



Coastal Roots



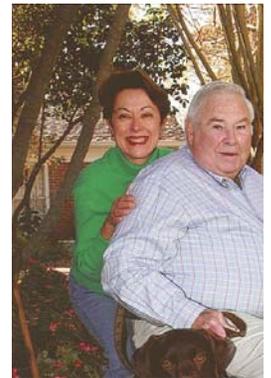
May 15, 2009

<http://coastalroots.lsu.edu>

Chandlers Donate Funds for a Coastal Roots Research Vehicle

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

The LSU Coastal Roots Program is the beneficiary of a generous gift made to the LSU College of Education by Harman and Renae Chandler of Shreveport, Louisiana. The Chandlers made possible the purchase of a research van to ferry materials and equipment to and from school visits, installations, plantings and public exhibitions. Mrs. Chandler is a graduate of the LSU College of Education, and they both have ties to the Louisiana forestry industry. The Chandlers were thanked in person at the LSU College of Education's Centennial Celebration on May 1, 2009. We are very grateful to the Chandlers!



Nine CR Teachers & One Student Co-Present at NSTA

Nine LSU Coastal Roots teachers and one student co-presented a talk entitled "LSU Coastal Roots: Ecological Stewardship + Environmental Literacy = Meaningful Learning" at the **National Science Teachers Association Annual Meeting** on March 22, 2009 in New Orleans. Co-presenting were **Gina Egan** and **Natalie Lartigue** (Belle Chasse Middle), **MarLane Dows** (Central High), **Mona Herbert, Claudia** and **Stefan Suazo** (Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies), **Linda Messina** (St. Joseph's Academy), **Nessie Galliano** (Our Lady of Mercy), **Jennifer Williams** (Isidore Newman), **Kate Marchal** (St. Martin's Episcopal), **Edward Bush, Pam Blanchard**, and **David Bourgeois**. They shared how they combine science-based learning, native plant nurseries, and ecological stewardship to help their students become environmentally literate about coastal issues in Louisiana. They did an outstanding job. Pam Blanchard was also invited to give a talk (on Coastal Roots, of course) at the National Earth Science Teacher Association's Breakfast. *Pictured above, back row, left to right: MarLane Dows, Nessie Galliano, David Bourgeois, Gina Egan, Ed Bush, Mona Herbert, Pam Blanchard, Claudia Suazo and Stefan Suazo. Front row, left to right: Kate Marchal, Linda Messina, Natalie Lartigue, and Jennifer Williams.*



LSU Coastal Roots Summer Institute set for June 26-27 in New Orleans East!

Mark your calendars and get ready for some hands-on learning! Our CR Summer Institute will be June 26-27, 2009 in the New Orleans East area. Among the activities we are lining up: water quality testing, a canoe trip out into the marsh, NOAA resources, distribution of our 1st edition of the *LSU Coastal Roots Compendium of Coastal, Wetland, and Restoration Resources for Louisiana Educators!* Registration information and details will be forthcoming! Mark your calendars!



Bald cypress seedlings

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Prepare Your Can Yard Now for Summer

Dr. Ed Bush; LSU School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences

Summer has arrived. Before school lets out for summer vacation, we need everyone to perform some simple maintenance on your can yards prior to last week of class.

1. Increase the water rate to at least to 1" for the plants per day in the nursery. Ann Gray Blanchard showed you how to do this at the January CR Workshop at Our Lady of Mercy. If you need information on how to do this, contact Pam for instructions.
2. Clean all of the screens on the emitters. Do this by unscrewing the emitter from each of the risers and rinsing them out. The small white filters can be scrubbed with a toothbrush. Reassemble and rescrew them to the risers, but be sure not to over-tighten them as they can crack and then will need to be replaced.
3. Check your timer to make sure it is working and that the battery light is not "on". If you do need to replace your battery, please use DURACELL 9-volt batteries. Make sure the rubber gasket is clean before replacing the battery cover securely.
4. Make sure your principal, office staff, and maintenance personnel know your phone number and how to contact you in case of an irrigation failure. Checking the yard a couple of times a week will help reduce the possibility of failures.
5. If you have shade cloth, now would be a good time to put it over your yard. (Shade cloths are NOT required for most yards. Remember, these plants grow in their natural habitats in full sun. If you think your plants are heat stressed, let Pam know, so we can determine if a shade cloth is necessary.)

If for some reason you can't check on the plants, you may want to bring the plants to your house. Some teachers have done this as a last resort. If you can't watch the plants in the summer please contact Pam or me and we can see about finding your trees a summer Foster Home. Remember we are in this project to show the students the success of stewardship. The last thing we want is a bunch of dead trees. So, communicate with Pam or me if there is a problem before the end of the year so we can fix any problems before the summer. It has been a great school year and is going to be even better next year with our experienced and new schools. See you at the Institute!

Ed

America's Wetland Conservation Corps and USDA/ NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center Team Up to Help LSU CR Schools

On Monday February 23, 2009 America's Wetland Conservation Corps members **Jacob Bourgeois, Trevor Powell, Tanner Powell** and **Blake Robinson** pulled 2,800 spartina, panicum and paspalum wetland plants at the **USDA/NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (GMPMC)** for five new Coastal Roots schools. Coastal Roots has partnered with the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center to provide starter plants for these new schools in coastal Louisiana. Special thanks go out to **Mr. Morris Houck**, USDA/NRCS Plant Materials Specialist, **Dr. Richard Neill**, **Garrett Thomassie**, **Mark Felarise** and **Alexis Luke** at the GMPMC for helping to make this happen.



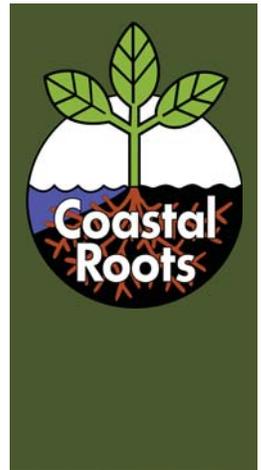
Blake Robinson, Trevor Powell and Tanner Powell carrying smooth cord grass starter plants destined for Coastal Roots schools

*This newsletter was partially funded by the LA Department of Natural Resources.
The contents of this document do not necessarily represent the views of LDNR.*

This public document was published at a total cost of \$971.81. Two hundred copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$971.81. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints, is \$971.81. This document was published by the LSU Coastal Roots Program, LSU Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice, 223 Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, to provide program information to teachers and others interested in the LSU Coastal Roots Program. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

LA Wetland Ambassador Day

The LSU Coastal Roots Program and the LUMCON Bayouside Classroom Program celebrated our first **Louisiana Wetland Ambassador Day** on May 9, 2009. Hosted by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, seven schools sent two students along with their teachers to participate in this fun and educational day. Participants took a two-hour ride aboard the LUMCON R/V *Acadiana* and participated in land-based activities such as a marsh walk, water quality testing, Louisiana bird identification, and net and bucket fishing. Everyone received a tee shirt and a certificate of participation. Students and teachers will take back their Ambassador Day experiences to share with their schools and communities. *Funding for this program was made possible through a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources grant and a grant through the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Bay-Watershed Education and Training Program.*



2009 LSU Coastal Roots Schools

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Pierre Part Elementary (Pierre Part, Assumption Parish) 2001 | 20 Central High (Central Community Schools, E. Baton Rouge Parish) 2008 |
| 2 Abbeville High (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish) 2001 | 21 South Cameron High (Grand Chenier, Cameron Parish) 2008 |
| 3 St. Joseph's Academy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2001 | 22 Grand Lake High (Lake Charles, Cameron Parish) 2008 |
| 4 St. Louis, King of France (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2002 | 23 Hackberry High (Hackberry, Cameron Parish) 2008 |
| 5 Montegut Middle (Montegut; Terrebonne Parish) 2002 | 24 Johnson Bayou High (Cameron, Cameron Parish) 2008 |
| 6 Harry Hurst Middle (Destrehan; St. Charles Parish) 2003 | 25 St. Paul's Episcopal (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2008 |
| 7 Our Lady of Mercy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2003 | 26 Larose-Cutoff Middle (Cutoff, Lafourche Parish) 2008 |
| 8 St. James Science & Math Magnet (Vacherie, St. James Parish) 2004 | 27 Westdale Heights Academic Elem Magnet (Baton Rouge, EBR Parish) 2008 |
| 9 Lafayette Middle (Lafayette; Lafayette Parish) 2005 | 28 Archbishop Chapelle High (Metairie, Jefferson Parish) 2008 |
| 10 Albert Cammon Middle (St. Rose; St. Charles Parish) 2006 | 29 LSU Laboratory School (Baton Rouge, E. Baton Rouge) 2008 |
| 11 St. Charles Parish Satellite School (Luling; St. Charles Parish) 2006 | 30 Reeves High (Reeves, Allen Parish) 2008 |
| 12 R.K. Smith Middle (Luling, St. Charles Parish) 2006 | 31 Holy Cross School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2009 |
| 13 St. Martin Episcopal (Metairie, Jefferson Parish) 2007 | 32 Priestly Charter High (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2009 |
| 14 Erath High (Erath; Vermilion Parish) 2007 | 33 Franklin High (Franklin, St. Mary Parish) 2009 |
| 15 Christ Episcopal (Covington; St. Tammany Parish) 2007 | 34 Iberville Science and Arts Academy East (St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish) 2009 |
| 16 Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies (Metairie; Jefferson Parish) 2007 | 35 Iberville Science and Arts Academy West (Plaquemine, Iberville Parish) 2009 |
| 17 Lusher Charter – Willow Campus (N. Orleans; Orleans Parish) 2008 | 36 Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School (Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish) 2009 |
| 18 Isidore Newman School (New Orleans; Orleans Parish) 2008 | 37 Academy of the Sacred Heart (Grand Coteau, St. Landry Parish) 2009 |
| 19 Belle Chasse Middle (Belle Chasse; Plaquemines Parish) 2008 | 38 Belle Chasse Academy (Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish) 2009 |

Putting Down Roots - plantings in Dec 08-Jan 09

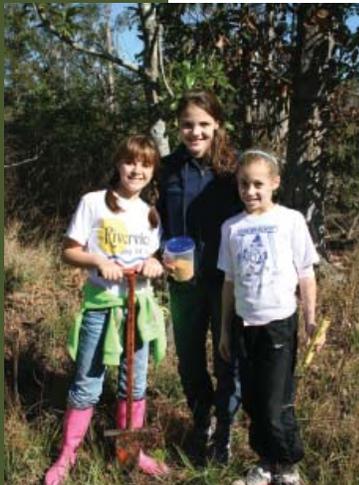


Our Lady of Mercy
December 2, 2008
Fontainebleau State Park

Isidore Newman School
December 12, 2008
*Jean Lafitte National Park -
Bartaria Preserve*



Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies
December 16, 2008
Jean Lafitte National Park -Bartaria Preserve



Christ Episcopal School
January 7, 2009
Fontainebleau State Park



Christ Episcopal School
January 8, 2009
Fairview-Riverside State Park



Lafayette Middle
January 14, 2009
Avery Island



Central High
January 16, 2009
*BREC Blackwater
Conservation Area*



Lusher Charter - Willow Campus
January 29, 2009
Jean Lafitte National Park - Barataria Preserve

Pierre Part Elementary
January 23, 2009
Maple Bayou Hunting Lodge

Watch for CR on TV!



Archbishop Chapelle School in Metairie, and environmental science teacher, **Joann Haydel**, were filmed for a public service announcement (PSA) entitled "Making the Grade", which highlights schools in the New Orleans area that are going above and beyond usual classroom activities (photos at left)! The Chapelle PSA highlights their CR work for restoration partner, Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. The PSA is now showing on WWL (Channel 4) in the greater New Orleans area.



Central High School students (top photo at right) and their teacher, **MarLane Dows**, and **Westdale Heights Academic Elementary Magnet School** (lower photo at right) and their teacher, **Mary Legoria**, were filmed as part of a documentary entitled "**GREEN 4 LOUISIANA**" produced for WWL by filmmaker Dave McNamara. Westdale students were filmed planting cypress seeds and Central High students were filmed planting cypress trees from their CR nursery last March at their restoration partner site, BREC Blackwater



Conservation Area in Baton Rouge. The 30-minute documentary was originally broadcast on Earth Day, April 19, 2009, on WWL. It is scheduled to rerun in primetime in late May on WWL.



Collecting Seeds and Pulling Plants!

David Bourgeois, LA Sea Grant/LSU AgCenter, Associate Fisheries Agent

After Thanksgiving week, **Stacy Hess** at Lafayette Middle School tried to arrange a seed collection trip to Grand Isle, but scheduling problems prevented it. Before we knew it, the Christmas Holidays were upon us and I knew if we put this off any longer, there might not be any mangrove seeds left. So, on Jan. 6th, I rushed down to Grand Isle with **America's Wetland Conservation Corps (AWCC)** volunteers, Jacob and Trevor, to gather what would be the last mangrove seeds available this year. There were thousands that had washed up to the tide line, but not very many were left on the bushes.

Jacob, Trevor and I picked what we could off the bushes and even salvaged a few from the water's edge. After carefully packing them away in the truck, we left for the long ride home. I wondered whether they would grow this year, because almost everything we picked last year died. Jacob and Trevor delivered half of our seeds to Lafayette Middle School on Friday in route to their AWCC training at Lake Fausse Point. I delivered the remaining half to **Montegut Middle School** on Wednesday. **Melanie Boulet** was in her class and asked that I stay for a while and give the students a primer in black mangrove biology. The question of the day was how many seeds were in the bucket. After recording everyone's guesses, students began the task of counting the seeds. 600 was the lucky guess.



Above: Black mangrove seeds



The next collection trip was on January 21st to gather smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) for Archbishop Chapelle High School. Four AWCC volunteers, Jacob, Trevor, Tanner and Blake collected about 600 plants in record time at the USDA/NRCS Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow. Thanks Dr. Richard Neill!

Left: David Bourgeois teaching Montegut Middle students about serial dilution



Helping Hands

Thanks go to **Tommy Blanchard, Jr.**, for preparing the landscape timbers that are used to create the smooth cordgrass ponds for CR. He drilled the holes and aligned the rebar in the landscape timbers to make the installation easier. Thanks, Tommy!



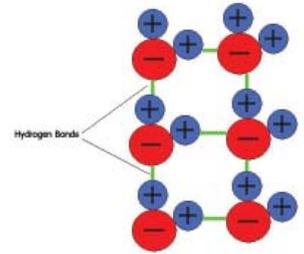
Bayouside Classroom Water Quality Parameter: Water Temperature

Murt Conover, Louisiana University Marine Consortium



I'd like to begin this article by saying that I am truly excited by this opportunity to share LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom with LSU Coastal Roots educators. Over the next three years I will be writing about each parameter that we measure in the Bayouside Classroom program. Each year I will introduce two parameters in the Coastal Roots newsletter then attend the CR Summer Institute. At the workshop I will go into each parameter in more detail and provide teachers that attend with the equipment needed to test each parameter at their school or restoration sites. This year we are focusing on temperature and salinity.

Since temperature is the parameter most familiar to people, we will start with that one. We use an armored thermometer to measure temperature in the Bayouside Classroom program. We use thermometers scaled in degrees Celsius with the range of -30°C to 50°C . Water temperatures usually range from 0°C to 30°C (Keener-Chavis, 2002). If water remains below or above this temperature range for long periods of time, it can have devastating affects on organism populations within a water body (International Project WET, 2002).



Unless there are outside influences, changes in water temperature happen very slowly. To understand this it is important that we talk about how water molecules act with each other (International Project WET, 2002). The shape of the water molecule allows each molecule to fit closely together. Water is a polar molecule with one end being negative while the other end is positive. The strength of the attraction of the positive hydrogen atoms in a water molecule to the negative charge of the oxygen of neighboring water molecules creates very tight bonds (University of Arizona, 2003). Because of these bonds a considerable amount of heat energy is required to break the bonds so that the molecules can move faster which increase the temperature of the water (University of Arizona, 2003).



Why is temperature so important? The quickest answer is because temperature influences other water quality parameters like dissolved oxygen. The faster the water molecules are moving the less the water is able to hold dissolved oxygen. In much fancier terms, the higher the temperature of water, the lower the solubility of gasses is for that water (International Project WET, 2002).

Like many things in science there are also other important factors to consider. Most organisms that live in aquatic environments are cold-blooded, so they cannot regulate their body temperatures like mammals can. Cold-blooded organisms are at the mercy of the water around them because they will be the same temperature of the water around them. The temperature of the water therefore impacts some very key biological functions of organisms living in the water (LUMCON, 2001). Metabolic rates, life cycle (reproduction and offspring survival), and ability to fight infections are all influenced by water temperature (International Project WET, 2002). Because increased biological activity increase respiration rates, the demand for oxygen is greatest when temperatures are higher and less oxygen is available (LUMCON, 2001).

Many natural and man-made factors determine the temperature of a body of water. The natural factors include how much suspended sediment is in the water, the presence of vegetation along stream banks that shade the water, flow rate and volume, streambed color, and surface area of the water body exposed to the air (LUMCON, 2001). Man-made factors listed here tend to increase the temperature of water bodies and include discharge water from permitted facilities, runoff from paved and impervious areas, and removal of shady vegetation along the edges of a water body (International Project WET, 2002).

References:

Biology Project, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, University of Arizona. 2003. The Chemistry of Water. Retrieved on March 20, 2009, from the website at <http://www.biology.arizona.edu/>
International Project WET. 2002. Healthy Water Healthy People Testing Kit Manual. The Watercourse.

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. 2001. Bayouside Classroom Program Manual. Retrieved on February 27, 2009, at <http://www.lumcon.edu/bayousideclassroom>

Keener-Chavis, P., L.R. Sautter. 2002. Of Sand and Sea: teachings from the southeastern shoreline. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Sea Grant.



Ann's Can Yard Wisdom: Planting Your Coastal Roots Seeds

Ann Gray Blanchard, Southeastern Louisiana University

When planting your seeds for Coastal Roots, it is important to give your plants a good beginning so that your plants are large, healthy and ready for their final home! Some important points we are going to talk about are filling your trays so that the plants have sufficient soil to grow, how deep to plant your seeds, when and how to thin the seedlings, how to reseed, and finally, when and how much to fertilize your seeds.

Seed Preparation

There are many ways to prepare seedlings, but for our purposes we are going to concentrate on two methods: refrigeration and soaking. Depending on what species of seed you are planting, you may use one or both of these methods.

Southern Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*): Moisture is the crucial component of stratification. The seeds need to be soaked at least 2 days prior to planting. So place your seeds in a plastic container filled with water and leave them in your refrigerator before you plant them.

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*): Oak trees are divided into two general groups which determines how we prepare them for planting; the white oaks and the red oaks. Live oaks are in the white oak group. This means they can be planted immediately after they have fallen from the tree. When you get your acorns, they can be stored in the refrigerator for a couple of months. They must be dry while in storage or they will germinate!

When you are ready to plant, take the acorns out of storage and pour them in to a bucket filled with water. You will notice that some of the acorns will sink to the bottom of the bucket and some will float. THROW AWAY the acorns that float. When they float, it means they have no germplasm or "meat" in the shell. There are many worms that hang around waiting for the nut to drop so that they have something to eat. Oftentimes, you can see the small hole that was drilled for the worm to enter the nut.

Nuttall Oak (*Quercus nuttallii*): Nuttall oaks are in the red oak group. This means they need a period of stratification (refrigeration) before planting. However, when you receive your acorns from CR, they are ready to plant. It is best that the acorns be stored in a dry plastic bag in the refrigerator until you are ready to plant. Again, "float" your acorns before planting so that you increase your chances that the acorns will germinate.

Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*): Water oaks are in the white oak group. Refer to the live oak seed information (above) for instructions on how to plant the water oak acorns.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*): These seeds are called "double samara," meaning they have wings on their seeds. They are collected from April to July (which is why many of you receive these seeds later than other types) by shaking the tree or pulling the seeds from the trees. It is okay to store them dry in a plastic bag in the refrigerator until it is time to plant. There is no seed treatment required. Simply plant them in a moist soil BEFORE they dry out. You need to watch them carefully to make sure they do not mildew in the plastic bag.

Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*): These seeds are collected from October from November. When the pine cones are wide open and very light, it is easy to shake the seeds from the cone and remove the wings. The seeds should be stored dry in a plastic bag in the refrigerator before planting. They should be planted in a moist media.

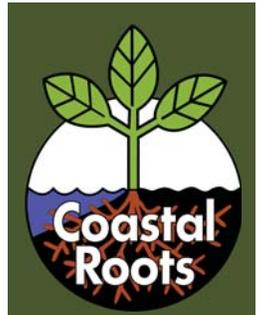
Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*): Seeds should be kept moist in a plastic bag filled with sand or peat moss and kept in the refrigerator until ready to plant. They can be stored in this manner for up to 30 months without sacrificing viability. They should be planted from 0.5 to 1.0 inch deep in the media.

Reseeding

Students can generally plant around 400-500 seedlings during a CR fieldtrip. Once your seeds have sprouted, get an initial count. If your total seedling count is less than 500 seedlings, then call Pam to have extra seeds mailed to you. When the seeds arrive, follow the instructions above for preparation and simply slip additional seeds into the empty yellow cells.

Thinning Seedlings

If you have more than one seedling coming up in a yellow cell, you will need to thin your seedlings. The best way to do this is to get a pair of sharp scissors and snip the weakest of the seedlings in that cell, leaving the strongest seedling to grow. We understand that destroying something you've worked hard to grow is painful, but this is a great opportunity to teach your students about how thinning the seedlings allows the remaining seedling to make the most of the limited water and nutrients that are available to it in the yellow cell. So, take courage and don't be afraid to snip.



southern bald cypress



live oak



nuttall oak



water oak



swamp red maple



loblolly pine



tupelo gum



Happy Planting!

Ann

LSU Coastal Roots Calendar

2009

- January 31 WORKSHOP, CR Winter Workshop, Our Lady of Mercy School, Baton Rouge
- February 6 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Grand Lake High, Grand Lake
- March 18 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Priestly Charter School, New Orleans
- March 22 PRESENTATION: National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference, New Orleans
- March 30 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Franklin High, Franklin
- April 9 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Hackberry High, Hackberry
- April 19 EXHIBIT (by St. Joseph's Academy students): Louisiana Earth Day, Baton Rouge
- April 20 INSTALL (permanent): Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies, Metairie
- April 22 EXHIBIT (by Harry Hurst Middle students): Wetland Watchers Celebration, Norco
- April 22 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Holy Cross School, New Orleans
- April 24 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: Archbishop Noland Episcopal School, Lake Charles
- April 28 PLANTING: Archbishop Chapelle @ Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge
- May 7 INSTALL NEW SCHOOL: S. Cameron High, Grand Chenier
- May 9 Louisiana Wetland Ambassador Day, LUMCON, Cocodrie; 9 am-3 pm
- June 26-27 WORKSHOP, CR Summer Institute, New Orleans East

Award Winners Among Us!

Melanie Boulet, teacher at **Montegut Middle School**, has been awarded a Toshiba America Foundation Grant to purchase a salt refractometer, a GPS system, and a small lean-to greenhouse! Her award-winning grant is entitled "Black Mangrove - a Journey in Precision." Congratulations, Melanie!

We also want to congratulate **Tanner Hofer**, of **Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School** in Lake Charles. His winning essay for an America's Wetlands contest won a cash award for his school, which they used to help them get started in the Coastal Roots Program. Here is an excerpt from his winning essay:

I am a recent transplant to Louisiana. I was born in Colorado, but have lived in Texas, Washington, Missouri, and Oregon. I was a little worried about moving to Louisiana. People teased me about the humidity and the alligators. What they forgot to tell me about was the amazing fishing and the awesome seafood...

Many would say that the fishing here in Louisiana is a national treasure. Large amounts of money are brought in to the state due to the enjoyment the water brings to so many people.

I have been fishing several times with my dad and have caught redfish, flounder, speckled trout and ling. Catching those fish was exciting and made me determined to fish even more.

I have seen several alligators up close and have even tried to take pictures of them. It would be sad to lose so many of the interesting animals that live here because of disappearing wetlands.

I have enjoyed the food, fishing, and animals here in Louisiana and hope that we can all help to save the wetlands.

LSU Coastal Roots Restoration Partners

We thank our restoration partners for their willingness to work with and educate our LSU Coastal Roots students about the restoration needs of their site as well as other important coastal issues.



Wetland Watcher Park
Grand Isle Port
Commission



Woodland Plantation
Maple Bayou
Hunt Club



Marsh Island
Terrebonne
Levee District

Jean Lafitte



National Historical Park
and Preserve



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LSU Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program



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

<http://coastalroots.lsu.edu>