



Brittany McCray, left, and Katie Lassere, seventh-graders at Harry Hurst Middle School in Destrehan, work together to install an irrigation system to ensure the tree seedlings stay moist throughout the summer.

## Students learn coastal roots

Harry Hurst Middle School in Destrehan was among 16 schools statewide selected to participate in LSU's Coastal Roots project.

Members of LSU's faculty and volunteers from Americorps on the Bayou assisted Hurst students in building a nursery, installing an irrigation system,

and planting 980 cypress and wax myrtle tree seedlings. The students will monitor the tree growth and replant the trees next fall in the LaBranche Wetlands.

"This is very exciting because the Coastal Roots program fits in perfectly with our Wetland Watcher service learning project," Hurst teacher Barry Guil-

lot said. "Over the last three years, our students have planted over 900 trees that were donated by the Crescent Soil and Water Conservation District. This group of seventh-graders will have the opportunity to see the trees as seeds and watch them as they grow. Next year as eighth-graders they will be able to plant these in the wetlands."