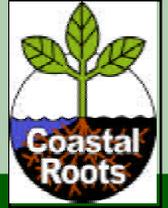




Coastal Roots



May 14, 2007

2007 - A GREAT Transition Year!

by Dr. Pam Blanchard, CR Director, LSU Dept. of Educational Theory, Policy & Practice;
Dr. Ed Bush, CR Co-Director, LSU School of Plants, Soils, and Environmental Management;
Mr. David Bourgeois, CR Co-Director, Associate Fisheries Agent, LA Sea Grant/LSU AgCenter



Newly installed can yard at **Jackson High (East Feliciana Parish)**. They've already got bitter panicum plants several inches tall!

It has been a busy transition year for the LSU Coastal Roots schools and staff. Since transferring from the direction of LA Sea Grant College Program to the LSU Colleges of Education and Agriculture in August 2006, Coastal Roots directors Pam, Ed and David, have been contacting each school to see if they wished to continue to participate in the LSU CR Program. We had eight of the veteran schools indicate that they wanted to continue! We found that two other veteran schools had lost CR teachers and, happily, two new teachers stepped up to the plate to continue the program in those schools. We've also welcomed an additional six new schools to the program. Coastal Roots staff have visited all the schools in the program on a monthly basis, fitting new irrigation timers, repairing problems with the can yards, and generally helping teachers get their can yards back up and running. We are happy to say that most everyone has planted their seeds and are now enjoying watching their new seedlings emerge in the germination process. All schools are now working with a long-term planting site partner and we are looking forward to helping facilitate the exchange of knowledge between schools and their long-term planting partners as the fall planting season approaches.

NEW SCHOOLS! REVITALIZED SCHOOLS! All six new schools coming into our CR program gathered their own funding to start and sustain their programs. Last fall we welcomed **Paulette Adam** and her students at **JH Williams Middle** in Abbeville (Vermilion Parish; see story on page 3) and **Donna Boudreaux** and her students at **Jackson High** in Jackson, Louisiana (East Feliciana Parish). Both of these schools will be working with planting partners on the coast in southwest Louisiana. Four additional new schools have begun to participate in the LSU CR program this past spring - three from St. Charles Parish: **Jennifer Foss** and **Matt Chauvin** and their students from **Albert Cammon Middle** (Photo Set A), **Craig Howat** and his students from **Luling Elementary** (Photo Set B), and **Stephanie Dagsaan** and **Jerilyn Davis** and their students from **RK Smith Middle** (Photo Set C), and one school from Jefferson Parish: **Kate Marchal** and **Warren Lind** and their students from **St. Martin's Episcopal** (Jefferson Parish, Photo Set D). These schools got their start-up money through service-learning grants or school fundraisers. All the nurseries are installed and almost all of these schools are already reporting germination of their first crop of seedlings. In addition, two schools needed major repairs to their plant nurseries, **St. James Parish Science & Math Academy** (St. James Parish, Photo Set E) and **Montegut Middle** (Terrebonne Parish, Photo Set F). Please note that **Principal Telford** is helping lift and move the dog kennel to the new location of the Montegut CR nursery! We just love seeing principals pitch in! Both of these schools have newly refitted can yards and are up and running once again!



Harry Hurst Middle (St. Charles Parish) students are doing experiments to see how best to germinate and grow their cypress.

Pictures from all these nursery installations are inside.

LSU CR PLANTINGS! We've had four restoration plantings take place this year! **Pierre Part Middle** students planted their cypress seedlings on the coldest day of the year at the LA Cypress Sawmill Museum in St. Mary Parish on December 8, 2006. Pouring rain and storms did not stop the 7th grade students from **JH Williams Middle** from giving up a day of their Easter vacation to plant 5,000 bitter panicum plants on Constance Beach (Cameron Parish) during pouring rain on April 10, 2007 (see photos at left). **Two other schools, Montegut Middle and Lafayette Middle, also participated in plantings** (see story on page 2). In all, nearly 7,000 seedlings and grass plugs were planted since last December, with over 5,700 of these plants grown directly in our LSU Coastal Roots nurseries.



JH Williams Middle (Vermilion Parish) students planting bitter panicum plants on Constance Beach in Cameron Parish.



Congratulations to all our LSU Coastal Roots schools for their hard work and their stewardship of the Louisiana coast!

Organization!

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



Above: Jerome Zeringue, Terrebonne Levee District manager, and students from Montegut Middle (Terrebonne Parish) planting *Spartina* grass on the hurricane protection levee near Pointe au Chenes.

Right: Students from Lafayette Middle (Lafayette Parish) planting black mangroves on Fifi Island near Grand Isle.



Organization!

If there was anything that was noticeable at the Coastal Roots plantings, it was organization. Montegut Middle School teacher, **Cally Chauvin**, and Lafayette Middle School teacher, **Stacy Hess**, spent countless hours planning and organizing their planting trips. Planting tools, bug-spray, sun-block and extra shoes were all on the list. Students were given specific tasks and organized into groups under the direction of well-chosen chaperones. Everyone had specific instructions before they even boarded the bus. Because of these careful preparations, the execution of their plan was flawless. It was a pleasure to work with such a great group of students, chaperones and teachers.

On Tuesday April 17, eighty-five Montegut Middle School students, nine teachers and chaperones, and a volunteer from the America's Wetland's Conservation Corps planted 500 smooth cordgrass plants in the first section of the "Morganza-to-the-Gulf" hurricane protection levee in Terrebonne Parish. **Jerome Zeringue**, Terrebonne Levee District manager, provided access to the levee in Pointe au Chenes, showed students a map of the levee alignment and explained its strategic importance to storm protection. Jerome encouraged the students to continue their hard work and offered them an invitation to return with as many plants as they can grow. His challenge may be met with the construction of a new can-yard and spartina pond at their school.

On Thursday April 19, forty-two Lafayette Middle School students, nine teachers and chaperones, and a volunteer from the America's Wetland's Conservation Corps planted 480 black mangrove and 120 red mulberry seedlings on Fifi Island, just north of Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish. Mangrove seeds were collected on Grand Isle in December and grown in the lab at their school. **Wayne Keller**, Grand Isle Port Commission Director and his staff provided 20 red mulberry seedlings from the Grand Isle Coastal Plant Resources Center, boat transportation to the island and access to Grand Isle State Park after the planting. Students made quick work of the planting and observed first-hand the results of several prior plantings. There were mangroves growing everywhere! **Mel Landry**, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Volunteer Coordinator, provided an additional 100 bare-root red mulberry seedlings that were



Giving back to Mother Earth

Written by Trevor Simon Jr., Student, St. James Parish Science & Math Academy



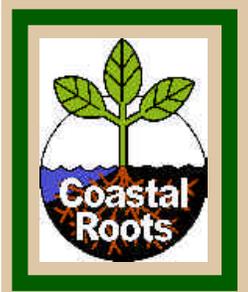
E



Each day thousands of trees get cut down by lumberjacks. This wood is used for houses, paper, and many life necessities that all people need in order to live healthy and comfortable lives. Humans are not the only ones who use trees. Animals also use trees for shelter and food.

At the **St. James Parish Science and Math Academy (SMA)**, the Environmental Club is giving back to Mother Earth in their "Save Mother Earth" project in conjunction with Louisiana State University's Coastal Roots Program. Members of the club were work hard to plant over 1200 bald cypress seeds. Earlier this week, students took part in fixing and cleaning the Science and Math Academy's can yard in order to properly home the seedlings. Once done, seeds that had been soaking for two days where placed in pots and filled with soil. Each day, a different member will have the responsibility to water all the seed cells. By this upcoming fall, the trees will be ready for transplant to their new permanent home at Bayou Segnette State Park. SMA's Environmental Club hopes to be able to continue their "Save Mother Earth" project by planting trees each year.

LSU CR Summer Workshop Set



Teachers in the LSU Coastal Roots Program will be gathering for the **Coastal Roots Summer Institute on May 31-June 1, 2007**, at the NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center in Galliano, LA. We thank **Dr. Richard Neill, Director of the Plant Materials Center**, for allowing us use of this facility.

Location: NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Research Station, Galliano, LA
438 Airport Rd., Galliano, LA 70354 Telephone: 985/ 475-5280

Start time: 10:00 a.m., May 31, 2007 **End time:** 3:30 p.m., June 1, 2007

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES

FOCUS ON COASTAL ISSUES

- Presentations on the state of the Louisiana coast – coastal land loss, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Field trip to see interior marsh erosion; discussion of different types of marshes.
- Field trip to see effects of salt water intrusion.
- Classroom activities to learn about and discuss these topics.

FOCUS ON HORTICULTURE ISSUES

- Preparing your can yard for the summer.... Keeping your seedlings alive through the Louisiana heat.
- Activities to teach your students about growing healthy plants.
- Storm preparedness... what to do before you leave school.
- Growing healthy seedlings.

FOCUS ON COASTAL ROOTS AT YOUR SCHOOLS

- Discussions of how your programs are running, tips for success, areas you need more help with from the Coastal Roots staff....
- Planting partnership information, fall restoration trip suggestions, setting dates....
- Materials orders for 2007-8.
- Envisioning the CR Program for the future....



A



Albert Cammon Middle (St. Charles Parish)



Luling Elementary (St. Charles Parish)



B



Parish

What to bring: Pictures of your students working on their can yards or on their restoration trips, pillow, towels, toiletries (soap, toothpaste), sunscreen, bug repellant, hat, camera, shoes that can get wet/muddy, etc.

Cost: Your time and effort to get to Galliano.

Stipend: For teachers currently active in the CR Program, we will pay a \$100 stipend for each day you fully attend. Certificates for attendance will be given (toward CLUs).

RSVP to Pam Blanchard (PamB@LSU.EDU; 337/ 739-8506) by May 18, 2007.



C



RK Smith Middle (St. Charles Parish)

D



St. Martin's Episcopal (Jefferson Parish)



Montegut Middle (Terrebonne Parish)



F

Principal Telford



3

Preparing Your Nurseries for Summer

Dr. Ed Bush, Ms. Ann Gray

LSU School of Plants, Soils, and Environmental Management



Luling Elementary (St. Charles Parish)

students in front of their new can yard. They just discovered that their baldcypress seeds are sprouting!

Summer is quickly approaching and many of you have new seedlings growing in your nurseries. Managing the irrigation is important as temperatures become hotter. **Make sure your plants don't dry out in the summer heat.** Make alliances with the custodians and principals so that if things go wrong they can contact you. Leave cell numbers, home phone numbers and email information where they can contact you if something goes wrong. Also, leave Dr. Blanchard's and my



phone numbers handy for those working in the summer. Post them in the main office so the numbers are available. We will be monitoring your nurseries in the summer only once a month. **Your yards should be checked THREE times a week to monitor irrigation.** Adjustments should be made by you when necessary. When you make an adjustment to the irrigation timer we have found it imperative to check the clock functions a couple of times before trusting the clock. **Once your trees reach 3" in height it is time to fertilize.** You can use liquid fertilizer or Osmocote. We have had a successful spring this year and we want this momentum to keep going into the fall. As we all know it only takes an irrigation failure for a couple of days before we lose our plants. Let's make a commitment to success and try our best to keep our plants healthy through next school years plantings. We also hope to implement more classroom integration of the CR program this coming year with your help.

From David, Ann, Jacob, Pam and myself we hope to see you at the summer program.



Did you know...

✧ **Southern Living Magazine is supposed to feature an article on Lafayette Middle School Coastal Roots plantings on Grand Isle?** If you get Southern Living Magazine, keep your eyes peeled for an article about the 2006 planting on Fifi Island by Lafayette Middle School. It is supposed to come out sometime this summer!

✧ **The LSU Coastal Roots Program is supported by three partners?** LA Sea Grant College Program supports the LSU CR Program by providing grant money to help pay for materials and other needs. The LSU Colleges of Agriculture and Education provide staff time for Dr. Bush and Dr. Blanchard to work with the program. The LSU AgCenter provides staff time for David Bourgeois to work with the program.



✧ **Teachers are encouraged to join the Louisiana Wetland Education Coalition?** It's a free email listserv 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/>.



RK Smith Middle (St. Charles Parish) nursery with cypress and swamp red maple (top). Pierre Part Elementary's (Assumption Parish) cypress

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Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program



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

<http://calvin.ednet.lsu.edu/~coastalroots/>