Coastal Roots

September 2006

CR Transitions to LSU Colleges of Education and Agriculture

Pierre Part School's can yard when it was installed in 2002. They have more than 140 four-foot tall cypress seedlings awaiting planting this fall!

Louisiana Sea Grant College Program has recently given permission to move the Coastal Roots Program to the LSU Colleges of Education and Agriculture. Dr. Pam Blanchard (LSU College of Education, Dept. of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice) will be assuming administration and coordination of the project, along with Dr. Ed Bush (LSU College of Agriculture, Dept. of Horticulture) and Mr. David Bourgeois (LSU AgCenter/LA Sea Grant College Program). LA Sea Grant College Program has provided funding to assist the Coastal Roots Program in this transition year.

Here is a list of participating schools.

Abbeville High (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish) 2001
Albert Cammon Middle (St. Rose; St. Charles Parish) 2006 - funded by Learn & Serve Grant
Assumption High (Napoleonville; Assumption Parish) 2003
Harry Hurst Middle (Destrehan; St, Charles Parish) 2006 - funded by Learn & Serve Grant
J.B. Martin Middle (Paradis; St, Charles Parish) 2006 funded by Learn &Serve Grant
J.H. Williams Middle (Abbeville; Lafayette Parish) 2006 (relocated nursery)
Jackson High (Jackson; East Feliciana Parish) 2006 – funded by school
Lafayette Middle (Lafayette; Lafayette Parish) 2005 – funded by Learn &Serve
Our Lady of Mercy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2003
Pierre Part Elementary (Pierre Part, Assumption Parish) 2001
R.K. Smith Middle (Luling, St. Charles Parish) 2006 - funded by Learn & Serve Grant
St. Joseph Academy (Baton Rouge, E. Baton Rouge Parish) 2001 - funded by LPBF
St. Louis, King of France (Baton Rouge, EBR Parish) 2002
South Lafourche High School (Galliano, Lafourche Parish) 2001

Nursery News

Dr. Ed Bush, Ms. Ann Gray and Ms. Mary Beth Robichaux
LSU Dept. of Horticulture

To assist Coastal Roots Schools with nursery maintenance and plant growth, we are happy to announce that we have hired two horticulture experts to assist Pam, Ed and David in helping schools with plant nursery issues. The owner of Raintree Nursery (Morgan City), **Ms. Ann Gray**, will be working with **David Bourgeois** to assist schools "down the bayou" in Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes - as well as assisting new schools with installing can yards. **Ms. Mary Beth Robichaux**, an LSU horticulture graduate student, will be working with schools in the Baton Rouge area. **Dr. Ed Bush** will be assisting schools in St. Charles parish and **Dr. Pam Blanchard** will be working with schools in Lafayette and Vermillion parishes. Schools can expect to see our happy faces on a very regular basis.

If you have a problem with your nursery (hardware or plants), please contact Dr. Blanchard or your CR staff person. We'll get you help as soon as we can!

We all want you to know that we are looking forward to seeing your completed **CR NEEDS ASSESSMENT** - this will give us a handle on the history and status of your school program. *By completing this survey, we will identify your school as a school wishing to continue the program and will consider you an official Coastal Roots Partner School*. Please fill out the form on **PAGE 3** and fax it back to Dr. Blanchard ASAP!

Black mangrove holding down the soil on a bare levee (above).

The first nursery visits will occur in early October! See you soon!

New CR Mini-Grant Funding

by Dr. Pam Blanchard, LSU Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice

In an effort to give Coastal Roots teachers more decision-making power with regard to their CR nurseries, we are initiating a **Coastal Roots Mini-Grant Program** for participating schools. The CR Mini-Grant will allow teachers to seek funding in the amount of $200 for specific CR school nursery/project needs. Funding can cover teacher stipends, planting media, bus transportation, student t-shirts and a range of other materials. We are also providing a match incentive! For schools who have community supporters willing to support their efforts, we will provide a one-to-one match of up to $150 additional dollars (that means $350 from CR Program and $150 from your community partner for a total of $500!).

Cypress seedlings in their yellow bullet cells awaiting transplanting.

The mini-grant application has only three parts - a description of how the CR Program operates at your school, a budget, and an explanation of how you arrived at your budget (see the **2006 Coastal Roots Mini-Grant Information & Application Form** included in this newsletter).

Please read the Mini-Grant guidelines carefully. ***One of the important things to note is that all materials and equipment will be purchased through LSU.*** We will NOT write checks to your school (with the exception of requested teacher stipend(s) and invoices for bus transportation).

Any school or organization that is officially affiliated with the Coastal Roots Program by October 30, 2006, may apply for Mini-Grant funding, provided that the requested funds meet the proposal guidelines and are spent prior to the ending of the 2006-7 school year. **Deadline for return of completed Mini-Grant applications is October 30, 2006**.

Also worth noting - all t-shirt orders (whether funded through the mini-grant or through a community partner, need to be turned in to Dr. Blanchard no later than *November 7, 2006.*

Fifi Island - Here We Come!

by David Bourgeois, LSU AgCenter Assistant Area Agent - Fisheries
LA Sea Grant Marine Extension Program

Students from Lafayette Middle School, their Dean of Students, three teachers and a great mom, traveled nearly four hours by cars and truck to Fifi Island (near Grand Isle) to plant restoration seedlings on August 14th. Working with Grand Isle Port Commissioner Wayne Keller and David Bourgeois, this planting was a joint effort of the LSU Coastal Roots Project, Lafayette Middle School's Adopt-An-Island Project, and the Grand Isle Coastal Plant Resources Project.

Below and Right: Students and staff from Lafayette Middle plant seedlings on Fifi Island last August 14.

While they were transplanting 60 red mulberry, 100 wax myrtle, and 10 black mangrove plants, they were interviewed by Stephen Bender, a senior writer for ***Southern Living Magazine***, and photographed by by his photographer.

Through its Adopt-An-Island Project, Lafayette Middle School has been working with Mr. Keller over the last several years to plant restoration foliage in areas that have suffered erosion problems on and near Grand Isle, such as the Fifi Island location. Not surprizingly, Lafayette Middle was one of 13 groups (and the only school) that was awarded the national Environmental Hero Award by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2006.

Lafayette Middle School has a special environmental science focus, which fits perfectly with the Coastal Roots Program. They are in the process of finishing a wetland education area on their school property, building a greenhouse and a butteryfly dome, and of course, getting their can yard up and running to produce CR seedlings.

Congratulations to the students and faculty of Lafayette Middle for all their hard work! We are looking forward to seeing their story in Southern Living Magazine next summer.

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2006 Coastal Roots Needs Assessment

School and Teacher Information

School name: _____

School Address: _____

City/ZIP: _____

School Phone: _____ School Fax: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Teacher in charge: _____ Teaching Assignment: _____

Teacher's Phone: Hm: ( ) _____ Cell:( ) _____

Email: _____

Participating CR Grade(s):

Grade _____, Subject _____, Approx. # students _____

Grade _____, Subject _____, Approx. # students _____

Grade _____, Subject _____, Approx. # students _____

Other Teachers Assisting: _____

CR Project Background

In what year did your school begin participating in CR? _____

From whom did you receive your start-up money? _____

Do you have a can yard? Yes No Do you have a greenhouse? Yes No

Do you have an automatic irrigation system? Yes No

If so, is the automatic sprinkling system functioning properly? Yes No

If no, please describe the problem: _____

Do you personally know how to adjust your irrigation timer? Yes No

How many yellow bullet cells do you have? _____ How many black trays? _____

How many 1 gallon D-pots (tall black tree pots) do you have? _____

How many *additional* _____ yellow bullet pots, _____ black trays, _____ 1 gallon D pots do you need?

When and where have you planted?

2000-1 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

2001-2 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

2002-3 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

2003-4 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

2004-5 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

2005-6 Planted at _____ Approx. _____seedlings

Seedling types: _____ Who supplied the seedlings? _____

Do you have special planting arrangements with a specific location/agency? Yes No

If Yes, please specify where/with whom:

How far are you able to travel with your students? _____ (specify distance/time restrictions)

What types of seedlings have you most recently grown in your can yard?

____ black mangrove ____ baldcypress ____ waxmyrtle ____ red mulberry

____ *Spartina altinaflora* ____ other (please list) _____

Does your school wish to continue in the Coastal Roots Project? Yes No

If yes, indicate what level of participation you would like to pursue:

____ growing plants ____ planting plants ____ other, please describe:

If yes, will you require LSU personnel to assist with:

_____ can yard/growing plants _____ arranging planting sites _____ providing press releases

_____ classroom visits _____ other: please specify

If no, please indicate your reasons for stopping the project:

Above: planting seeds in reusable yellow seedling cells.

Did you know...

Three Lafayette Middle students and Mr. Jeff Debetez, LMS Dean of Students being photographed by Southern Living Magazine, Aug 2006.

- **Teachers are encouraged to joing the Louisiana Wetland Education Coalition?** It's a free email listserve that makes available to teachers the latest information on coastal and wetland education opportunities in Louisiana! To join, email Pam (PamB@LSU.EDU) and tell her to sign you up! The group's website is hosted at http://www.lacoast.gov/education/lawec/.
- **Kikki (Karsh) Fontenot and Rachel Somers both finished their Master's degress and graduated from LSU?** Both are enrolled in Ph.D programs in Horticulture and Education (respectively)! Congratulations, ladies!
- **All new schools wishing to join the Coastal Roots Program have written grants or found community partners to support their efforts?** All future schools wishing to enter the CR Program will need to find community partners to support their efforts.
- **JANUARY 13 is the day you need to save to come and meet your CR colleagues!** We will be holding a six-hour hands-on workshop at LSU that covers information on nursery maintanence, coastal landloss, and restoration information. Mark your calendars!
- **We are looking for good news to share about your Coastal Roots Project! Tell us what's happening!**
- **St. Joseph's Academy will once again help host the Coastal Roots Exhibit at LA Sea Grant's *Ocean Commotion* on November 2!** Thanks ladies!

Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program

LSU College of Education College of Agriculture · Sea Grant Louisiana · NOAA · LSU AgCenter

Coastal Roots: Helping the LA coast one seedling at a time!

http://lamer.lsu.edu/projects/coastalroots

Coastal Roots

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