

# British Petroleum Oil Spill

Our fragile ecosystem and native wildlife species are now facing a potentially devastating situation. The Florida Keys (located downstream from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico) lie where some reports are now suggesting the possibility that oil will reach our coast.

However, since we are dealing with wind and weather related uncertainties of Mother Nature, unless the oil actually reaches the current loop in the Gulf there is no way to accurately predict its eventual course.

When a disaster of this magnitude occurs the response is a federal and multi-agency effort. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service <http://www.fws.gov> is currently working with Tri-State Birds & Rescue Research [www.tristatebird.org](http://www.tristatebird.org) to

coordinate all facets of oil spill response including wildlife rescue efforts. Tri-State is an organization well known throughout the world to have a tremendous amount of

At this time they have established washing stations in the areas that are in immediate danger, and their infrastructure will progress to other areas and states as

calls we are getting from concerned citizens wishing to help. At this time all of us must go through the most difficult part of any concerted effort to save animals: We must be patient and allow the professionals to lead the way. Proper cleaning of oiled wildlife is a difficult task and involves much more than removing the oil that coats bird feathers! The ingestion of oil by birds preening their feathers in a futile effort to clean themselves is equally harmful and toxic. Ingestion of oil by a bird can result in ulcers and internal bleeding of the lining of the gastrointestinal tract which then leads to poor absorption of water and food by the affected bird's body. Dehydration and death can follow. Sadly the situation is Continued on page 10...



experience dealing with oil spills, oiled wildlife rescue and treatment response since 1976.

quickly as needed. The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center greatly appreciates the

# Tar-Baby Balls in Key West

The Tar-Baby was a doll made of tar and turpentine, used to entrap Br'er Rabbit in the second of the Uncle Remus stories. As the story goes, the more Br'er Rabbit fought the Tar-Baby the more entangled he became. Today the phrase "tar baby" means a "sticky situation" that is only aggravated by additional contact.

Lets face it, the oil slickness is upon us.

Twenty tar balls washed up on shore in Key West on May 18th and created a media circus. The tar ball samples were flown to an

out-of-state laboratory and the results were that they did not come from the Deepwater Horizon horrific prolific underwater geyser! In fact, they do not even have a clue as to where the tar balls came from. The big question is "How will this negative publicity affect the Florida Keys?" As they say in the media business,

"good press or bad press is still good press". Well, on the bright side, we made national TV for free! Its hard to believe that there are people in this world that do not know these beautiful islands exist. Will all this media attention pique their curiosity? Will they change



Note: Br'er Rabbit and the Tar-Baby drawing by E.W. Kemble from The Tar-Baby, by Joel Chandler Harris, 1904.

their vacation plans to go to Disney World in favor of a jaunt to the Keys before we snap off the continent and become a modern day Atlantis?

Many would-be visitors have cancelled their hotel reservations here after the

news reported the tar ball faux paux and caused a major panic in the atlantic. Governor Charlie Crist has asked BP to pay \$35 million for an advertising blitz to inform the rest of the world that our beaches are OK. Isn't that monetarily rewarding the same media for their premature evaluation explanation of our situation?

# Hunk of the Month



Steve Dunlop

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JUNE GIGS:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
JUNE 4 & 5  
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10:30 PM - 3:30 AM

FRIDAY • JUNE 11  
COCONUTS 9:30 - 1:30

SATURDAY • JUNE 12  
GILBERTS 7-11 PM

FRIDAY • JUNE 25  
COCONUTS 9:30 - 1:30



BLACK WATER SOUND

