



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Diana Brewer, Development and Communications Coordinator

251.990.5004 (o) | 251.510.7203 (c) | [diana@weeksbay.org](mailto:diana@weeksbay.org)

### Who's the fastest paddler on Weeks Bay? Let's find out!

**Fairhope, AL** – Get your paddling arms ready to work! The Weeks Bay Foundation will host the 6th Annual Pelican Paddle, a canoe, kayak and paddle board race, on Saturday, August 4, on beautiful Weeks Bay.

Pelican Paddle is a fun, family-oriented, 3.5-mile race that's open to all ages and skill levels. Plus, there's a seven-mile pro option for the serious paddlers, and a non-competitive Eco-Tour of Weeks Bay that includes a guided paddle to a Bald Eagle nest.

Race divisions are: Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak, Junior Kayak, Pro Kayak, Men's Stand Up Paddle Board, Women's Stand Up Paddle Board, Tandem Craft, and Non-Traditional (single canoes, pedal kayaks, etc.). The Eco-Tour begins shortly after the racers take off.

"Pelican Paddle is a great chance to get out on the water and increase your awareness of the area's natural resources, and our dependency on those resources," Yael Girard, Weeks Bay Foundation executive director said. "It's also a chance for individuals and families to engage in healthy, outdoor, physical activity."

The Eco-Tour winds its way through the salt marsh edges of Weeks Bay. It's suitable for paddlers of all ages, and participants often see dolphins, Bald Eagles, and numerous shore birds. Stops will also be made along the way to discuss watersheds, estuaries, and flora and fauna.

Advance registration for Pelican Paddle is \$30 per paddler or \$70 per family. Day-of-race registration is \$35 per paddler and \$85 per family. A family can include up to two adults and up to four minors under age 18.

Loaner gear will also be available but must be reserved in advance. Fairhope Boat Company and 17 Turtles Outfitters are donating canoes and kayaks for either the race or the Eco-Tour, free of charge. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants interested in borrowing gear must call the Foundation at 251-990-5004 before registering for the race to ensure the boats are available.

For more information and to register for the Pelican Paddle races or the Eco-Tour, call 251-990-5004, or to register online, visit [www.weeksbay.org/events](http://www.weeksbay.org/events). Advance registration will close August 3, at 4 p.m. Race-day registration and event check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.

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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 the water, woods and wildlife that make this place special.