



For immediate release

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Meet our Supporters

In south Alabama, our natural environment is one of our greatest economic and recreational assets. Visitors from all over come to enjoy outdoor recreation, savor the seafood from our regional waters, and attend outdoor events, concerts, and festivals year-round.

As a land trust, the Weeks Bay Foundation protects the land, the water, and the fish and wildlife habitats that our area's businesses and individuals depend upon.

As we look back on 10 years of the Bald Eagle Bash, our biggest fundraiser, we want to especially thank those businesses and individuals that have sponsored the event every year since the beginning.

Coastal Land Trust
Family Medicine Specialists – Michael McBrearty, M.D.
Merrill Lynch
Michael and Debbie Quinn
Russell Thompson Butler & Houston, CPAs
Stone Crosby, P.C.
Tonsmeire Properties
Volkert, Inc.
Weeks Bay Watershed – Yours to Protect

Here, we are highlighting two of those sponsors, one for his and his employer's commitment to protecting the environment, and one for the critical role she played in bringing our biggest fundraiser to life.

VOLKERT, INC.

Brett Gaar is Vice President of Environmental Services with Volkert, a professional services firm that provides infrastructure engineering to state and federal agencies, local and municipal governments, and private industry clients. Brett is also a sixth-generation Baldwin County resident, and has championed Volkert's support of the Bald Eagle Bash for 10 years.

But his involvement with environmental protection doesn't stop there. While serving a term on the Magnolia Springs Town Council, he chaired the town's Environmental Protection Committee. He is also certified in water sampling and testing, often volunteering with the Weeks Bay Reserve. And, he is a long-time volunteer with the Alabama Coastal Cleanup.

"Baldwin County is the fastest growing county in the state," Brett said. "Since the BP oil spill, we have learned that when the ecology suffers, the economy suffers. The Weeks Bay Foundation is critically important as a steward of the natural resources around Weeks Bay, including taking care of those resources that the State cannot."

"Volkert has invested heavily in Alabama infrastructure for nearly 80 years and is deeply committed to integrating sustainability and resiliency into projects we undertake in the state's coastal region," Jerry Stump, President and CEO of Volkert, Inc. said. "Our recent work in the Gulf State Park, as well as our watershed management plans for Bon Secour and Wolf Bay, aptly demonstrate this commitment.

"By supporting organizations such as the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and the Weeks Bay Foundation, we'll continue to uphold the principles of sustainability and resiliency in our approach to engineering the future of infrastructure."

CINDY MCBREARTY

Fairhope resident Cindy McBrearty is no stranger to bringing people together to support a cause in which she believes. So, it was no surprise when Foundation board members Skipper Tonsmeire and John Borom recruited Cindy to serve on the Board with the primary purpose of establishing a signature event for the Foundation: the Bald Eagle Bash.

"I had little knowledge of the Foundation when I joined the Board," Cindy said. "My only experience with Weeks Bay was field trips to the Weeks Bay Reserve and the educational value it brought to students. Mike and I had owned property on Fish River for 40 years, so I have a vested interest in learning more about the Foundation's work."

Cindy said the "Bash" was created as a fun way to introduce the community to the work of the Foundation, work that included land preservation, habitat protection, and improved water quality.

"The Foundation is the primary organization in Baldwin County addressing and creating solutions for many long-term issues that affect us all," she said. "We wanted to have an event

that would encourage the community to financially support the Foundation's work while enjoying the very resources the Foundation protects."

Looking ahead, Cindy said she would like to see citizens become more personally connected to the Foundation by becoming members, sharing the Foundation's story, and participating in the new volunteer events such as tree plantings and clean-ups of the waterways.

"The Weeks Bay Foundation is really just people coming together to protect everything we love about coastal Alabama," she said. "The more we grow the number of people who are personally and financially involved, the more assurances we will have of having clean water, greenspace, and fresh, local seafood for years to come."