



Coastal Roots



June 10, 2014

<http://coastalroots.lsu.edu>

LSU CR Summer Institute 2014: late July

Plan to participate in the LSU Coastal Roots Summer Institute in late July. Pam is still working on finalizing the details at the moment and will send out registration information next week. Highlights will be a tour of a working plant nursery, GIS training, guest speakers, and an outdoor adventure. Come and meet new CR teachers and share ideas of how to incorporate CR into your classroom! Two-day workshop. Hotel is covered. Stipend: \$100 for each day of attendance.

A Wonderful Restoration Year!

During the 2013-14 academic year, CR schools went on 42 restoration trips and planted 18,101 native tree seedlings and grass plugs. A total of 2,529 students participated on the trips, with 1,080 at the elementary grade level, 1,024 at the middle school grade level, and 425 at the high school grade level. Supervising the trips this year were 205 teachers and 463 adult chaperones. Native plant species planted this year included southern bald cypress, water oak, cherrybark oak, nuttall oak, hackberry, tupelo gum, common persimmon, common , pecan, catalpa, longleaf pine, swamp red maple, Chilean native trees, bitter panicum and switchgrass.

At the end of 14 restoration seasons, 13,092 students have planted 109,470 seedlings and grass plugs on 265 restoration trips.



Students at McGehee School (New Orleans) plant cypress seeds this past April.

Being Thankful

Coastal Roots has much to be thankful for this year. We've received two gifts to the LSU Foundation from the **Coastal Plain Conservancy** and **Harman and Renae Chandler**. These gifts have given Pam a much needed break from grant writing (although she will return to that task this summer in earnest). These donations are what pays for the gas, tires for the van, workshop stipends and supplies. Pam and Ed's time to install nurseries and troubleshoot them, as well as run the restoration trips and conduct workshops are considered outreach (in Pam's case) and education (in Ed's case).

CR was also the beneficiary of a grant from the **LSU School of Education's Peabody Society Dean's Circle Award**. This award (2013-14) paid for the materials and flights for Pam and Ed to install the nursery in San Pedro de la Paz last October. Additional supplies were purchased from donations to the LSU Foundation. A second Peabody Society Award (2014-15) will install a another CR school in Santiago, Chile!

Moving on!



It's happened! **Dr. Janina Fuller** will be starting a new job next week. Janina has been with Coastal Roots since 2008 and has been instrumental in helping Coastal Roots to grow. She has driven many miles in the Coastal Roots' van to assess your nurseries and she is one tough "queen bee of the nursery rubric." While she does not give rubric points away, she is quick to let Ed and Pam know when she sees 'awesomeness' in action. She has starred in many of our CR videos on the website and helped on numerous workshops. She's been Pam's "memory" for the last five years. Janina, we wish you the very best!

Work is what we make of it!

I opened up an email earlier this year and I found the message to the right. In the midst of cleaning yellow cells (we all know how exciting that task is...) for the new crop of seeds they were planting, the students at **St. Louis, King of France School** found a wonderful way to lift my spirits.

Their message is now posted where I can see it every day.

Photo by Linda Gauthier. 2014-04



Best Nursery Practices: Summer Nursery Care

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

Keep the water flowing! That's our motto for the summer! That means we need to be vigilant about making sure our timer batteries are fresh and someone is checking on the can yard at least twice a week! We encourage you to share this important duty with friends at your school. It only takes two days in Louisiana's summer heat to kill every plant in your yard. So KEEP THE WATER FLOWING! We need to make sure your school has contact information in case of a water source problem. Check at least once a week. I know this is hard, but one tragedy has been averted this year by a teacher noticing someone turned the water off!

By now, everyone should have fertilized their seedlings with Osmocote... about 10 beads for each yellow cell. And, once a month you should be giving the seedlings a boost with MiracleGro according to package labeling. We've seen cypress, tupelo and catalpa seedlings that are 30-40 cm tall... they get that way because they've been watered and carefully fertilized. When your students return to school in the August, we encourage you to add another 10 beads of Osmocote... and continue the fertilizing with MiracleGro once a month until the end of September. Success is our mantra! If at anytime you notice any problems with your yard contact us ASAP!

Happy Summer!

Phone Calls and Conversations

Here is an example why I admire and cherish working with Coastal Roots teachers..... *Pam*



My cell phone rang... and when I answered it, Holly Marchiafava began the conversation with, "I'm still trying to wrap my head around it!" When a call begins in this way, I know something very interesting is about to be disclosed. It turns out Zachary Elementary's once beautiful "momma" plants of bitter panicum were mistaken for weeds in flower beds and were weed-eated right down to the top of the EarthBoxes they were planted in (photo at left). We shared a good laugh over the phone that day.

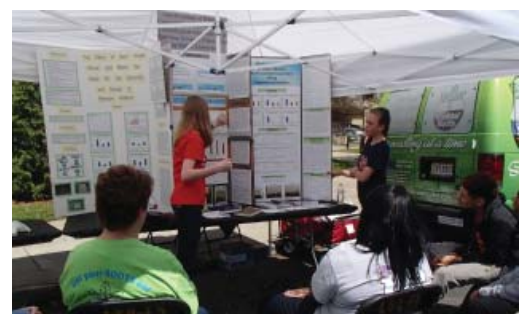
Once the shock subsided, the teachers and staff mobilized to pick up all the salvagable nodes, which were planted the next day or two by the students. I love it! No dwelling on the problem for them! They made the best of the situation! My kind of problem-solvers!

The rest of the story... It turns out that that unexpected hair cut did the 'mommas' a world of good! They resprouted even greener and healthier than before they were cut. We live and learn!

TEDxLSU 2014

TED (which stands for Technology, Education and Design) are the name for international talks about "ideas worth sharing" that are organized by the Sapling Foundation. Many places, on a local level, also organize TEDx talks similar to those at the international events. This was the 2nd year for TEDxLSU. Each year, the talks take on a theme - so this year's theme was "enact." The talks focused on "dynamic social, civic, and commercial efforts and ideas that inspire positive change for Louisiana and its citizens" (TEDxLSU 2014, <http://tedxlsu.com/>). The TEDx talks at LSU are organized by the LSU Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) staff. LSU Coastal Roots was approached in the spring to see if we would be willing to exhibit during the TEDxLSU event. TEDxLSU staff wanted hands-on exhibits that provided real examples of LSU putting ideas into action!

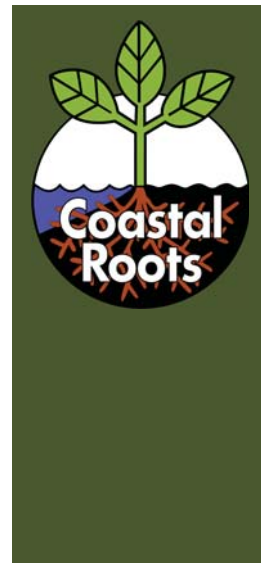
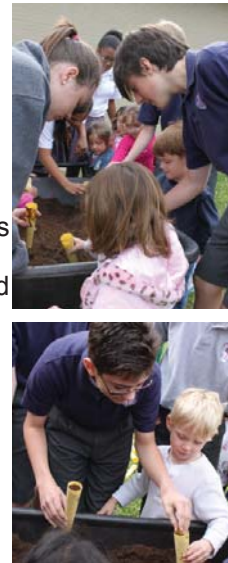
Thank you to the five students and two Coastal Roots teachers for providing the Coastal Roots exhibit for the TEDxLSU event in April 2014. Assisting with the exhibit were **Edna Karr High** art students **Antonio Shelton** and **Kennedy Clay** and their art teacher, **Karen Alice Clanton** brought art work representing their work this year learning about Louisiana's wetlands. Also helping with the exhibit were **St. Joseph's Academy** State Science and Engineering Fair winners **Natalie Bush**, **Elizabeth Sicard**, and **Madison Hasenkampf**. Their SJA teacher, **Linda Messina**, was also present to help with the exhibit.



CR at Episcopal Day School

The Coastal Roots Program has made such an impact at our school. Every student, even our two year olds, plants the seeds. We have our Big Buddies help the younger ones. Our school works not only with the LSU Coastal Roots Program but also with the Coastal Plain Conservancy, which locates a restoration site where our trees are planted to restore the environment. For the past two years we have planted Longleaf Pine. Our crop last year was not as successful as our Southern Bald Cypress crops from earlier years. The biologists worked with us this year to produce a higher yield. The Coastal Roots project has really helped our school develop other green initiatives. We have added an outdoor classroom near our can yard. We have joined the local farmers' market and we have sold the produce from our gardens every other week. We love the chance to tell our visitors about the Coastal Roots Program and it is always a "tour stop" with new families interested in sending their children to our school. Thank you for all the work that it takes to have this fantastic experience for our students!

Reverend Deacon Frances Kay
Head of School, Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School



We Welcome New Schools to CR!



Audubon Zoo
September 27, 2013
New Orleans, LA



Colegio Concepcion San Pedro
October 31, 2013
San Pedro de la Paz, Chile



St. Scholastica Academy
December 5, 2013
Covington, LA

2013-14 LSU Coastal Roots Schools

- 1 Pierre Part Elementary (Pierre Part, Assumption Parish) 2001
- 2 Abbeville High (Abbeville; Vermilion Parish) 2001
- 3 St. Joseph's Academy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2001
- 4 St. Louis, King of France (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2002
- 5 Harry Hurst Middle (Destrehan; St. Charles Parish) 2003
- 6 Our Lady of Mercy (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2003
- 7 St. James Science & Math Magnet (Vacherie, St. James Parish) 2004
- 8 Lafayette Middle (Lafayette; Lafayette Parish) 2005
- 9 St. Charles Parish Satellite School (Luling; St. Charles Parish) 2006
- 10 St. Martin's Episcopal (Metairie, Jefferson Parish) 2007
- 11 Christ Episcopal (Covington; St. Tammany Parish) 2007
- 12 Isidore Newman School (New Orleans; Orleans Parish) 2008
- 13 Belle Chasse Middle (Belle Chasse; Plaquemines Parish) 2008
- 14 South Cameron High (Grand Chenier, Cameron Parish) 2008
- 15 St. Paul's Episcopal (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2008
- 16 Larose-Cutoff Middle (Cutoff, Lafourche Parish) 2008
- 17 Westdale Heights Acad. Elem Magnet (Baton Rouge, EBR Parish) 2008
- 18 Archbishop Chapelle High (Metairie, Jefferson Parish) 2008
- 19 LSU Laboratory School (Baton Rouge, E. Baton Rouge) 2008
- 20 Franklin High (Franklin, St. Mary Parish) 2009
- 21 Iberville Science & Arts Academy East (St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish) 2009
- 22 Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School (Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish) 2009
- 23 Schools of the Sacred Heart (Grand Coteau, St. Landry Parish) 2010
- 24 Iberville Science and Arts Academy West (Plaquemine, Iberville Parish) 2010 ♦ D
- 25 Zachary Elementary (Zachary, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2010
- 26 Patrick Taylor Science & Technology Acad. (Jefferson, Jefferson Parish) 2010
- 27 UNO Coastal Education & Research Facility (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2010
- 28 Louise S. McGehee School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2011
- 29 L. Leo Judice Montessori Elementary (Lafayette, Lafayette Parish) 2011
- 30 Creekside Junior High (Pearl River, St. Tammany Parish) 2012
- 31 Episcopal High (Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2012
- 32 Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School (Lafayette, Lafayette Parish) 2012
- 33 Lusher Charter (Middle) School (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2012
- 34 Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary (Batchelor, Pt. Coupee Parish) 2012
- 35 Ponchatoula High (Ponchatoula, Tangipahoa Parish) 2013
- 36 Rollins Place Elementary (Zachary, East Baton Rouge Parish) 2013
- 37 Bourg Elementary (Bourg, Terrebonne Parish) 2013
- 38 Montegut Middle (Montegut, Terrebonne Parish) 2013
- 39 Pointe aux Chenes Elementary (Pointe aux Chenes, Terrebonne Parish) 2013
- 40 Metairie Park Country Day (Metairie, Jefferson Parish) 2013
- 41 Edna Karr High (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2013
- 42 Colegio Concepcion San Pedro de la Paz (San Pedro, Chile) 2013
- 43 Delta Charter Academy of Math, Science, & Tech (Ferriday, Concordia Parish) 2013
- 44 Audubon Zoo (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) 2013
- 45 St Scholastica Academy (Covington, St. Tammany Parish) 2014

♦ D= Dormant

CR is in 45 schools in 20 parishes and 1 international location (Chile)

CR and Science Fair Ideas... lead to great projects!

Congratulations to **St. Joseph's Academy** (Baton Rouge) student **Natalie Bush** (Ed Bush's daughter) for placing first in the Plant Sciences Division at the Louisiana Regional and State Science and Engineering Fairs in March 2014. Natalie's project was entitled *Amelioration of Hypoxic Coastal Shorelines Using the Physiological Adaptations of Spartina Grasses, Elucidated by Pick's Theorem*. Congratulations also to St. Joseph's Academy student, **Elizabeth Sicard**, who won 2nd place at the Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair for her project entitled *The Effects of Stem Length Above and Below the Node for the Sprouting and Growth of Panicum amarum* (Plant Sciences Division). Also winning 2nd place in the Environmental Science Division was **Madison Hasenkampf** (also from SJA), for her project entitled *Phytoremediation of Heavy Metals from Contaminated Soil Using Hyperaccumulators* (Madison also placed 3rd overall in the LA Regional Fair!). Natalie Bush went on to represent Louisiana at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May in Los Angeles, CA.



Paris Evans (Class of 2014) of **Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy** also attended the INTEL Science & Engineering Fair in Los Angeles with teacher, **Janell Simpson**. Paris' project, *What is the effect of canopy cover on populations of Salvinia spp in Jean Lafitte National Park?* was part of her senior project investigation. Over 1700 students from 70 different countries attended the fair, including 24 students from Louisiana. In addition, Two PTSTA students entered projects using Coastal Roots trees in the regional science fair, **Jose Alexander** (Class of 2014) entered his project, comparing the insect populations on cypress and red maple trees. **Madison Berard** (Class of 2015) investigated the difference in erosion observed around cypress and red maple trees. Congratulations, Ladies and Gentleman!!!

Other CR news!

Students at **Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy** re-installed the tree nursery at their new school facility in January 2014 with the able direction of Pam Blanchard and Ed Bush. Following the installation, the 4H club planted trees around the swale and drainage ditch of the new school (left, upper right).

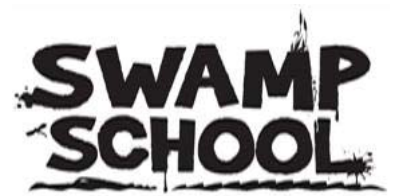


Dr. Janell Simpson, science teacher at Patrick F. Taylor, has completed the training phase of the **Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans**. Training consists of nine workshops in the New Orleans region consisting of both classroom lectures and field work on such topics as wetlands restoration, barrier island flora and fauna and geology of delta lobe formation. Janell was voted by her class to receive the *Donald Bradburn Award* for her contributions to the group. Congratulations, Janell!



Barry Guillot (Harry Hurst Middle, Destrahan) and **Craig Howat** (St. Charles Satellite School) are hosting another summer of **Swamp School** for 150 kids (ages 8-12) at Wetland Watcher Park during

the first three weeks of June. The website is <http://www.swampschool.net> and we will be adding several photos a day to the Facebook page. Follow along!



Breigh Rhodes (Rollins Place Elem, Zachary) was selected to be one of eight teachers around the country who will be part of **National Geographic's Geo-Educator Steering Committee**. This is a group teachers of all disciplines who are dedicated to teaching students about our interconnected world- very exciting! You can join this learning community by going to the Geo-Educator page (http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/geo-educator-community/?ar_a=1) and by following us on social media. You can follow their blog at <http://blog.education.nationalgeographic.com/2014/04/22/the-voices-of-geo-education/>.



CR as a Platform for Service-Learning Ecotourism

Craig Howat, facilitator of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration at St. Charles Satellite Center and CR teacher since 2006, and his students hosted Columbus Signature Academy from Indiana during their stay in Louisiana as part of a “voluntourism” trip. Among the activities planned by Satellite Center students were a walking tour of the French Quarter, two days of renovations to a 9th Ward home still being repaired seven years after Hurricane Katrina, and a Coastal Roots planting at Wetland Watcher Park near the Bonnet Carré Spillway.



Here are some quotes from a few of Craig's students:

- Working the Columbus Signature Academy was a cool experience because we had the chance to learn about the culture of another region of the USA. We were nervous to begin the project because it was our first time working for clients that were our same age but in the end it allowed us to see how much we have in common. **Maci Schexnaydre**
- Working with the CSA students, I planned and organized a walking tour of the French Quarter as my senior project. Although I enjoyed this, my most powerful experience came from the opportunity to see the difference a group of motivated teenagers can make in our community! **Chad Guillet**
- I loved working with and learning from other students from the New Tech school in Indiana. They have taught me that sacrifice can bring you a long way. Their humility and dedication to their “voluntourism” efforts have brought hope to the people of our city. The HRT team at the Satellite Center pulled together and created an itinerary of fun and engaging activities to award them for their hard work. **Kaylie Fabre**
- It was such an eye opening experience working with the New Tech students from Indiana. Not only did I get to teach them about the history of New Orleans and our culture, but I ended up learning about their culture and school as well! **Renee Jones**



Craig had this to say about the experience: “As a New Tech school we know project based learning is the most effective educational process but combining PBL with motivated teenagers focused on common goals and serving each other and their community was truly inspirational! I was in awe during our celebration on Friday, watching the kids interact with each other with confidence, hearing them reflect on their work, their projects and their culture. These are the things that make teaching worth it!”



CR Chile's 1st Restoration Planting!

Submitted by Alex Christensen, Nick Janzen, and Dr. Emily Smith
LSU Dept. of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences

During our trip to Chile, we planted trees in San Pedro del la Paz, the town in which we were working and living. The planting was a great success because the Chilean students were able to interact with the LSU students in an environment different from the classroom. This site was at a park along the Bió Bió River overlooking a neighborhood soccer field. The LSU students were all invited to participate and were assigned a group of Chilean students with whom to work. Even with the language barrier, everyone learned how to properly plant trees. We planted at least 50 native trees.

These plantings are important for many reasons. Trees increase the natural beauty of an area and they entice people into spending more time outdoors. Planting trees and other vegetation also helps lessen erosion, which is often a problem in coastal areas. Finally, these plantings provide an opportunity for students to engage with nature, to take a closer look at the world around them. Teaching science in a classroom is difficult, because the material often comes off as boring. But allowing students to interact with nature for themselves and see firsthand how scientific processes form their environment often makes a more lasting impression.

Here are some thoughts from LSU participants:



The planting trip was awesome. I got to work with a great group of students - **Allison Bohn**

Taking kids outside to learn about the environment around them is an incredibly important part of initiating interest. - **Alex Christensen**

We thought our relationships with the students were already strong, but they grew even stronger, like the trees we planted in the community.-
Emily LoCoco

You can read more about the LSU Teaching in Chile Program and the CR planting trip on their blog: <http://lsu14.blogspot.com/>

Photo by Nick Janzen. 2014-05-30.

Putting Down Roots - LSU Coastal Roots Plantings from January - May 2014



Episcopal Day School
January 14, 2014
CPC Pine Savannah, Lake Charles



Our Lady of Mercy
January 16, 2014
Fontainebleau State Park



Isidore Newman
January 17, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



Belle Chasse Middle
January 23, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



Chapelle High
February 4, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



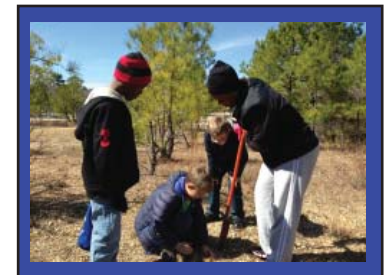
Rollins Place Elementary
February 13, 2014
Bogue Chitto State Park



Pierre Part Middle
February 17, 2014
Maple Bayou Hunting Club



Isidore Newman
February 21, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



Rollins Place Elementary
February 25, 2014
Bogue Chitto State Park



Ponchatoula HS
February 27, 2014
Lacombe, LA



L. Leo Judice Elementary
March 7, 2014
ULL CEET Facility, Lafayette



Audubon Zoo
March 8, 2014
Audubon Louisiana Nature Center

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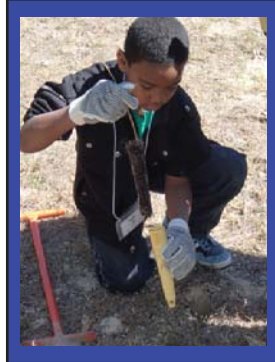
St. Joseph's Academy, February 18, 2014 at Fontainebleau State Park
Westdale Heights Academic Magnet Elementary, February 27, 2014 at BREC Blackwater Conservation Area
Harry Hurst Middle, March 21, 2014 at Wetland Watcher Park
Zachary Elementary, April 30, 2014 at Grand Isle State Park
Lafayette Middle, May 13, 2014 at Grand Isle State Park

Putting Down Roots - LSU Coastal Roots

Plantings from January - May 2014 (con't)



St. James SMA Academy
March 11, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



Rollins Place Elementary
March 13, 2014
Bogue Chitto State Park



Episcopal High
March 18, 2014
Bonnet Carré Spillway



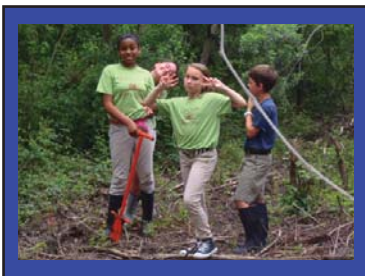
St. Charles Satellite Center
XXX
March 21, 2014
Wetland Watcher Park



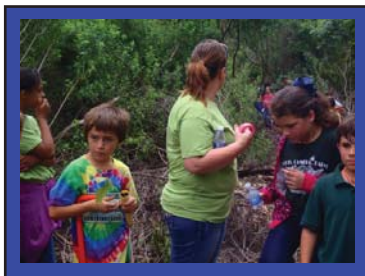
Sts. Leo-Seton
April 11, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



Montegut Middle
April 14, 2014
LDWF Pointe aux Chenes WMA



Bourg Elementary
April 14, 2014
LDWF Pointe aux Chenes WMA



Pointe aux Chenes Elem
April 14, 2014
LDWF Pointe aux Chenes WMA



St. Martin's Episcopal High
April 17, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



Zachary Elementary
April 28, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



Zachary Elementary
April 29, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



St. Paul's Episcopal Middle
May 7, 2014
Grand Isle State Park

Putting Down Roots - LSU Coastal Roots Plantings from January - May 2014 (con't)



Metairie Park Country Day
May 9, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



St. Scholastica High
May 14, 2014
Grand Isle State Park



Colegio Concepcion San Pedro
May 30, 2014
San Pedro de la Paz Community Park

LSU Day at the State Capital



Coastal Roots was invited to exhibit at this year's LSU Day at the State Capital on April 7, 2014. Happily, **Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School** teacher, **Amy Guidry**, and two students, **Cole Newland** and **Peyton McCarley**, were able to attend and help with the CR exhibit on relatively short notice.



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Art is not what you see, but what you make others see. - Edgar Degas

Edna Karr High School art and biology/environmental science students have helped many see the fragile wetlands that are part of Louisiana's treasures. They held an art show this May to show what they had learned about the wetlands as part of their Brown Foundation Service-Learning Grant, "We Speak for the Swamp; A Coastal Art and Planting Initiative." Pictured at right are EKHS teachers **Karen Alice Clanton** and **Sheila Lumod** at the art show in May.



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>