

Coastal Roots



December 21, 2006

CR Teacher Workshop set for Jan 13, at Pierre Part Elementary School



Pierre Part School's can yard when it was installed in 2002. They just planted 140 four-foot tall cypress seedlings and 150 12" seedlings on

Coastal Roots teachers are invited to attend a Coastal Roots workshop on Saturday, January 13, 2007, at Pierre Part Elementary School in Pierre Part, LA. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. It will be a great opportunity for all of us to get together to talk about how to successfully teach about coastal issues and growing plants in our school-based nurseries. We will have **\$100 stipends for teachers currently in the program** and a (working) lunch for all that attend. We will have information on coastal issues that you can incorporate into your lessons, lesson demonstrations of Coastal Roots lessons posted on the old Coastal Roots website, hands-on experiences in bumping up plants into one-gallon tall pots, as well as information on how to run and maintain successful nurseries. In attendance will also

be individuals from schools who are interested in joining the CR Program in the near future - and they are very interested in hearing how you incorporate the CR Program into your lessons, and how you obtained funding to start your nurseries. We will also be able to see Pierre Part Elementary's can yard and hear from John Giambrone (Pierre Part Elementary's 7th/8th grade science teacher) about how he organizes the maintenance of the plants and the nursery. Many thanks to John and to his principal, Anna Mabile, for graciously agreeing to host this workshop at their school.

Directions to Pierre Part Elementary: The school address is Pierre Part Elementary, 3321 Highway 70, Pierre Part, LA 70339. The school is located along the Highway 70 as you pass through Pierre Part. John Giambrone's classroom is on the east side of the complex near to the gym - look for Pam's brown Ford Ranger parked outside his room. You can see the CR can yard sitting behind and to the side of the building. Pam's cell phone: 337-739-8506.

Please RSVP to Pam at <PamB@LSU.EDU> by January 8!

Nursery News

Dr. Ed Bush, Ms. Ann Gray, LSU Dept. of Horticulture

Coastal Roots staff have now visited all the school nurseries at least two or three times. Success growing seedlings is directly linked to the care that is taken in keeping the can yard weed free and adequately watered. It is extremely important to keep at least a 6-10" weed-free border around your can yards. This will help prevent soil bacteria, spores and other seeds from being splashed into your yellow cells by rain drops. As you begin to plant your seeds this January, we recommend sending a "clean sweep" detail out to the can yard to clear any weeds that creep into or near the can yard and to remove leaf litter that has blown onto the floor and into the yellow cells.

Some schools will be growing pine seedlings to help our state parks hit hard by Hurricane Katrina. Pine seeds will germinate relatively easily, but are susceptible to being hurt by fungus spores blown into the can yard. We need these schools to be especially vigilant about the conditions their seedlings are being grown in and to alert Ed Bush or Pam Blanchard if anything looks amiss **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, so we can get someone out to your school to evaluate and spray your seedlings before they succumb!



Healthy cypress seedlings.(above)

Cypress Sawmill Museum Planting in Patterson, LA

by Matthew Landry, 8th grade student at Pierre Part Elementary

On Friday December 8, 2006, seventy eighth grade students from Pierre Part Elementary worked on a coastal restoration project. Under the program "Coastal Roots" the students planted a total of 282 cypress trees (135 gallon size

containers; 147 smaller trees) at Kemper Williams State Park, in Patterson, Louisiana, which features the newest Louisiana State Museum in Louisiana.

The Museum includes the Cypress Sawmill Collection and the Wendell Williams Aviation Collection in Patterson, Louisiana. The students planted trees in harsh conditions, with the temperature dropping to thirty-five degrees and wind chills dipping to the lower twenties. After planting trees, the students enjoyed hot chocolate and snacks

provided by the park, as

well as tours of the aviation and sawmill collections on the property. As the students left the property, they felt really good that they came on the field trip, because it is a memorable field trip that they can enjoy recalling in the future. They also felt good knowing they did something to help the environment.



Cypress seedlings in their yellow bullet cells awaiting transplanting.



Lafayette Middle CR students pick 10,000 black mangrove seeds!

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

Lafayette Middle School students arrived at Grand Isle State Park at 9AM and were welcomed by Park Director, Paula Brooks. Jean Landry, Director of The Nature Conservancy on Grand Isle, was on hand to explain the importance of the island's maritime forest to neo-tropical migrating birds. Lafayette Middle School science teacher, Stacy Hess, and 3 of her fellow teachers, divided the students into 4 groups, each with different colored E-Watcher shirts. Each student carried a field guide workbook she created so they could check-off plants and animals as they encountered them. Wayne Keller, Grand Isle Port Director, who arranged the visit to the park, took half of the group to the bay area to learn about the ecology of the salt marsh ecosystem and gather black mangrove seeds. David Bourgeois took the other half of the group to the beach to teach them about the

different kinds of plants and animals found there. Students learned

about the characteristics of an estuary, "edge effect", ecological succession, measured dissolved oxygen and salinity, and even recorded the GPS coordinates of the state park. Students also identified and collected samples for about an

hour, then switched locations with the other group. They concluded their visit with a brown-bag lunch and changed into some warm-dry clothes for their long trip home. Students will be planting about 1000 seeds at school next week, but the rest are being held in reserve for other Coastal Roots schools to be planted early next year.



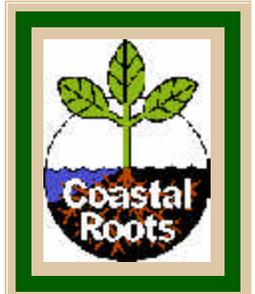
Below and Right: Students and staff from Lafayette Middle at Grand Isle State Park on Dec 15.



Current Coastal Roots Schools

Schools participating in the Coastal Roots program now number 17 and represent nine parishes across south Louisiana. St. Charles Parish is the first parish to obtain grant money to support Coastal Roots participation for all four middle schools in their parish! Way to go, St. Charles Parish! All schools that have joined the Coastal Roots Program since 2003 have secured their can yard start-up money from community partners or outside grants.

- (1) **Pierre Part Elementary** (Pierre Part, Assumption Parish) 2001
- (2) **South Lafourche High School** (Galliano, Lafourche Parish) 2001
- (3) **Abbeville High** (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish) 2001
- (4) **St. Joseph's Academy** (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2001
- (5) **St. Louis, King of France** (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2002
- (6) **Montegut Middle** (Montegut; Terrebonne Parish) 2002
- (7) **Harry Hurst Middle** (Destrehan; St. Charles Parish) 2003
- (8) **Our Lady of Mercy** (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2003
- (9) **St. James Parish Science and Math Magnet** (Vacherie, St. James Parish) 2004
- (10) **Buchanan Elementary** (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2004
- (11) **Lafayette Middle** (Lafayette; Lafayette Parish) 2005
- (12) **Assumption High** (Napoleonville; Assumption Parish) 2006
- (13) **J.H. Williams Middle** (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish) 2006
- (14) **Albert Cammon Middle** (St. Rose; St. Charles Parish) 2006
- (15) **J.B. Martin Middle** (Paradis; St. Charles Parish) 2006
- (16) **R.K. Smith Middle** (Luling, St. Charles Parish) 2006
- (17) **Jackson High** (Jackson; East Feliciana Parish) 2006



Jackson High Starts CR Enviro Club

by Pam Blanchard

Our newest Coastal Roots School, Jackson High School, in Jackson, Louisiana, was started this past fall by teacher Donna Boudreaux. She learned about the program when she attended a MarshMission teacher workshop (sponsored by CC and Sue Lockwood) two summers ago and decided to get her students involved in the



project. She has sought funding for the project at Jackson High School through Special Education money, as well as securing generous assistance from East Feliciana District Attorney Samuel D'Aquila.



Eight students who are members of the Jackson High Enviro Club accompanied Ms. Boudreaux in late November to the USDA Golden Meadow Plant Research Station in Lafourche Parish. The purpose of the trip was for students to gather bitter panicum cuttings to bring back to their school to grow. Students met with Dr. Richard Neil, the manager of the research station, and toured the facility, learning about how the plants are grown at the facility and the type of coastal plant research that is an ongoing project at the site. Students planted the bitter panicum cuttings when they returned to school, and Ms. Boudreaux is happy to report that the cuttings are sprouting already! Plans are to for students involved in the Enviro Club to return to the Louisiana coast to plant their bitter panicum plants.

Above: Members of the Jackson High Enviro Club at the USDA Golden Meadow Plant Materials Research Station.



Above: Jackson High students transplanting bitter panicum cuttings for their new CR nursery.

Did you know...

✎ **Linda Messina's students from St. Joseph's Academy once again helped host the Coastal Roots Exhibit at LA Sea Grant's Ocean Commotion on November 2!** These experienced

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/>.

✎ **There are on-line lesson plans to help you incorporate Coastal Roots into your classroom!** Go to <http://lamer.lsu.edu> and click on Coastal Roots to access the lessons!

✎ **Coastal Roots is featured in the 2007 BTNEP Tidal Graph Calendar!** Check out the facing page for the month of August! Thank you to BTNEP for continuing to support CR!



✎ **Teachers are encouraged to joining the Louisiana Wetland Education Coalition?** It's a free email listserv that makes available to teachers the latest

St. Joseph Academy students assist Dr. Ed Bush in helping the elementary participants to plant restoration seeds in the 2006 LA Sea Grant Ocean Commotion. Also providing hands-on help were senior secondary science education majors from LSU.



Coastal Roots NURSERY Song

by St. Louis, King of France
Environment Awareness Club

(sung to the tune of
Jingle Bells)

Cleaning out the nursery
Getting rid of all the weeds
Washing and soaking yellow cells
And planting all the seeds
With help from LSU
We're planting cypress and pine
Our goal is to restore our coast
One seedling at a time.

As seedlings begin to grow
They'll need lots of care
We'll fertilize and water daily
And say a little prayer
It takes a lot of work
From the very start
But it will all be worth it
For Fontainebleau State Park.

Refrain:

Oh, Coastal Roots, Coastal Roots
Saving Louisiana's land
Environment Awareness Club
Is pitching in a hand.
Coastal Roots, Coastal Roots
Restoring our state's land
Joining forces with other schools
And doing what we can.



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Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program



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

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