

Wetland program set for Cameron schools

3 of 4 nursery yards have been installed

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Cheniere Energy, through a national partnership with Restore America's Estuaries, have partnered with LSU's Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program to fund the development of a wetland plants program in four Cameron Parish schools.

The overall goal of the Coastal Roots Program is to assist students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward our natural resources and to provide them a constructive active learning situation in which they can explore strategies for sustaining our coastal ecosystems.

Within the program, students install a nursery yard on school grounds in which they grow wetland plants.

"Once the plants are grown, we will take the students and their plants to a restoration site to give them hands-on experience in

coastal restoration," said Natalie Snider, science director for CRCL.

Three of the four nursery yards have already been installed.

"The installation was delayed for almost a year due to impacts from Hurricane Ike. We have worked with each school to identify the specific needs of that school and are pleased to be moving forward with the installations," said Dr. Pam Blanchard, LSU College of Education.

The students grow various species of wetland plants, including smooth cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*), seashore paspalum (*paspalum vaginatum*) and bitter panicum (*panicum amarum*).

These plants will be used at restoration planting sites along the Cameron shoreline and within Rockefeller Refuge.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is a nonprofit organization with a broad-based membership dedicated to the protection and restoration of a sustainable coastal Louisiana for over 20 years.