



News from the Gulf

Volume 5

A newsletter from the Gulf of Mexico Foundation

Fall 2003

New restoration projects to be funded

Steering Committee narrows 43 submissions down to 8 final projects

2003 NOAA CRP recipients

Alabama

- * Mon Luis Island Restoration - \$42,000
- * Alonzo Landing Salt Marsh - \$30,840

Florida

- * Tarpon Bay Hydrologic Restoration - \$51,000
- * Clam Bayou Restoration Project - \$50,000

Louisiana

- * Terrace Pointe-Aux-Chenes - \$70,000

Mississippi

- * Creation of Oyster Reefs - \$24,990

Texas

- * Goose Island Marsh Restoration - \$45,000
- * Big Devil Bayou Culvert Repair - \$11,150

From a field of 43 initial proposals, the Steering Committee for the Gulf of Mexico Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP) narrowed the field down to eight final projects to receive funding in 2004, the third year of the program.

Under the direction of the GMF, the CRP grant program is an on-going partnership among the GMF, the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The grant funds citizen-driven habitat restoration projects that benefit living marine resources and foster local stewardship throughout the Gulf of Mexico region.

The total amount funded for 2003 was \$324,980.



New webpage, logo for GEMS

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GMF) has designed a new logo and added a new page to its website devoted to the Gulf Ecological Management Sites (GEMS) program, an initiative of the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) and the five Gulf states. Visit: <http://gulfmex.org/gems.htm>

The regional program, coordinated by the Foundation, focuses attention on ecologically important Gulf habitats.

Foundation leads multicultural group on field trip up river

A group of 31 science students from Travis Middle School in Port Lavaca, Texas, got a firsthand look at where their water comes from, traveling along the Guadalupe River from its mouth to a reservoir 150 miles upstream.

The all-day marathon field trip on Oct. 17 was designed to raise students' awareness of the community they live in and the river basin that feeds it. The bus trip included stops along the river's course, where representatives from agencies responsible for river management and protection talked with the group.

Organized and led by project leader Richard Gonzales of GMF, the trip was part of a multicultural education program funded by grants from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas General Land Office.

Called, "The Only Barriers Along the Texas Coastline Are Islands," the program connects students from various cultures, teaching both language skills and science education through extra-curricular Science & Spanish Clubs.

Together, the students learn language and science skills



Science & Spanish Club students walk across a bridge spanning the Guadalupe River during the Oct 17 field trip.

through participating in environmentally oriented

educational projects focused on the Gulf of Mexico.



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GMF applies for 2004-2006 grant

Following three years of administering the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Community-Based Restoration Program (NOAA CRP), the Gulf of Mexico Foundation (GMF) is applying for another three-year partnership.

The CRP grant program focuses on habitat restoration in the five Gulf States.

During the first three years, the GMF funded 11 restoration projects within the five Gulf states. From opening up fish passage for sturgeon on the Pearl River to building a mangrove nursery at Bahia Grande, these projects benefit living marine resources as well as foster local stewardship.

CAST convention attracts 4,600 science teachers

GMF hosts booth

The Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST), held Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 at the Houston Reliant Center, was the largest Texas Science Teachers Association Conference ever held. An estimated 4,600 teachers attended and 430 organizations, including the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, provided exhibit booths.

The event featured selected field trips, short courses, workshops, famous speakers, and special opportunities to learn the most up-to-date science teaching techniques.



Science teachers visit the Foundation's booth at CAST.

CAST 2004 will be held Nov 4-6, 2004, in Corpus Christi, Texas. For more

information visit: www.statweb.org/CASTCC/index.html.