



News from the Gulf

Volume 4

A newsletter from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation

Summer 2003

Site visits focus on volunteer action

Eight 2003 projects ongoing - three 2002 projects coming to a close

This summer, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GMF) staff took part in hands-on events at three GMF-funded restoration projects, keeping up-do-date on progress and witnessing volunteers in action.

The projects were all funded by the NOAA Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program (CRP), a three-year partnership between the GMF, the Gulf of Mexico Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designed to fund habitat restoration projects that benefit living marine resources and foster local stewardship throughout the Gulf of Mexico region.

Marsh Mania - This spring, the GMF took part in two different events called "Marsh Mania" - an awareness campaign organized by Texas Parks and Wildlife - the first one on March 15.

Bahia Grande - Project leader Thor Lassen of Ocean Trust organized the Marsh Mania event, bringing 73 local elementary school children to the shores of the soon-to-be-flooded Bahia Grande. Armed with black mangrove seedlings grown in their



Carrie Robertson photo

Volunteer Erin McNabb relocates California bulrush plants to the marsh at Armand Bayou Nature Center near Houston. The project was one of three to receive CRP funding in 2002 and is nearing completion.

classroom, the students initiated the replanting of Bahia Grande, now the largest marine restoration project in the United States. The 2003 CRP grant for \$44,940 funded construction of an educational center/marine plant nursery building within the Laguna Atascosa Reserve.

Armand Bayou - On May 31, the Foundation visited another "Marsh Mania" event, this one at Armand Bayou Nature Preserve south of Houston, the location of a 2002 CRP-funded project, the Intertidal Marsh Restoration. Volunteers canoed out into the marsh to replant hundreds of California bulrush and other plants grown at the preserve in above-ground ponds, built with \$10,800 of NOAA CRP funding.

In August, the GMF visited two 2002 CRP projects in Louisiana, one on the Pearl River and the other at Breton National Wildlife Refuge.

Pearl River - At the Pearl River, project leaders revealed new designs for a fish way that will help sturgeon navigate upriver. The design process was funded with a \$23,435 NOAA CRP grant.

Breton NWR - At Breton NWR, 11 high school students joined project leaders, GEMS manager Greg DuCote, and GMF staff for a two-day field trip to the island, planting 8,000 seedlings which will help stabilize the eroding shoreline on the barrier island.

The planting project, as well as an earlier sand fencing project, were funded by a \$30,130 NOAA CRP grant.

Board reception garners interest

The Foundation's board of directors hosted a "Spring Reception" on May 22 at the Petroleum Club of Houston, inviting those interested in the Foundation to share a relaxing evening with the board. The event was organized by Diane LaRue and included an appetizing buffet.

Representatives from the following companies attended the evening reception: BP, ConocoPhillips, Shell, Endeavor Natural Gas, ExxonMobil, Mirant Energy, MCX Exploration, Petrobridge, Rowand Co., URS Corp., and Viola Photography.

During the reception, Hugh Depland of BP presented the GMF board of directors president John LaRue and board member Dr. Gene Meier with a \$20,000 donation from BP America.

Director joins binational group

The GMF's executive director, Dr. Quenton Dokken, was one of about 100 scientists and delegates from the US and Mexico to attend the Binational Collaboration Workshop on Red Tide Programs held June 10-12 in New Orleans.

The meeting allowed representatives from both countries to share information about the growing concern with harmful algae blooms in the Gulf known as red tide. For more info: www.epa.gov/gmpo/binational-2003.html.

GMF online

info@gulfmex.org

<http://gulfmex.org>



Gulf of Mexico Foundation
 PMB 51 - 5403 Everhart
 Corpus Christi, TX 78411
 361/882-3939 phone
 800/884-4175 toll free
 361/882-1262 fax
 info@gulfmex.org
 www.gulfmex.org

place
stamp
here

To:

*America's
Sea -
Keep it
shining*



News from the Gulf

Volume 4 Summer 2003

Gulf Guardian mementos



As part of a long-standing commitment of support for the Gulf of Mexico Program's "Gulf Guardian Awards," the GMF funded the mementos presented to 2003 award recipients.

For a list of winners visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard.html>

Multiculture science education project funded

An innovative partnership initiated this summer by the GMF is a multicultural science education program working to bring students in Texas together with students south of the border.

Directed by GMF project coordinator Richard Gonzales, the project is funded through grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas General Land Office and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

Entitled, "The Only Barriers Along the Texas Coastline Are Islands," the project uses Texas as the gateway to establishing relations between the US and Mexico to address environmental concerns.



In addition to connecting students from both countries, the program also connects students from various cultures within the US, simultaneously teaching language skills and science

education through extra-curricular Science & Spanish Clubs.

Current participants include four middle schools along the Texas coastline and one middle school from Mexico.