

Students prepare seedlings to restore wetlands

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Staff Writer

On Thursday morning, the members of AmeriCorps on the Bayou joined forces with the Wetland Watchers from Harry Hurst to help improve the habitat in the LaBranche Wetlands. The volunteers and students planted 980 wax myrtle and cypress seeds in a small area behind the Destrehan school.

The project, named Coastal Roots, is a cooperative effort of the Louisiana Sea Grant

College Program and the La. Cooperative Extension Service. Dr. Pam Blanchard, program coordinator, said the project will be an ongoing event. "Our job is to come in and get the students started off," she said.

The process involves a small area which is equipped with an auto irrigation system. The seeds are planted in small cones filled with dirt. The cones are placed on trays and buried on the site and left

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BILL CAPO (left) with WWL came out on Thursday to interview participants in the seed planting. He is talking with Dr. Pam Blanchard, the coordinator of the Coastal Roots Program.

Seed

FROM 1A

alone until the fall when the seedlings will transplanted to the LaBranche area.

"The wax myrtles are really cool," said Blanchard. "They provide berries which are a favorite of migrating songbirds."

Hurst Teacher Barry Guillot said that the new project will fit in well with other works of the Wetlands Watchers. "This fits right in line with some of the projects to protect the coast," he said. "Restoration is the next step."

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HURST STUDENTS SPREAD dirt into cones used for planting tree seeds.