LSU CR 2012-13 Planting Season

This year CR passed the 10K mark in the number of students who have participated in restoration trips! These students have planted just over 91,000 tree seedlings and grass plugs on their trips. A large part of this success can directly be attributed to three things: great teachers, wheels (thanks to the Chandlers - see p. 2 for additional great news), and the NOAA Bay-Watershed and Education Grant that has been our primary funding since 2008 (sadly, this funding comes to an end this July).

Two other important reasons for success are our restoration partners that allow this all to happen - and the many trip chaperones (137 teachers/staff and 320 parents in 2012-13) that help keep everyone safe.

LSU Coastal Roots - students and restoration plants
Since 2000: 10,563 students & 91,173 plants - 224 trips

S.A.V.E. Night in Terrebonne Parish

Students, their families and their teachers gathered at 6 p.m. on May 7 at Montegut Middle School to share what they learned this year as part of their year-long study of coastal wetlands. Joining together for this project funded by Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) were students from Bourg Elementary, Pointe aux Chenes Elementary and Montegut Middle. Students shared songs, poetry, cheers, and books they had written about the many facets of life in this rapidly disappearing part of Louisiana's fragile wetlands. A portion of the TFAE funding enabled each of the schools to join the Coastal Roots Program. Some of the student-made projects shared during this festive evening will be exhibited in Peabody Hall at LSU during the summer and early fall!

"Pictured at right are students sharing their writing in an essay entitled “Louisiana is the Place for Me.”"

LSU CR Summer Institute 2013: June 20-21
Stay tuned for information on the CR Summer Institute for 2013 @ LUMCON! Stipend: $100/day Registration form will be sent to you by e-mail - or contact Pam (PamB@lsu.edu).
**Best Nursery Practices: Summer To-Do List**

*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. Replace your 9V DURACELL batteries in your timers!
2. Increase the water rate to at least to 1” for the plants per day in the nursery. Directions for your timers are in the CR Handbook.
3. 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.
4. 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 at school, you may want to bring the plants to your house. Please let us know if you choose this option. Remember we are in this project to show your 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 so we can fix any problems as soon as they happen. It has been a great school year! We appreciate your hard work to make your nursery a success for your students!

**Quick nursery question:** How do you know if your irrigation system is watering enough?
**Answer:** Check your rain gauge! It should have at least 1 inch of water after a day of watering in the summer! (Otherwise, your plants will look as sad as those behind this rain gauge!)

---

**The Chandler’s & Dr. Blanchard are Recognized**

Renae and Harman Chandler (shown at left next to Dean Laura Lindsay and other award recipients) received the 2013 Philanthropist of the Year Award from the LSU College of Human Sciences and Education (CHSE) for their generous support of programs within the college, including, as you may know, their donation of funds to purchase and maintain the Coastal Roots van. It is a well-deserved award! Coastal Roots would certainly not be where it is today without their generosity. In addition, the 2013 CHSE Partnership Award was presented to Dr. Pam Blanchard for her work with the LSU Coastal Roots Program. Dean Laura Lindsay is shown presenting Pam her award. This award recognizes faculty or staff within the college who have “established partnerships with individuals, nonprofit agencies or government institutions that make a difference by hands-on involvement in community engagement that addresses significant social issues.” Most importantly, this award recognizes the many partners it takes to sustain an integrated project like Coastal Roots... each of the 40+ schools (the teachers, students and staff) and each of the restoration partner sites... not to mention the many helping hands of volunteer researchers, LSU colleagues, and graduate students... and of course, the Chandlers. It’s an honor to add these accolades to our growing list of CR awards!

**A note of gratitude to Dean Laura Lindsay:** She will be retiring as Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Education. We thank you for your unwavering support of Coastal Roots.

---

**Newman 2nd Graders Raise Funds!**

A bake sale benefitting the LSU’s Coastal Roots Program took place on Friday, April 12th from 3-5 p.m. at Danneel Park in the Uptown section of New Orleans. The bake sale was planned and hosted by Eloise Biever, Luana Bogaert, Sofia Gershank, and Brooke Lonseth. The girls are second grade students at Isidore Newman School and their work in their science class inspired them to have this event. The girls made lemonade, iced tea, cupcakes, homemade cookies, brownies and candy to sell. The students raised a total of $100 to be contributed to the saving and preservation of Louisiana’s wetlands through the CR Program.

---

Photos courtesy of LSU CHSE
As co-director of the CR Program, I am constantly awed at how creative teachers are in integrating this program into their classes and across other curriculum areas outside of science. Here is a case in point: Kate Marchal at Louise McGehee School in New Orleans asked Christianne Madona, the Fine Arts instructor for grades 7 and 8, to accompany her students to Grand Isle State Park. After they planted their crop of bitter panicum and finished their lunches, the students were asked to paint a watercolor scene from their experience on their trip. Here are a few of the students’ paintings.

“Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.” – Dale Carnegie

### 2012-13 LSU Coastal Roots Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Pierre Part Elementary (Pierre Part, Assumption Parish)</td>
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<td>Abbeville High (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish)</td>
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<td>St. Joseph’s Academy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>St. Louis, King of France (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Harry Hurst Middle (Destrehan; St. Charles Parish)</td>
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<td>Our Lady of Mercy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>St. James Science &amp; Math Magnet (Vacherie, St. James Parish)</td>
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<td>Lafayette Middle (Lafayette; Lafayette Parish)</td>
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<td>St. Charles Parish Satellite School (Luling; St. Charles Parish)</td>
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<td>R.K. Smith Middle (Luling, St. Charles Parish)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>St. Martin’s Episcopal (Melanie, Jefferson Parish)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Christ Episcopal (Covington; St. Tammany Parish)</td>
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<td>Metairie Acad. for Advanced Studies (Melanie, Jefferson Parish)</td>
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<td>Lidored Newman School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)</td>
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<td>Belle Chaussie Middle (Belle Chaussie, Plaquemines Parish)</td>
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<td>Central High (Central Community Schools, E. Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>South Cameron High (Grand Chenier; Cameron Parish)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>St. Paul’s Episcopal (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)</td>
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<td>Larose-Cutoff Middle (Cutoff, Lafourche Parish)</td>
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<td>Franklin High (Franklin, St. Mary Parish)</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Iberville Science &amp; Arts Academy East (St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish)</td>
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<td>Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School (Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish)</td>
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<td>Schools of the Sacred Heart (Grand Coteau, St. Landry Parish)</td>
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<td>Iberville Science and Arts Academy West (Plaquemine, Iberville Parish)</td>
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<td>Zachary Elementary (Zachary, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>Patrick Taylor Science &amp; Technology Acad. (Jefferson, Jefferson Parish)</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Louise S. McGehee School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)</td>
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<td>L. Leo Judice Montessori Elementary (Lafayette, Lafayette Parish)</td>
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<td>Creekside Junior High (Pearl River, St. Tammany Parish)</td>
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<td>Lusher Jr. High (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)</td>
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<td>Episcopal High (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School (Lafayette, Lafayette Parish)</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary (Batchelor, Pt. Coupee Parish)</td>
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<td>Ponchatoula High (Ponchatoula, Tangipahoa Parish)</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Rollins Place Elementary (Zachary, East Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Bourg Elementary (Bourg, Terrebonne Parish)</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Montegut Middle (Montegut Terrebonne Parish)</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Pointe aux Chenes Elementary (Pointe aux Chenes, Terrebonne Parish)</td>
<td>2013</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Installations Anticipated for Fall 2013

- Success Preparatory Academy (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)
- Edna Karr High (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)
- International School of Louisiana (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)
- Audubon Zoo (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)

### Demonstration Nursery

- Audubon Zoo (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2010

### 2012-13 Mississippi Coastal Roots Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<td>Anniston Elementary (Gulfport, Harrison County)</td>
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<td>St. James Elementary (Gulfport, Harrison County)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>R.K. Smith Middle (Luling, St. Charles Parish)</td>
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<td>St. Martin’s Episcopal (Melanie, Jefferson Parish)</td>
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<td>Belle Chaussie Middle (Belle Chaussie, Plaquemines Parish)</td>
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<td>Central High (Central Community Schools, E. Baton Rouge Parish)</td>
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<td>South Cameron High (Grand Chenier; Cameron Parish)</td>
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<td>LSU Laboratory School (Baton Rouge, E. Baton Rouge)</td>
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<td>Holy Cross School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish)</td>
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<td>Franklin High (Franklin, St. Mary Parish)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Iberville Science &amp; Arts Academy East (St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish)</td>
<td>2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Demonstration Nursery

- Audubon Zoo (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2010

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The page contains images of student paintings and information about schools participating in the LSU Coastal Roots Program.
Putting Down Roots - LSU Coastal Roots
Plantings from January through May 2013

Photo credits: LSU Coastal Roots staff

Westdale Heights Acad. Magnet
January 8, 2013
BREC Blackwater Conservation Area

Isidore Newman School
January 18, 2013
Bonnet Carré Spillway

St. Joseph’s Academy
January 21, 2013
Fontainebleau State Park

St. Louis King of France
January 24, 2013
Fontainebleau State Park

Holy Cross
January 25, 2013
Audubon Nature Institute

St. James SMA Academy
January 29, 2013
Bonnet Carré Spillway

Pierre Part Middle
February 1, 2013
Maple Bayou Hunting Club

LSU Lab School
February 5, 2013
BREC Blackwater Conservation Area

Central High
February 8, 2013
BREC Blackwater Conservation Area

Archbishop Chapelle
February 19, 2013
Bonnet Carré Spillway

Isidore Newman School
February 26, 2013
Bonnet Carré Spillway

Lafayette Middle
March 5, 2013
Avery Island
Plantings from January through May 2013 (cont)

Creekside Jr. High  
March 8, 2013  
St. Tammany Chinchuba Detention Pond

L. Leo Judice Elementary  
March 22, 2013  
UL-Lafayette CEET

Louise McGehee School  
March 27, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

St. Martin’s Episcopal (HS)  
March 28, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Episcopal High  
April 17, 2013  
Bonnet Carré Spillway

Larose-Cutoff Middle  
April 18, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Upper Pointe Coupee Elem  
April 19, 2013  
BREC Blackwater Conservation Area

Zachary Elementary (trip 1)  
April 23, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Sts. Leo-Seton School  
April 25, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Zachary Elementary (trip 2)  
April 26, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

St. Paul’s Episcopal  
April 30, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Zachary Elementary (trip 3)  
May 15, 2013  
Grand Isle State Park

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.  
Dr. Seuss, The Lorax
Congratulations to Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy Students

PFTSTA won $10K for New Orleans City Park Volunteer Department in the 2013 BreesDream Super Service Challenge! They won for their CR restoration planting of over 300 bald cypress and nuttall oak trees. Students tagged trees with QSM codes directing viewers to the Couturie Forest Virtual Field Trip Google site maintained by AP Environmental Science students. Other QSM codes direct viewers to Coastal Roots and Picture Post, a site maintained by the University of New Hampshire, that archives panoramic views and satellite images of the PFTSTA site.

To view PFTSTA’s Picture Post, go to http://picturepost.unh.edu/post.jsp?postId=394. A Picture Post “is an 8-sided platform for taking repeat photographs of the entire landscape and an Up picture of the sky.” In PFTSTA’s case, they are taking pictures of their restoration site every few months and uploading them to the Picture Post website to record how their restoration trees grow and how their site changes over time.

CR Research Continues

As many of you know, in the spring of 2012 we began a research project in collaboration with Dr. Krisanna Machtmes’ qualitative and mixed methods doctoral research classes. The purpose of the research project is to understand how CR teachers use the CR Program with their students and what their educational purposes are for doing so. We have transcribed 51 teacher interviews and each of the interviews has been coded where we see similar themes. If you haven’t already been interviewed, we will be contacting you to see if you are willing to be interviewed. Two of the graduate students involved in the research, Brittany Buquoi and Jenna LaChenaye, are traveling to Canada to present the first paper from this research in June 2013. We thank the doctoral students who have helped continue to assist with this research over the past spring semester: Denise Attaway, Brittany Buquoi, Desiree Cho, Serena Fisher, Carey Hamburg, Jenna LaChenaye, Susana Lee, Lori Robinson, and Jennifer Tynes. All this is happening under the watchful eye and expert research guidance of Dr. Krisanna Machtmes (LSU School of Human Resource and Workforce Development).

Jen Tynes and Jenna LaChenaye have assembled a survey that will be distributed to CR teachers this summer via SurveyMonkey to further refine information from our interviews. We are hopeful that everyone will help this research effort by completing the survey.

Dr. Janina Fuller (yes, our very own Janina), is back helping Coastal Roots while she searches for her dream job. She has visited most of your nurseries this spring and sent you feedback, and she will be calling those of you that have not yet been interviewed for the CR Research Project to see if she can schedule a time to interview you sometime in the very near future. Helping her this summer is Xin (pronounced ‘shin’) Wu, one of Dr. Blanchard’s doctoral students who is finishing her dissertation research in chemistry education.

Helping hands...

Dr. Karen Callender (LSU School of Education, pictured left in the orange shirt) and her neighbor and fellow gardener neighbor, Wes Neman (lower left), assisted Pam in facilitating Zachary Elementary’s 3rd planting trip this year at Grand Isle State Park.

Southern Louisiana JASON Project training

The southern Louisiana JASON Project training, funded by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, provides training for teachers as well as digital access for their students in 36 southern Louisiana school districts. This includes K-12 private, public and independent school educators. For teachers, JASON is offering a series of 12 two-day training sessions covering these topics: weather, ecology, energy, forces/motion, geology and climate (schedule is posted on the JASON website below). Each session is limited to the first 25 registrants at each location! Go to the registration site at http://www.jason.org/training/louisiana.

Which districts are Eligible? This project, sponsored by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, is open to ANY K-12 educator in ANY school in the selected parishes. Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Bogalusa City Schools, Calcasieu, Cameron, Central City Schools, City of Baker Schools, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Recovery Schools, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John The Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, Zachary Community Schools. This includes independent schools and “non-parish” districts.
Welcoming New Schools to CR

Pontchatoula HS
February 28, 2013
Pontchatoula, LA

Rollins Place Elementary
March 21, 2013
Zachary, LA

Bourg Elementary
April 12, 2013
Bourg, LA

Montegut Middle
May 7, 2013
Montegut, LA

Pointe aux Chenes Elem
May 8, 2013
Pointe aux Chenes, LA

S. Cameron High
May 21, 2013
Creole, LA

Success Preparatory Academy (New Orleans) - installation began on May 3, 2013, but completion had to be postponed due to rain.

Swamp School!

Swamp School is an awesome “old school” week long summer camp where students can canoe everyday and get experience with archery and BB guns on the target range. Each day has a theme including plants, animals, and creativity. During the Plant Day students learn how to identify aquatic and land plants, how respiration fits into the water cycle, and how to read the rings of a tree for age and climate changes. They also plant trees throughout the camp location. On Animal Day students collect and identify microinvertebrates, fish, and various species of turtles. They also focus on animal habitats and get hands-on experience with snakes and alligators. A highlight of Creativity Day is the students’ use of natural materials to fashion their own fishing poles, followed by a competition to be the first one to catch a fish with the new pole! Students also have nature crafts that they create like twig frames for their Swamp School picture and dream catchers. Every day includes team building challenges that require cooperation from every member to be successful. On Friday an open house allows the students to teach their parents the skills gained over the week. This summer camp is organized by Barry Guillot (Harry Hurst Middle School) and Craig Howat (St. Charles Satellite Center). We are very proud of these CR teachers! (Pam also wants to mention that she really likes the young man’s tee shirt in the middle picture!)

GreenWorks! Grant Program

Deadline: September 30, 2013

The Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! grant program provides funding for service-learning projects led by students, such as school/community native plant gardens, forest improvement projects, streamside restoration plans, recycling programs, and energy conservation projects. Grants are available in two award levels: the traditional GreenWorks! grants up to $1,000 and GreenWorks! grants up to $3,000 for registered PLT GreenSchools! Applicants must have attended a PLT workshop, have a project that involves service learning, have at least one community partner, and must secure a 50 percent match (in-kind or cash). Contact: Jackie Stallard, 1-202-463-2754; jstallard@plt.org
Website: http://www.plt.org/apply-for-greenworks-environmental-education-grant
Helping Hands
Garret Thomassie (Manager) and Curt J. Riché (Assistant Manager) at the USDA/NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center who provided bitter panicum stems for our students traveling to Louisiana beaches. The GMPMC has been helping CR since 2000!

A huge thank you also goes to the Helping Hands of five young ladies from Chapelle High School (pictured at left) who helped Dr. Blanchard load nearly 80 pots of Louisiana Iris that were donated to CR. They were lifesavers after a long day!

15th Annual Wetland Watchers Celebration

The 15th annual Wetland Watchers Celebration included 200 8th graders and about 100 high school students working with over 500 volunteers representing our partners to facilitate activities for nearly 800 fourth graders! The Destrehan High School WISE Club (Wildcats Interested in Saving the Environment), the Hahnville High Green Club, and the St. Charles Parish Satellite Center HTR facilitated the LSU CR activities where students took part in cleaning the tubes, filling the soil, and planting the seeds for about 1500 cypress trees. All of these trees will be planted during the 2013 - 2014 school year in and around Wetland Watchers Park in St. Charles Parish. This event was organized by Barry Guillot (Harry Hurst Middle School) and Craig Howat (St. Charles Parish Satellite School).

We are very proud of these Coastal Roots teachers and their students!

Congratulations to....

Sandy Saye (Upper Pte. Coupee Elem) and Janell Simpson (Patrick Taylor Sci & Tech Acad) for their winning projects in the 2013 LA Environmental Education Commission's Grant competition!

Congratulations to Tina Savoie (S. Cameron HS) for being selected to participate in the NOAA Climate Stewards Education Project Tina and her students are also participating in the LA Sea Grant Oral History Project, as are Sue Ellen Lyons and her Holy Cross students.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Legoria, who was chosen to present her research on children’s gardens at the National Youth and Children’s Garden Symposium in Denver, CO, in July. Dr. Pam Blanchard will also be co-presenting at the National Marine Educators Association in July in Mobile with staff from the Artist Boat in Galveston on the radio stewardship program.

We were not surprised to see Linda Beyt and Paula Guidry talking about their beautiful L. Leo Judice Montessori Elementary School garden program on a local Lafayette television station last week. Great job!

Thanks to MarLane Dows (Central HS) who let us know that Dr. Ed Bush (LSU College of Agriculture) and LSU CR are featured in the summer issue of Louisiana Gardener!

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.

- Avery Island, Inc.
- Baton Rouge Recreation (BREC) Parks
- Mae’s Beach, Cameron Parish
- Cheniere au Tigre
- City Park, New Orleans
- Coastal Plain Conservancy
- Grand Isle Port Commission
- LDWF Pointe aux Chenes WMA
- Louisiana State Parks
- Maple Bayou Hunt Club
- NRCS Coastal Prairie Restoration
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Bonnet Carré Spillway
- Wetland Watcher Park, St. Charles Parish
- USDA Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center
- UL-Lafayette Ctr. Ecology & Environmental Technology
- St. Tammy Parish Chinchuba Retention Pond

LSU Coastal Roots Seedling Nursery Program

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

http://coastalroots.lsu.edu