



Community Resource Development
TIMELY INFORMATION

ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE/AUBURN UNIVERSITY/AUBURN, ALABAMA

"THE FIRST 100 DAYS"

Gale R. Trussell
 Gale R. Trussell, Specialist
 Coastal Recreation & Tourism

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Sea Grant Depository

It has been just about 100 days since Frederic. I thought it might be helpful to see how the tourism industry is faring in its comeback struggle. Mobile's attractions are back strong with a few exceptions. Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores still have their backs to the wall but Gulf Shores is making significant strides to improve its situation.

Below is a status report of some of the sites in our coastal area:

- (1) Dog River K.O.A. Campground -- Should be in full operation by mid-January. They have a few spaces that can be used now. Frank had over 500 trees broken or blown down and is now about 80% through with clean-up operations. The pool had slight damage, and 30% of the fishing pier blew away but it will be repaired in time for spring fishing. The store and meeting building had only slight damage. Campers are invited to come on out anytime after mid-January.
- (2) Trav-L-Kampground -- The first campground in Alabama offered to eastbound I-10 travelers. Full Service available and all storm damage has been cleaned up. Only slight damage to the store and picnic shelter. One big problem exists. Normally, one gains access to this campground at the Grand Bay/I-10 Exit; however, the bridge on Highway 11 is out and will be out for several months. Access now is provided by Highway 90 near the Alabama-Mississippi state line. Plenty of available spaces for campers now!
- (3) I-10 Campground -- All debris is cleaned up and full service has been restored. Everything's rosy; so.....come on, campers!
- (4) Shady Grove Campground (Theodore) -- Still working on debris clean-up, but campground is open with full service and welcoming campers.

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The

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- (5) Grand Bay Welcome Center -- Sustained moderate damage during the Hurricane but opened again in November with a new acting director, Thyra Cash. There was a considerable amount of tree damage to the grounds but clean-up operations have been completed and the area looks inviting again.
- (6) Chickasabogue Park -- The park is open but the tent camping area is still closed. However, tent campers are allowed to use the trailer area temporarily. All trailer sites are open with full service. Trail restoration is in progress but most trails remain closed. The boat ramp is operational and the picnic shelter is available for use.
- (7) Big Creek Lake -- Reports are that there are very few fishermen out now, so there's plenty of open space out there. Crappie are biting real good as they usually do during cold weather. There are plenty of boats available for rent at the various landings.
- (8) Fort Conde -- Eva's got everything under control! All hurricane repairs have been made and the Fort's been open again for sometime. Bring on the cars and busses!
- (9) Ft. Conde-Charlotte House -- Although several repair projects are needed, the house is open for business.
- (10) Ft. Conde Village -- Survived the Hurricane well and is open and looking for business.
- (11) Richards' D.A.R. House -- Open again and as pretty as ever!
- (12) Oakleigh -- Opened soon after the Hurricane with little damage to the home and moderate damage to the large oak trees. Christmas at Oakleigh was magnificent, as always. Good job, ladies.
- (13) Mobile City Museum -- Open again at the usual hours.
- (14) Phoenix Museum -- Repairs have been completed and the museum is open on its regular schedule.
- (15) Carlen House -- Open again at its regular hours.
- (16) Vintage Auto & Antique Shop -- Frederic was mean to these folks and did extensive damage. Repairs are still underway and Libby says it will probably be around mid-January before they are open again.
- (17) U.S.S. Battleship Alabama -- Both the battleship and submarine are open again on their regular schedule. Bill's thinking about printing some guides in some of the major foreign languages. Sounds like a winner!!!
- (18) Magnolia Blossom -- Ready for passengers! Terry says that she has a language bank available through the Red Cross to any of you who need an interpreter for foreign groups. No charge. Let's use it!

- (19) Bellingrath Gardens -- Still diggin' out! A definite re-opening date has not been set. Repairs continue to be **made on the** house, greenhouses, trees, and flower beds.
- (20) Dauphin Island -- With no access except boat or ferry, the Island's tourist businesses are in a sad situation! The summer crowd that usually engulfed the beaches will likely travel to Gulf Shores for one-day outings because housing will be limited--thanks to Freddie!.
- (21) Gray Line Tours -- Doing fine and expecting more tourists in January. Carol is also offering convention planning services now. She's headquartered at the Sheraton. Call her for details.
- (22) Velma Croom Tour Service -- Still open to tours in spite of Velma's foot problems. Hope she'll soon be well.
- (23) Mobile hotels and motels -- There are still extensive repairs being made to many facilities including Howard Johnsons, Days' Inn, the Ramada near Airport Boulevard and I-65, the Rodeway on Michigan, and the Holiday Inn on the Causeway--just to mention a few. Getting a room in Mobile is still difficult but easing up a little. The restaurant on the ground floor of the Sheraton Inn is open but all sleeping rooms are closed. Repairs are underway but the management hopes to re-open in late January.

BALDWIN COUNTY

Fairhope Pier -- Open again.

Grand Hotel -- Still closed. Plans are to open again on April 10. The golf course and tennis courts are open now to members only.

Fort Morgan -- All facilities are open. Some repair work is still being done but it won't interfere with tourists' visits.

Gulf Shores -- Several decisions have been made that will affect tourism for the future. (1) All new wiring must be underground. This will help visually and (2) the new beach highway will be three lanes with side lanes for walking and bike riding.

Rick Phillips says that motels "off the beach" are open now, along with these that are "on the beach": White Capps, Youngs by the Sea, Gulf Shores Motel, Paradise Island, Port-of-Call, Colony & Moody's.

Gulf State Park -- The golf course is open, and the campground and the store.....and that's about it! No repairs have been started yet on the resort or resort cabins. No work has begun on the Lake Shelby cabins or fishing pier. The beach change house had heavy damage but plans are to have it operational by swimming season. The Lake Shelby boat house is in poor condition and may not be worth repairing.

Laguna Campground -- Closed. The owner says he won't rebuild until he gets a commitment from the Corps of Engineers to adequately clean out the debris from Little Lagoon.

Outrigger Campground -- This is one of Alabama's campgrounds actually on the Gulf of Mexico. Frederic completely destroyed it; however, the owners have rebuilt and hope to reopen bigger, better and with full service soon after New Years. A few sites are available now.

Sea Side Campground -- Another one of our Gulf of Mexico campgrounds and it's open with approximately thirty sites available. Full service. One row of sites was lost to the hurricane, but hopefully, these will be regained by the spring camping season.

Perdido Bay K.O.A. -- Never did close! Had some trees down, but the campground stayed open. Full service available.

Mobile-Pensacola K.O.A. Campground and Waterworld -- Everything's o.k., and the campground is open for business. The Waterworld is closed, of course, for cold weather but will be back next spring with some additional facilities.

Baldwin County Welcome Center -- Open and operating under normal working hours.

Orange Beach Marinas and Charter Boat Fleet -- Not one charter boat was lost to Frederic. The marinas weren't so lucky. All marinas had damage, but Pete Peters was able to keep open after the hurricane by using generators. He and Safe Harbor are both open again on a somewhat limited basis. Pete says he had only seven boats damaged out of sixty-seven in the harbor, and those damages were minor.

HAPPENINGS

- (1) Thanks to efforts by Representative Mary Zoghby, Mrs. Caroline Cavanaugh was in Mobile December 12th. to speak to the Mobile Historic Attractions Committee. She had several news items that might be of interest to you.
 - (A) The Bureau of Publicity and Information is considering using \$50,000 of its budget to match with tourist-oriented groups in Alabama for tourism-related projects. Detailed criteria for the program are incomplete at this time.
 - (B) T-shirts promoting Alabama through an "Alabama the Beautiful" program are available through the Bureau--any size for \$2.00.
 - (C) The Bell System has free booklets for foreign travelers to the U.S. She passed out a few samples to participants.
 - (D) Please send the Bureau any extra black-and-white photographs or slides of your attraction for promotional purposes.
- (2) Otha Lockett has worked for several years to get a hotel complex in Mobile's downtown area. His efforts have recently been rewarded with the announcement of a major hotel complex that will

revolutionize the area for tourist activity. That's good news. The 40-story, 400-room convention hotel will be accompanied by a 10-12 story office tower and retail mall. The complex will be called the Radisson Riverview Plaza. Thanks, Otha!

- (3) A law suit was filed in Mobile court to change the zoning in Ft. Conde Village to allow construction of business offices. The plan has long been for the Village to be strictly a tourist area. The suit was defeated by the City, and it was a victory for the tourism industry.
- (4) Sea Grant Advisory Service has a slide-tape documentary (12 min.) on Hurricane Frederic to loan out if any of you need it for a presentation.

Happy New Year and God's blessings for a happy and productive 1980!!!