

# 2022 Shorelines Cleanup Summary

San Antonio Bay - Guadalupe Estuary System

## SABP Shorelines CLEANUP 2022



What's Cleaner Now?

- ✓ San Antonio Bay
- ✓ Espiritu Santo Bay
- ✓ Aransas Refuge
- ✓ Powderhorn WMA

**54**  
Miles  
Cleaned

**2276**

**11,883**  
Items  
Removed

**725**



Help by  
refusing  
single use  
plastics

**907**



Human Effort

**183 People 33 Boats**



Shoes & Clothing

**405**

Help by  
securing all items  
on your boat

**401**  
Fishing  
Line,  
Nets & Gear

**873**



**51**  
Balloons &  
Strings

**495**



**278**  
Shotgun Shells

Help by  
disposing of  
fishing &  
hunting trash  
properly

**426**  
Crab Trap Floats

**SABP Message:** *San Antonio Bay Partnership and its volunteers conducted its third Shoreline Clean Up during late September 2022. This year expanded coverage to include 4 separate cleanup events:*

- Powderhorn WMA Shoreline on Sept 22 by Braskem Petrochemical employee Group
- Seadrift Shorelines on Sept 27
- St Joe High School, Victoria, Class of 2023 Service Project out of Port O'Connor on Sept 27
- POC Shorelines Cleanup on Oct 1
- Additionally, several boats cleaned shorelines individually throughout the period.

Braskem Cleanup, Powderhorn WMA



*Three hundred twenty-four bags of trash collected, including 2276 plastic beverage bottles, in half a day's effort by 183 concerned citizens, is an admirable effort. But is also indicative of a significant problem effecting our bays: plastic marine debris. While plastics have brought great benefits, we must keep them out of our bays.*

*The data from the Shoreline Cleanup confirms that plastic beverage bottles, plastic bags, aluminum cans, and plastic drink cups make up significant portion of the retrieved trash in the Bay.*

*The good news is that reducing this pollution is within our individual control. Allan Berger, Chair of the San Antonio Bay Partnership and coordinator of the Cleanup, believes much of it is blown off boats using the bay. "The data gathered from this cleanup and my observations lead me to conclude that much of it is blown off boats using the bay. I paddle shorelines frequently and I see the fresh evidence. With a little effort, we can do better and ensure that our bays and estuaries remain heathy and productive."*

*"The science regarding the consequences of plastics of in the marine environment is emerging, but it's hard to imagine that is not harmful. As important is the impression the trash leaves on bay users. Who wants to fish or paddle along a row of garbage? Our attraction is our bays—let's keep them natural!"*

Janie Waghorne & son Josh, Seadrift Cleanup



# Reflections on 2022 Shorelines Cleanup Event

1. It was gratifying to be able to significantly expand the effort this year! Thanks to:
  - a. Braskem Petrochemical employee group
  - b. Seadrift Community inaugural event --thanks to Janie Waghorne
  - c. St Joe High School Class of 2023 service project
  - d. POC Shorelines volunteers – 3<sup>rd</sup> annual!
2. By all measures, the event was the most successful yet in terms of participation and is indicative of the increased awareness and concern about plastic litter visible in our bays.
3. Marine litter is a problem: aesthetically and, as the science continues to show, environmentally. For those of us who grew up on the Texas Coast, it’s like someone dumping a load of trash in your front yard. Picking it up is effortful, but necessary. Doing this work as part of a dedicated team replaces the drudgery with camaraderie and fun competition. But it’s not enough.
4. The heavier lift is changing our collective habits to reduce the plastics entering our bays. I challenge each of you to review your choices and actions regarding single use plastics. A good place to start is to ‘skip the plastics’ on your boat! ‘
5. The frequently documented items are mostly light weight and easily blow from boats when not properly secured.
6. Plastic fragments reflect the known life cycle and deterioration of plastics.
7. Shotgun shells can be addressed by increased diligence of the hunters to retrieve them.
8. While fishermen certainly do not want to lose their fish to a line break, monofilament line in the marine environment is particularly harmful to birds, marine mammals, and sea turtles.
9. Areas with heavy accumulations of trash took a lot longer and reduced the shoreline miles cleaned.
10. More boats and volunteers are needed.
11. We could not do this without our Sponsors!

2022 Results	
Bags of Trash Removed	355
Tons of Trash Removed	4
Boats	33
Individuals	183
Manhours	537
Miles Cleaned	54

Awful Five	
Plastic beverage bottles	2276
Plastic bags	907
Aluminum cans	873
Wrappers / caps	725
Plastic jugs / containers	458

Other Notable Trash	
Crab trap floats	426
Fishing line, lures, corks	401
Shoes / footwear	319
Shotgun shells	278
Balloons & strings	51



Kelley Kowal, James Dodson,  
Patti Chatterson  
Port O'Connor Cleanup

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
San Antonio Bay Cleanup

## Review of Cumulative Results after 3 Years

1. San Antonio Bay Partnership has established a project in NOAA Marine Debris Tracker. It is entitled 'San Antonio Bay Cleanup' and can be found at <https://debristracker.org/>
2. The cumulative result of each event is input into the app. Additionally, ongoing efforts to 'Leave SA Bay Cleaner' have picked-up and logged trash incidental to frequent fishing and birding trips to the Bay.
3. The cumulative results are summarized below re-enforce the conclusions from the annual data.
4. Bay users can participate in keeping the bay clean and productive by:
  - a. Securing trash on your boat,
  - b. Using alternative containers that are not as likely to blow off the boat,
  - c. Leave your fishing spot cleaner by picking up trash at the end of each trip,
  - d. Logging your efforts into Marine Debris Tracker.

3 Yr Cumulative	
Awful Five	
Plastic beverage bottles	6983
Aluminum cans	2755
Plastic bags	2324
Drinnk cups	1285
Fishing gear	978
Shotgun shells	910
Other Notable Trash	
Crab trap floats	526
Ropes, netting	537
Shores, footwear	325
Buckets, crates	200
Balloons	159



St Joe's High School, Senior Class  
Port O'Connor Cleanup



# PREVENT LITTER

## Join the Bucket Brigade!

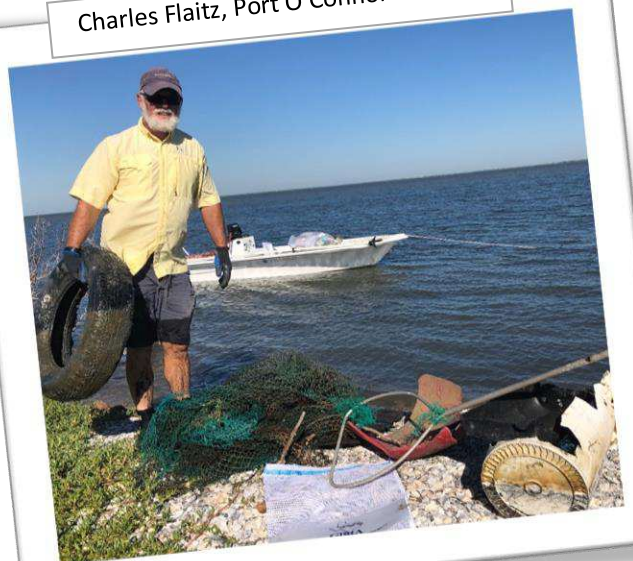


### WHAT **YOU** CAN DO TO REDUCE LITTER IN OUR BAYS:

- ✓ Secure the trash on your boat. Plastic bottles, plastic bags and wrappers, buckets and other stuff, blow off easily.
- ✓ Use alternative containers, e.g. metal water bottles and cups instead of plastic water bottles and Styrofoam and plastic cups, to reduce the opportunity to lose them from your boat.
- ✓ Leave the Bay cleaner after your trips. Pick up, instead of walking by, trash.
- ✓ Participate in Clean Ups and Crab Trap Removal events. Specifically, boats are needed to transport volunteers to remote sites. If you cannot participate, contribute to support those who can.
- ✓ Encourage your friends and family to do the same!

Contact Allan to get your  
Bay R.A.T. Bucket  
[AllanRBerger@outlook.com](mailto:AllanRBerger@outlook.com)

Charles Flaitz, Port O'Connor Cleanup



# Heartfelt Thanks to our Generous Sponsors:



and

**Volunteers like you.**

**Thank you for keeping our Bays clean and productive!**



