



PRESS RELEASE
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SEABROOK LUCKY TRAIL MARATHON READY TO GREET RUNNERS TO ITS 12TH ANNUAL RACE

SEABROOK, TX (February 26, 2015) – Final preparations are underway to welcome runners from 100 Texas cities and towns, 21 states and three countries to the **12th annual Seabrook Lucky Trail Marathon, Half Marathon and Relays**, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15, 2015.

“Our committee members are working hard in preparation and are looking forward to meeting all of the athletes,” said race director **Robby Sabban**. “Whether they are new to our race or have run it every year, our aim is to exceed everyone’s expectation by the time the weekend of racing comes to its conclusion.”

Affectionately known as the “Luckiest Marathon in Texas”, the Seabrook Lucky Trail Marathon, which shares the distinction of being the seventh longest-running marathon in Texas with Waco’s Miracle Match Marathon, will host the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) Texas State Marathon Championship for the fourth time in five years.

Registrations for the event, which features a Saturday half marathon and a marathon and half marathon on Sunday – and with relays on both days, continue to be accepted online – through Sunday, March 8, 2015 -- at www.seabrookmarathon.org.

Seabrook’s Rex Meador Park will be the site of both day’s events, which will begin at 7:15 a.m.

Sponsored by the City of Seabrook, Running Alliance Sport, the not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) producer of the Seabrook Lucky Trail Marathon, is giving away a free entry to one Sunday marathon registrant from each state.

New this year is an already sold-out Saturday 5K that benefits the Footsteps For The Fallen’s scholarship program for the children of Texas’ First Responders.

Spearheaded by Footsteps For The Fallen founder **Tony Constanzo**, the 5K will include 300 runners and host as its official starter, Abbott Fire Department Chief **Bradley Matthys**.

Some of Matthys' firefighters were the first on the scene in an effort to put out the fire at the West Fertilizer Company storage and distribution facility in West, Texas on April 17, 2013 before it exploded.

Two firefighters from Matthys' department lost their lives in that explosion.

The remaining proceeds annually benefit The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc., whose mission is to offer support, provide safety and prevent domestic and sexual violence.

Running Alliance Sport donated \$35,000 to The Bridge, as it's also known, as a result of last year's Lucky Trail Marathon and \$100,000 from its five races, which includes the popular Texas Bridge Series, in 2014.

For the ninth consecutive year, runners can take the Pelican or Trail Challenge and run the half marathon on Saturday followed by either the half marathon or marathon on Sunday.

Just fewer than 170 athletes are currently registered to run one of the two Challenges and earn a third medal for their efforts. A year ago, 49 runners completed the Trail Challenge while an additional 135 finished the Pelican Challenge.

Three of last year's eight RRCA Texas State Marathon Champions are slated to return. Katy's **Gordon Christie** and Kingwood's **Jacqueline O Brien-Nolen** will look to defend their Masters state titles while Houston's **Jacob Tonge**, set to run his ninth consecutive Lucky Trail Marathon, returns to attempt to capture his Grandmasters division.

Sunday's half marathon will feature defending champion **Steve Maliszewski** from Houston who was a Badwater 135 finisher last July in California.

Meanwhile, both Saturday and Sunday's half marathons will feature defending champions **Kaytlynn Welsch** from Alvin and **Victoria Webster** from Houston. They'll be pushed both days by Welsch's younger sister, **Heather**, who was third in Sunday's half marathon last year.

Victoria's **John Hyak** and Cibolo's **Joseph Leon Guerrero** will be feted on Sunday as they become the eighth and ninth runners inducted into the Seabrook Lucky Trail Leprechaun Hall of Fame.

Initiated in 2013 as a way to recognize the race's most loyal runners since its start in 2004, any runner who has or is set to complete 262 miles – 40 loops of the trails – in individual events or has finished the marathon or marathon in 10 or more years earns automatic induction.

Arielle Spiller and **Grant Bue** will start Saturday and Sunday's races, respectively, with the singing of the *National Anthem*.

Spiller most recently sang the *National Anthem* at the Jail Break Run Half Marathon and 5K in Baytown earlier this month and Bue sang before the start of another RAS race, the Toughest 10K Galveston, in October.

Besides being supported by volunteers from The Bridge, runners will also receive on- and off-course support and encouragement from the Turtles Running Group, iCERV Clear Lake, Hell's Angels, First Choice Emergency Room, the Bay Area Running Club, Clear Falls Interact, Frost Bank and Houston Fit.

For more information about the 12th annual Seabrook Lucky Trail Marathon, Half Marathon and Relays, please visit www.seabrookmarathon.org.

