

Our Beaches, continued

The Stingray Shuffle

While most local species of sea-life are very shy and tend to avoid us, one of these that you should be familiar with is the stingray. A Stingray is a flat, bottom-feeding fish that lives and breeds in our warm shallow waters from April through October. Stingrays are not normally an aggressive fish, but they will defend themselves if they feel that they are threatened, such as being stepped on. Stingrays have a stinger in their tails that they use to sting their attacker, usually in the ankle or foot. Just like when you go visiting friends it's always better to let them know that you are coming. The best way to do this with stingrays is to do what we like to call the **Stingray Shuffle**. By shuffling (or sliding) your feet slowly through the sand you will warn the stingrays to your presence and to move out of your way.

What to do if you get stung

Since the protein on the stinger is very similar to that of a bee sting, some people may develop a severe allergic reaction and must seek immediate medical assistance. For most others, if you get stung, soak the area in hot water to help breakdown the toxins to help relieve the pain.

Beach Cleanups

Treasure Island conducts two beach cleanups every month.

- We have our Treasure Island beach cleanup every month on the 2nd Saturday. Volunteers meet at 7:45am at Ricky T's for breakfast; cleanup begins at 8:30am at 112th Avenue & Gulf Boulevard (across from the Waffle House).

- The Sunset Beach cleanup is the 3rd Saturday of every month beginning at 8:30am at the Sunset Beach Pavilion, 8000 West Gulf Boulevard.

60 minutes is not a huge commitment, but a lot of people, focused on a single worthwhile project for a mere hour can produce some startling results, and thanks to you, we can see the difference we're making!

Sea Oats

Volunteers have planted over 150,000 sea oats seedlings on Treasure Island over the last four years, restoring a thriving dune line. Sea oats are important because they help the dunes accumulate sand, rather than eroding. The dunes in turn help protect the homes and businesses behind the dune area. Please do not walk through the dunes or pick sea oats—use the dune walkovers along the beach. To help plant sea oats, call 727-547-4575 ext. 247.

