

Sea Grant Extension  
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Memorial Day celebrations herald the coming of summer, barbeques and family visits, lazy beach days, and exciting boating and fishing trips. The boat is ready at the dock, the coolers are loaded, tackle is organized, sunblock and lunch is packed, and the day awaits full of possibilities. Enjoy the beautiful waters of the Gulf, and make sure that what you take with you on your boating trip you bring back to shore.

I'll be attending a Memorial Day celebration this year on Thursday, May 25 at the Wharf Marina in Orange Beach from 3:00-9:00 pm. I invite you to come visit us there and talk about what being a Clean Boater means to you. Take the Clean Boating pledge, and receive a free 5 gallon bucket with a lid while supplies last. Being a Clean Boater to me means taking responsibility in keeping the waters of the coast free of litter and pollution, it means taking pride in the quality of our resources and doing my part to keep them clean.

There are several things a Clean Boater can do. Take care when fueling your boat not to spill any or overfill, and never dump gasoline, oil or other pollutants into the water. Use pumpouts, there are plenty available around the coast at various marinas. Always store your trash in a container and empty it when you get back to the dock, this includes fishing line, aluminum cans, 6-pack rings, and even those tiny cigarette butts. Learn about what aquatic nuisance species are and how to prevent spreading them from waterbody to waterbody with your boat. Learn and abide by all fishing regulations and boating laws, and practice catch and release if you don't plan on eating your catch. Respect private property and the rights of other anglers and outdoor recreationists. Educate others on Clean Boating, and ask guests on your boat to help you do your part to conserve the waters we rely on for food and fun.

Come out on the 25th the The Wharf and get your free bucket while supplies last. Don't forget to ride the newly opened ferris wheel, all the proceeds go to the Alabama Gulf Coast Area Education Foundation. For more clean boating tips please visit <http://www.masgc.org/cleanmarinas/cleanboat.html>. Contact Shonda Borden at the Auburn Marine Extension and Research Center at (251) 438-5690, or by email at [bordesm@auburn.edu](mailto:bordesm@auburn.edu) for more information.