

Coastal Roots



January 23, 2007

CR Teacher Workshop provides networking & resources



Coastal Roots Program teachers and staff at the 2007 Mid-Winter CR Workshop.

Back row, from left to right, back row: Jerilyn Davis (RK Smith Middle), Donna Boudreaux (Jackson High), Donna Rogers (St. Louis, King of France), Stephanie Chapman-Dagsaan (RK Smith Middle), Jacob Morrison (CR Staff), John Giambrone (Pierre Part Elementary), Dr. Ed Bush, (CR Staff), Linda Messina (St. Joseph's Academy). Front row, from left to right: Ann Gray (CR Staff), Cally Chauvin (Montegut Middle), Dr. Pam Blanchard (CR Staff). Not pictured: David Bourgeois (CR Staff and photographer).

Teachers from six of the 17 schools involved in the Coastal Roots Program took time out their busy personal lives to attend the first Mid-Winter Coastal Roots workshop. Schools in attendance were **Pierre Part Elementary, Jackson Middle, Montegut Middle, R.K. Smith Middle, St. Joseph's Academy, and St. Louis King of France**. Each of these teachers will receive a \$100 stipend for participating in this workshop and a certificate documenting six hours of Continuing Learning Units (CLUs). During the meeting teachers got to meet one another and share just how the CR Program is being integrated into various courses at the different schools. In addition, John Giambrone (Pierre Part Elementary), gave teachers a tour of his students' can yard, which has been in continuous

operation since 2001. His students routinely grow around 500-600 trees every year! Teachers participated in bumping up several of his one-year old cypress seedlings, which his students will grow to more mature trees and plant this coming fall. Other highlights were classroom activities that focused on the land-loss issue and the breaking up of our fragile coastal marshes. Teachers also looked ahead to the summer and made recommendations about dates, topics and activities they would like to see happen during the summer workshop.

As the Coastal Roots Program reorganizes and moves forward, one of the major changes will be that **schools will be paired up with a long-term planting site partner**. Teachers attending the workshop were excited to learn who their planting site partners will be as the CR Program reorganizes. We believe this long-term school-planting site relationship will help students see the connection between what they do in the classroom/can yard and how that impacts a particular location/habitat - especially in the long term. Long-term planting site partners have agreed to help educate their partner school about the environmental problems at the site that have impacted the habitat. Teachers in attendance also learned that **a CR staff person will be visiting their school at least once a month** to check on their nursery and to see if there are any problems that need to be addressed. We strongly believe that students need to be successful in growing their plants and we want to help you!

One aspect of the program that was strongly emphasized by Dr. Pam Blanchard was the **importance of COMMUNICATION and PARTICIPATION**. The Coastal Roots staff will work with and assist schools interested in communicating and participating in the project. Funding and staff time are very limited. If a school needs special assistance, we will provide whatever assistance we can muster. However, we will rally our resources around the schools that are willing to both communicate and participate in the project.

Lots of resources were handed out during the six hour workshop. Teachers attending the workshop were able to take home their 2007 seeds from the workshop. They also received a set of five LA forestry posters (provided by Project Learning Tree), a beautiful Coastal Zone Map (provided by DNR), as well as 11x17" posters showing Coastal Roots school locations, 2007 planting sites, and a poster of the 10 coastal plants that will be grown in our Coastal Roots nurseries this year. Teachers also took home small samples of seeds for each of the plants featured on the poster so that they could easily put together a bulletin board about the project.

We are delighted to be working with such enthusiastic teachers and look forward to working with all of our schools in the future.

Dr. Pam Blanchard

Coastal Roots Coordinator
LSU Dept. of Educational Theory, Policy and Practice



Cally Chauvin (Montegut Middle) making sure John Giambrone (Pierre Part Elementary) remembers exactly which cypress seedling she bumped up.

Nursery News

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

Teachers were asking about the yearly cycle that the Coastal Roots Nursery goes through. So here's a visual to help you anticipate what your students should be doing throughout each of the seasons.



Donna Rogers (St. Louis King of France) and Donna Boudreaux (Jackson High) bumping up cypress seedlings.

JANUARY

- Clean can yard by January 15
- Clean yellow cells (soap & bleach)
- Plant seeds by Valentine's Day
(pre-soak seeds 48 hours prior to planting)
- Communicate with CR Staff



LATE FALL

- Identify & coordinate planting date
- Prepare field trip information
- HAVE A GREAT PLANTING & LEARNING EXPERIENCE!!!**
- Send planting photos to Dr. Blanchard*
- Communicate with CR Staff

SPRING & SUMMER

- Monitor seedling growth
- Check irrigation system (twice/week)
- Apply Osmocote in late April
- Keep can yard clean!
- Communicate with CR Staff



EARLY FALL

- Monitor seedling growth
- Check irrigation system (twice/week)
- Submit 2008 Nursery Materials order
(by Halloween)
- Bump up plants to gallon tall pots
(by Halloween, if appropriate)
- Keep can yard clean!
- Communicate with CR Staff

Did you know...

Cally Chauvin, Montegut Middle, got a \$1000 Target Travel Grant for her Coastal Roots Students!

She says it is easy to fill out! Target will award more than 800 travel grants to fund field trips for students. This would be a great way to fund your next Coastal Roots field trip. To find out more, go to <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>.

Teachers are encouraged to join 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/>.



Jerilyn Davis and Stephanie Chapman (RK Smith Middle, upper right) and John Giambrone (Pierre Part Middle, lower left) learning about xylem by blowing bubbles through a red oak dowel. (Yes. THROUGH the wood!) Its one of the activities from Horticulture in a 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>