2013, and they quickly gained popularity across the southeast, playing a unique array of covers from James Brown, Otis Redding, The Band, and many others, mixed with their own blues and soul-influenced originals.

Johnny landed an audition on season 11 of NBC's *The Voice*, and while he did not advance in the competition that year, he was given a shot to audition for season 12. There, his rendition of Otis Redding's classic "*Try a Little Tenderness*" caught the attention of Gwen Stefani and Adam Levine and a spot on Team Adam. He advanced to the top 24, thus gaining him exposure to millions of viewers and new fans across the world.

Today, the band is busy touring and promoting their debut self-titled album, and presenting their unique brand of rock n' soul music smothered in southern charm, keeping their audiences craving more with originals such as "*Sweet Salvation*" and the crowd favorite "*Straight from the Bottle.*"

In addition to the seafood and music, several area restaurants will be serving delectable desserts, while local brewer Fairhope Brewing Company will introduce a new signature beverage created especially for “the Bash.”

“The Bald Eagle Bash is a great family-friendly event that showcases local seafood and local musical talent in a setting that cannot be beat.” Ellis Allen, Weeks Bay Foundation Board Chairman said. “Many attendees come by boat and families fish off the pier while everybody enjoys the food, the music, and the sunset.”

The 2017 Bash had a record 16 restaurants participating and more than 1,300 attendees.

Tickets are now available online at [www.baldeaglebash.com](http://www.baldeaglebash.com) and will be available at Page & Palette in Fairhope, Serda's Coffee Company in Daphne, and Serda Brewing and Red Beard's Outfitter in Mobile. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the gate. Children 10 and under are free. Free parking is available at the Weeks Bay Foundation site, with shuttles providing transportation to the event.

For more information, call 251-990-5004, visit [www.baldeaglebash.com](http://www.baldeaglebash.com), or visit the Weeks Bay Foundation Facebook page.

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*Weeks Bay Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and an accredited land trust. The Foundation has been working in coastal Alabama for more than 25 years to protect important wetland habitat and educate the community about the importance of our bogs, swamps, and marshes.*