



News from the Gulf

Volume 1

A newsletter from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation

Fall 2002



Foundation website receives makeover

Color, graphics, and photography have been added to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation's website during a complete redesign of the site by Carrie Robertson, the foundation's new communications coordinator. Find it online at www.gulfofmexicofoundation.com.

With a total of 15 pages, the site provides up-to-date information about all aspects of the foundation and its involvement with issues relating to the Gulf of Mexico.

The website offers detailed information about the foundation's restoration projects, educational projects, partnerships, board members, staff members and history.

The site also features pages devoted to facts about the Gulf of Mexico, upcoming events, legislation, news, and kids.

Two added to board

Tom Matthews and Gene Meier were added to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation board in 2002.

Dr. Meier, based in Mississippi, works in research related to health and environmental science. Tom Matthews, based in Texas, is a chief investment officer at American Bank in Corpus Christi and is on the board of the Texas State Aquarium.

Habitat restoration projects funded

Second round of CRP proposals under review

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation and its partners have selected three restoration projects to fund this year (see box at right) and are currently evaluating 12 proposals for the next round of funding in which more than \$400,000 is available.

The grant comes from the Gulf of Mexico Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program (CRP), funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with collaborative funding from the Gulf of Mexico Program, an office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Gulf of Mexico Foundation coordinates the CRP program.

In addition to CRP federal funding for the restoration projects, each of the five Gulf States provides technical assistance and management expertise through offices of the EPA's Gulf Ecological Management Sites Program (GEMS). Leaders of CRP-funded projects must secure a one-to-one, nonfederal match, which brings the total value of the program close to \$1 million.

To qualify for the CRP grant, projects must benefit ecologically sensitive marine, estuarine, or riparian habitats that lie within one of the many GEM sites throughout the five Gulf States. In 2003, the program's third year, restoration projects lying outside of GEM sites may also be eligible for funding.

GEM sites - marine areas with special ecological significance - were designated in 1996 and given priority status for protection, restoration, and conservation. For information about the GEMS program, visit www.epa.gov/gmpo/gem2.html.

In the first round of the CRP funding, a total of \$64,365 was granted to fund the three current restoration projects - two in Louisiana and one in Texas.

This fall, in the second round of funding, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation received 18

Current CRP Projects



Armand Bayou Intertidal Marsh Restoration

Location: Houston/Pasadena, TX
* Establish marsh plant nursery
* Restore intertidal marsh
* Establish plant source for future
Project Cost: \$10,800

Breton Island Restoration & Beach Stabilization

Location: Chandeleur Islands, LA
* Stabilize existing beach
* Create sand dunes using fencing
* Restore beach/dune vegetation
* Plant marsh vegetation
* Educate, provide info to public
Project Cost: \$30,130

Fisheries Habitat Restoration in the Pearl River

Location: Lake Pontchartrain, LA
* Design a fish way
* Educate public about Pearl River
Project Cost: \$23,435

preproposals representing all five Gulf States. The CRP steering committee is currently reviewing 12 of the 18 projects and will announce finalists in December. The Gulf of Mexico Foundation staff will be monitoring the restoration sites under CRP funding. Watch for progress reports and updates in future issues of *News from the Gulf*.



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To:

*America's
 Sea -
 Keep it
 shining*



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Student ocean competition to be held at Texas A&M

Texas high school students are invited to test their ocean knowledge by competing in the "Loggerhead Challenge" Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl set for Saturday, February 22, 2003, at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Contact Suzanne Dilworth, (361) 825-5815, dilworth@falcon.tamucc.edu.

A second competition will be at Texas A&M in College Station on Saturday, March 1, 2003. Contact Maureen Reap, (979) 862-3290, mreap@tamu.edu.

The winning teams qualify for the National Ocean Sciences Bowl in La Jolla, California, where 21 teams will compete for the national title April 25-28, 2003.

Gulf Guardian Awards video produced

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation supports the 2002 Gulf Guardian Awards through funding the production of six professional, three-minute videos featuring each first-place winner of this year's awards. The six videos were shown at the Clean Gulf Conference in Galveston on Nov 5 and were presented to the winners.

The Gulf Guardian Awards are designed to honor businesses, community groups, individuals, and agencies who are taking positive

steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful, and productive. The award is presented annually by the Gulf of Mexico Program, an office of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Projects and efforts within Florida,

Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas are considered for the yearly award. Winners for the six categories of the 2002 Gulf Guardian Awards are: BP America (Houston) for Business; the City of Baytown, Texas, for Government; Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage for Civic/

Nonprofit Organization; Project Cate Foundation (Mobile, Alabama) for Youth/Education; the Florida Aquarium for Partnerships; and Dr. Sharon Walker for Individual. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/gmpo>.



First, second, and third place winners in all six categories receive a marble and glass memento, press coverage on their project, and recognition by their peers. First-place recipients also receive a video featuring their project or efforts.