



Gulf of Mexico Foundation

CMP Cycle 13

“The Only Barriers Along the Texas Coastline are Islands”

Project 09-030-000-3347 – Final October 6, 2008-June 30, 2010

Submitted: July 16, 2010

Task 1: *Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Project at Bahia Grande/Little Laguna Madre-Cameron County*

A Project Amendment was submitted and approved in February 2010 that removed this Task from Cycle 13 due to lack of public access to proposed water sampling site in Little Laguna Madre area of the Bahia Grande Restoration Project in Port Isabel. There was limited but productive Task 1 activity from April 2009 to October 2009 with water sampling activity conducted at El Lagito in Matamoros with 15 students. The faculty sponsor reported good water quality findings and they have fostered a partnership with the City of Matamoros to improve the water quality of the lake through this water sampling process. The man-made lake now has life coming back to it! Faculty sponsor Rebecca Otero says that the water quality kit sent to her in April 2009 has provided sufficient use for measuring water quality parameters.

Task 2: Economy=Ecology Weeks: Limpianato and Obligation Days Lead to Living and Working in the Coastal Zone

This task was completed in school year 2008-09 with repeated or additional Task 2 deliverable events conducted in school year 2009-10. As part of a coastal workforce initiative developed by the GMF's Science & Spanish Club Network called "Living and Working in the Coastal Zone," events were conducted in partnership with Debbie Jasek, of the Texas Transportation Institute, a part of the Texas A&M University System that encourages development of homegrown talent.

Match:	Debbie Jasek's time and preparation for deliverables was used as third party match	(\$7,513.00)
	Student and parent sign-in sheet for Edna event of May 22, 2009 used as third party match	(\$6,297.36)
	SSC student volunteer sign-in sheets for Aransas Pass May 21, 2009	(\$ 968.60)
	SSC student volunteer sign-in sheets for Port Lavaca October 28, 2008	(\$ 890.50)
	Port Isabel Economic Development Commission Grant for Oct. 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010	(\$5,000.00)
	SSC student and public volunteer sign-in sheet April 17, 2010	(\$1,804.20)

Deliverables and timeline:

1. 3rd Annual Matagorda Bayshed Economy=Ecology Week

A. Edna May 27, 2009 at Edna Elementary with 475 parents and students in attendance. Over 1,500 pieces of coastal stewardship information handed out. The event was held in collaboration with an art display by all grade levels allowing for integrating art and science together. This event also was the first SSCN combination Coastal Expo (Task 3) and Living and Working in the Coastal Zone event (Task 2). Outreach activities created for CMP Cycle 12 Tasks such as the Seagrass Dice Game and the Beaches & Bays of Matagorda County were also used in addition to the Coastal Expo Kit activities obtained from Texas Parks & Wildlife during CMP Cycle 13.



B. Palacios SSC in Annual Palacios Valentine's Day Parade, February 14, 2009 with 12 students and parents volunteering. Over 600 pieces of stewardship information pieces handed out.

2. 2nd Annual Redfish Bay Bayshed Economy=Ecology/Trash & Seagrass Parade & Coastal Cleanup

A. Aransas Pass High School May 20, 2009

More than 470 students circulated in the high school gymnasium in Aransas Pass, Texas with exhibitors from Valero, Kiewit, a local engineering firm, the US Navy, San Patricio Municipal Water District, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Texas Department of Transportation. An Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup was conducted by SSCs from Ingleside, Sinton and Aransas Pass on April 25, 2009 at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park as a part of the connecting the ecology with the economy.



B. 4th Redfish Bay Trash & Seagrass Parade & Coastal Cleanup February 21, 2009

About 100 SSCN students and another 60 others gathered in Aransas Pass to march through town carrying signs and dragging strings of aluminum cans behind them in the 4th Annual Redfish Bay Trash Parade and Coastal Cleanup on February 21. “This parade gives the residents of Aransas Pass and the entire Live Oak Peninsula an opportunity to learn why trash management is so important to a healthy state of our water bodies as well as to our communities on land,” said [Richard Gonzales](#), GMF project leader for the SSCN. “Since 2003, SSCN students have been working on several coastal conservation projects in Redfish Bay and the Trash Parade is one way to broaden the environmental education outreach effort to include more residents and organizations,” he added. After the parade, the students joined other volunteers in two different Winter Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups. On the same day, Texas Parks & Wildlife conducted a Crab Trap Removal at Conn Brown Harbor with SSC students from Corpus Christi participating. The Redfish Bay Trash Parade is sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Texas General Land Office, Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 13, the City of Aransas Pass, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and OxyChem.

Below left, Richard Gonzales, SSCN project coordinator explains the issue of waterfront development at Conn Brown Harbor on Redfish Bay to SSC students from Corpus Christi Martin Middle School on their way to the Crab Trap Cleanup after the parade. Below right, Martin MS students learn about NOAA’s Marine Debris grants for Crab Trap Cleanups with Art Morris, a Texas Parks & Wildlife fisheries biologist.





Employees from DuPont sponsored the food at the Redfish Bay Cleanup.

Below are photos from the 4th Annual Redfish Bay Seagrass & Trash Parade held in Aransas Pass.



C. 5th Redfish Bay Trash & Seagrass Parade & Coastal Cleanup March 6, 2010 in Fulton Volunteer Fire Department's 31st Annual OysterFest. SSC students from Sinton, Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass and Ingleside, Texas, joined their fifth Annual Redfish Bay Seagrass & Trash Parade on March 6 with the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department's 31st Annual OysterFest Parade, in effect becoming a parade within a parade. "This collaboration gave us exposure to thousands of people who live in our shared ecosystem. At the same time, we helped to make this the biggest parade OysterFest has ever had," said GMF Project Leader Richard Gonzales. Along the parade route the students gave out several outreach items, including Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries satellite maps and Earth Day Bay Day posters, USFWS National Wildlife Refuge maps, Texas Parks & Wildlife fish rulers, Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach calendars and beach balls, Lower Colorado River Authority wildflower seeds and International Crane Society Whooping Crane posters. Corpus Christi Martin Middle School SSC won a fourth place trophy in the Best Youth entry for the event.



3. 1st Annual Lavaca Bayshed Economy=Ecology Week

A. Port Lavaca October 28, 2008 at Travis Middle School Gymnasium

Event was attended by all science classes grades 6-8 in the school gymnasium with 10 potential employers doing business in the coastal zone. These included the Texas Department of Transportation, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, South Texas Nuclear Power Plant, GEMCO a local manufacturer, Texas Transportation Institute, and the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.



Agenda for Living & Working in the Coastal Zone

Travis Middle School (361-552-3784/705 N. Nueces, Port Lavaca TX 77979)

“Living & Working in the Coastal Zone” on October 28, 2008

Dear Travis Middle School Student,

This event, “Living & Working in the Coastal Zone” is sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation’s Science & Spanish Club Network. This event exposes you to some of the highest paying math & science-based jobs offered by businesses, government and other organizations operating in the Texas Coastal Zone. The Gulf of Mexico Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop leadership in stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean ecosystems. Calhoun County is one 17 Texas coastal counties within the Texas Coastal Zone and the employers participating in this event want you to clearly understand the choice you have to be “Living & Working in the Coastal Zone”.

Any and all of these jobs are yours, the students of Travis Middle School and other young people in the Calhoun County. These jobs are all within driving distance of Port Lavaca. But before you can have one of these jobs....you have to continue your education and training. Many of these employers are already teamed up with local and area (in the coastal zone) colleges and universities. These include Wharton Junior College, Victoria College, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and the University of Houston-Victoria.

- If you think you cannot succeed, try, try again.....
- The Matagorda County Industry Educational Alliance offers paid two-year training & work study opportunities for 60 students per year with a goal to double to 120 students per year
- Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 7 Texas A&M University-Kingsville recently received a \$2.6 million grant for 120 scholarships for math, science & engineering majors
- There are numerous scholarship opportunities with local groups who give out scholarships annually....because they want the youth of Calhoun County to pursue their dreams.....

This event is sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Science & Spanish Club Network, Coastal Coordination Council, Texas General Land Office, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, and Texas Transportation Institute a part of the Texas A&M University System.

Employers committed are: City of Port Lavaca, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority Water Treatment, GEMCO, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Transportation Institute, South Texas Nuclear Power, and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Tuesday, October 28, (625 total students attending)

9:00 AM Meet and Greet Breakfast Snack and exhibitor setup in Gym 1 (sponsored by GBRA)
9:45 AM-10:35 **GROUP I of six classes (125 students) 6/1, 7/2, 8/1 Applied Science/1**
10:40-11:05 TUTORIAL PERIOD (mandatory) so this is when we EAT Brunch-Lunch SSC students with Exhibitors
11:10-11:40 6th to lunch
11:10 -12:00 pm fourth pd 7/8 **GROUP II of six classes (100 students) 7/ 2, 8/2**
12:05-12:35 lunch 7th
12:05-12:55 fifth pd 8 **GROUP III of six classes (50 students) 8/2**

11:40-12:35 fourth pd **GROUP IV of six classes (25 students) 6/1**

12:40-1:30 Fifth pd 6/7 **GROUP V of six classes (100 students) 6/2, 7/ 2**

1:00-1:30pm Lunch 8th
1:35—2:30 sixth pd all **GROUP VI of six classes (125 students) 6/2, 7/2, 8/1**
If any exhibitor can stay one more hour they can see 100 more students
2:35-3:35pm seventh pd **GROUP VII of six classes (100 students) 6/1, 7/1 , 8/2**

On-site Contact Richard Gonzales, project coordinator, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Science & Spanish Club Network

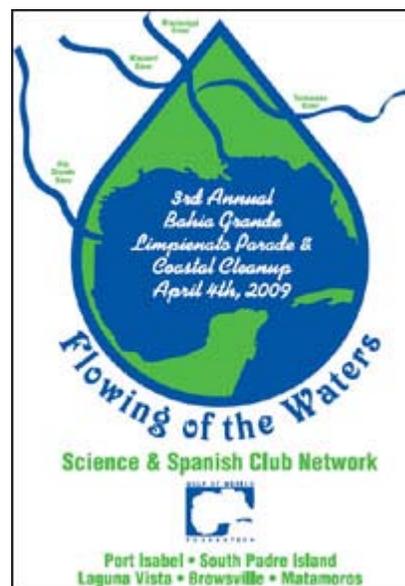
4. 2nd Annual Bahia Grande Lagunashed Economy=Ecology/Limpienato Parade

A. 3rd Bahia Grande Limpienato Parade & Coastal Cleanup April 4, 2009. The GMF received a \$4,000 grant from the City of Port Isabel Economic Development Commission to conduct the Bahia Grande Limpienato Parade and Coastal Cleanup the first Saturday in April 2009.

The first ever “Flowing of the Rivers” ceremony was held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Bahia Grande Limpienato Parade and Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, April 4 in Port Isabel and South Padre Island, Texas. The ceremony featured the mixing of fresh water samples from the headwaters of the Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers with a saltwater sample from the Gulf of Mexico to create a unique blend of water that symbolizes the connectivity of the upper 31 states with the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean ecosystems.

Water samples were provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority, Missouri River Conservation District Council, Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, Itasca State Park in Minnesota and the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Port Isabel.

This year's parade was the largest ever with 37 entries and about 150 participants. All parade participants belonged to governmental or community organizations that have a common interest in stewardship of the coastal ecology of the Gulf of Mexico. Participants picked up more than 100 bags of trash. Plastics, food wrappers and beer bottles dominating the types of trash collected. A petition was also circulated, asking local governments to consider the introduction of biodegradable plastic bags in coastal communities for retailers to use.





B. 4th Bahia Grande Limpianato Parade & Coastal Cleanup April 17, 2010. There The GMF received a \$4,000 match grant from the City of Port Isabel Economic Development Commission to conduct the Bahia Grande Limpianato Parade and Coastal Cleanup on April 17, 2010





C. Annual Career Fair at Port Isabel Middle School, October 8, 2009 attended by all 8th grade students. Organized by counseling and administrative staff.

Task 3: *Establishing Coastal Expos/Earth Day Bay Day events in high outdoor recreation rural coastal communities*

The SSCN was the first community organization to receive a Coastal Expo Kit from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department that was used extensively in carrying out Task 3 deliverables. Since federal funds were used by TPWD for this kit and Coastal Expo Coordinator Kris Shipman's, salary, in-kind match dollars came from the volunteer time and event attendees. The goal to increase coastal stewardship awareness through public outreach and education activities is ongoing. In addition, towards the end of the CMP Cycle 13, the Texas General Land Office announced they would be having a large scale Coastal Expo at the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi on July 24, 2010. The SSCN was the first ever community-based group to use the new TGLO logo (see logo below) in making banners for the Redfish Bay Seagrass Tent at the 62nd Annual Shrimporree in Aransas Pass June 11-13, 2010.

Match: Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Travel Grant for September 16, 2009 to June 30, 2010	(\$4,400.00)
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Giveaway supplies	(\$4,228.50)
Aransas Pass Civic Center discounted & in-kind services	(\$ 955.00)
Palacios BayFest volunteer sign-in sheet	(\$ 187.20)



Deliverables

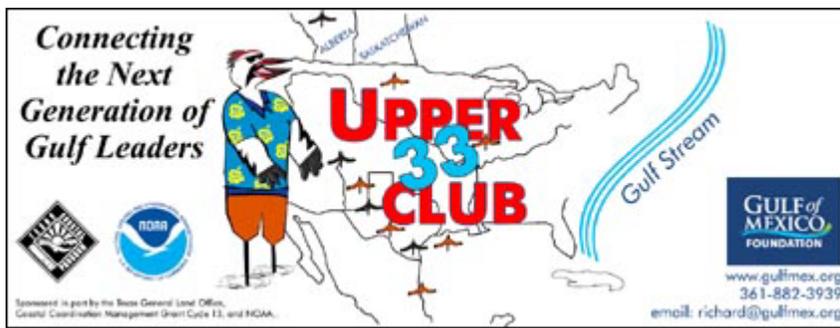
1. 1st Coastal Expo/Matagorda Bayshed Sept-Dec 2009

- A. Travis Middle School SSC created posters and signs about the food chain disruption to the Whooping Crane endangered species. Efforts were made to raise money at both the middle school and high school from September to December 2009.
- B. New Palacios Coastal Expo October 9,10, 2009 at 5th Annual Palacios BayFest in partnership with Texas Parks & Wildlife staff and the Palacios Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation. Over 1,000 attendees and 800 pieces of coastal stewardship information pieces handed out.



2. 1st Coastal Expo Bahia Grande/Laguna Madre in Port Isabel

- A. Coastal Expo introduced at the 16th Annual Winter Outdoor Wildlife Expo at south Padre Island on February 6, 2010 with over 4,000 attendees and over 1,000 pieces of coastal stewardship information pieces given out. The Port Isabel Episcopal Church asked the Gulf of Mexico Foundation to participate in their event during the November 1, 2009 World Shrimp Cook-Off event. The Upper 33 Club signed up its first 100 members comprised of Winter Texans staying in the Coastal Valley region. A banner was made to highlight the Greater Gulf of Mexico 'gulfshed' and a watershed map showing which states and provinces was used in the signup sheet. This Coastal Expo outreach event allowed for an integration of Task 6 (to Connect Texas to the Upper 33 watersheds)



Gulf of Mexico Watershed Mapping Activity



B. Brownsville Dr. Garcia Middle School SSC conducted their 3rd Annual Earth Day Arbor Day on campus with over 25 SSC students participating on April 25, 2009. Participants planted a tree in the Sabol Palm Forest behind the school campus and laid new walkways with mulch. This area also contains the Mangrove Propagation Ponds that were a CMP Cycle 12 Task.

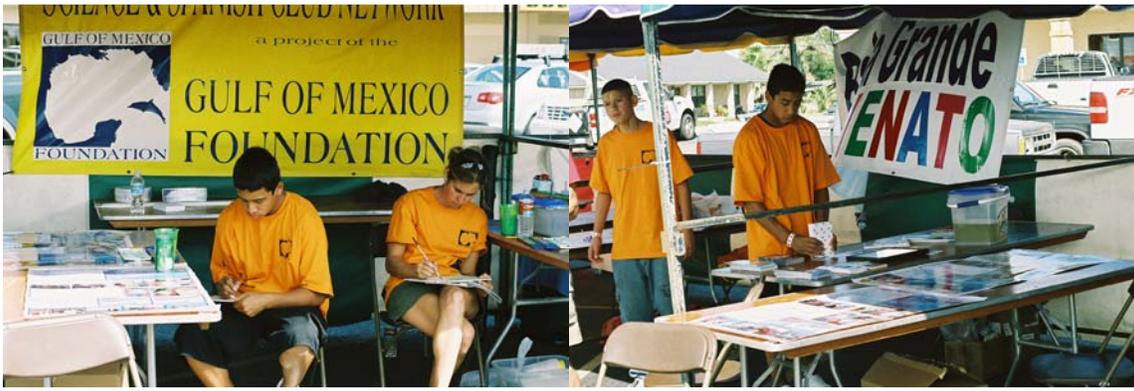


C. Brownsville Dr. Garcia Middle School SSC conducted the 4th Annual Earth Day Arbor Day on campus with about students planting a tree and cleaning up around the Sabol Palm Forest in the back of the school building on April 24, 2010. This SSCN event opened the door to future opportunity with the US Forest Service climate change initiative called FOCUS (Forests, Oceans, Climate and Us) on October 23, 2010. FOCUS is a federal interagency program to that strives to raise awareness of climate change and the attachment of forests to the oceans.



D. Coastal Expo booth at Port Isabel World-Shrimp Cook-off on November 2, 2008 with over 5,000 in attendance and over 1,000 pieces of coastal stewardship information passed out. SSCN members from Port Isabel Alternative High School teamed up with Artist Boat from Galveston to collaborate on a mini Coastal Expo at Port Isabel's World Shrimp Cook-off on Nov 2. Artist Boat is a GMF Community-based Restoration Program grant recipient based in Galveston but due to damage to its headquarters from Hurricane Ike the restoration project had to be transferred to South Padre Island. Project leader Nicole Eckstrom (photo below) is a native of Port Isabel and organized a sand dune restoration project on South Padre Island on November 15 as a replacement project. During the Coastal Expo event, she gathered more than 30 local volunteer participants for the dune restoration project. The Port Isabel Economic Development Commission granted a \$4,000 match to the SSCN for this outreach effort. A Task 4 current coastal issue, hurricane induced dune restoration, emerged from this and the fact that the SSCN has this outreach outlet allowed for continuation of coastal habitat restoration projects.





E. Coastal Expo booth at Port Isabel World-Shrimp Cook-off on November 1, 2009 with over 5,000 in attendance and over 1,000 pieces of coastal stewardship information passed out. A Task 4 current coastal issue (watershed recycling) and a Task 6 distance learning technology action item (Connecting Texas to the Upper 33) emerged from this event. Students collected signatures from the public pledging to recycle within their households as a prelude to the City of Port Isabel grand opening of the new Citizens Collection Center on November 14, 2009. Below right, a promotional poster made by a student from the Port Isabel Alternative High School. Below center, students talk to the public about recycling. Below left, students meet the Mayor of Port Isabel, Joe Vega.



3. 2nd Coastal Expo Redfish Bay @ Annual Shrimporree in Aransas Pass June 2009

- A. Aransas Pass and Sinton SSCs have mini Coastal Expo booth at the Kayak Expo in Aransas Pass on October 25, 2008. Over 500 pieces of coastal environmental stewardship handed out. This activity led to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation contributing \$5,000 to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

For their efforts in helping to raise consciousness about the body of water near their home town called Redfish Bay, Aransas Pass SSCN students attracted the attention of Dr. Larry McKinney, former director of Texas Parks & Wildlife. After meeting the students “Everything Kayak” Expo in Aransas Pass in October, McKinney arranged for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation to make a \$5,000 contribution to the GMF for projects that the SSCN is doing in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Study Area. To help educate the public about Redfish Bay, the SSCN ran a Sea Grass Dice Game and Redfish Bay Outreach booth at the October kayaking event. Club members also participate in clean-ups of the area and were instrumental in designating State Highway 361 as "Redfish Bay Causeway," a well-traveled road for kayakers, fishermen, birder watchers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts.



- B. Redfish Bay Seagrass Tent at 61st Annual Shrimporree June 12-14, 2009 with over 5,000 visitors to the tent and over 2,000 pieces of coastal stewardship information pieces handed out.





C. Redfish Bay Seagrass Tent at 62nd Annual Shrimpoore June 11-13, 2010 with over 5,000 visitors to the tent and over 3,000 pieces of coastal stewardship information pieces handed out.



D. 1st Seagrass Festival of Knowledge/World Seagrass Day March 5, 2010.

Coastal Expo Seagrass Festival of Knowledge March 5, 2010 in Aransas Pass. The SSCN created a hybrid Coastal Expo event in reaction to an emerging current coastal issue (Seagrass public education and outreach, Task 4). SSC students (43 volunteers) from Aransas Pass and Ingleside hosted 360 5th and 6th graders from Charlie Marshall Elementary who heard short presentations from an array of topical speakers. Then, attendees had the opportunity to view poster displays made by SSC students, that depicted the importance of seagrasses and the shrimp life cycle and displays from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and Texas Parks & Wildlife. Attendees also could play the Seagrass Dice Game, fish print, and observe the clone bone coastal zone animals from the Coastal Expo Kit. Attendees also were exposed to Kayaking 101 demonstration by a local certified kayak instructor.

This deliverable lead to a proposed CMP Cycle 15 task to embrace and cultivate the need for World Seagrass Day and an annual Seagrass Festival of Knowledge. Collaboration will be made with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Environmental Education priority issue and the Texas Seagrass Management Work Group.



4. 5th Coastal Expo with Lower Colorado River Authority and TPW @ Annual Rice Festival in Bay City October 2008
 - A. SSCs from Van Vleck, Tidehaven, Bay City and the Palacios and El Campo Boys and Girls Clubs volunteered at the Bay City Rice Festival Coastal Expo on October 16-18, 2008 in partnership with the Lower Colorado River Authority and Texas Parks and Wildlife.
 - B. SSCs from Van Vleck, Tidehaven, and Bay City volunteered at the Bay City Rice Festival on October 15-17, 2009 in partnership with the Lower Colorado River Authority and Texas Parks and Wildlife.



C. SSCs from Van Vleck, Tidehaven, at LCRA Coastal Expo at Matagorda Beach May 13-14, 2009 with over 500 students attending and 14 SSC student volunteers

D. SSCs from Tidehaven at LCRA Coastal Expo at Matagorda Beach May 12, 2010. Over 1,000 students attending and 7 SSC student volunteers participating.



5. SSCs from Corpus Christi, Ingleside, and Aransas Pass 10th Earth Day Bay Day in Corpus Christi April 18, 2009 with SSCN Coastal Expo Tent.

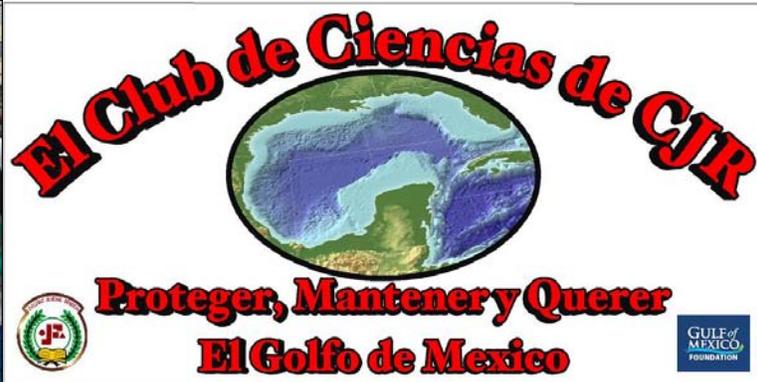
A. SSCs from Corpus Christi, Ingleside and Aransas Pass volunteered at the 11th Earth Day Bay Day in Corpus Christi April 17, 2010 with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Coastal Expo Tent. The SSCN collaborated with the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation in implementing their CMP Cycle 14 grant for the Coastal Expo deliverable which was compatible to the SSCN Cycle 13 Task 3.



B. A Coastal Expo partnership with the South Texas Girl Scout Council emerged in February 2010 when contact was made with Penny Crispin, director. The SSCN project director was informed of the “Forever Green” 100th Anniversary initiative by the Girl Scouts of America whereby all Girl Scout Troops in the country will have selected one of five environmental topics and subsequently, will create an activity based upon that theme by March 10, 2012. The South Texas Council is a pilot region and so the SSCN project coordinator invited any and all participating troop leaders to CMP Cycle 13 activities. Troops from Brownsville marched in the Limpianato Parade and cleaned up the beaches on April 17, 2010. Troops from Corpus Christi volunteered at the Earth Day Bay Day Coastal Expo in Corpus Christi on April 17, 2010. The SSCN participated in the South Texas Council’s first “Forever Green” event at Sunrise Mall in Corpus Christi on May 8, 2010. The SSCN will continue to lend its environmental education and outreach expertise to Penny Crispin over the next 2 years that should lead to synergistic outcomes.



- C. GMF Science & Spanish Club members from Colegio Juvenal Rendon de Matamoros conducted public outreach with thousands of attendees at the first ever "Feria Ambiental" on April 18, 2010 at the Plaza Muincipal in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico as part of Earth Day celebrations held all over the world. During the event, the students met a volunteer Turtle Patroler from Rancho Nuevo, Mexico's main Kemp's Ridley Turtle nesting area along the Tamaulipan Gulf Coast.



Task 4: SSCN Summer Faculty Sponsor Training and Creation of a Position Paper on an Integrated Approach to Coastal Environmental Issues Education

A pilot Gulf of Mexico curriculum has been launched at Ingleside Elementary School at the sixth grade level with a SSCN faculty sponsor teaching the course. The Gulf of Mexico Program has given ConocoPhillips a first place in their Gulf Guardian Awards Industry category for their sponsorship of the Waterways Training for Teachers held on June 14-17, 2009. Five SSC faculty were a part of this training experience and three faculty from Louisiana who will be joining the SSCN in 2009-2010 (as part of a Gulf of Mexico Alliance grant) also received this training.

Match: Keep Texas Beautiful supplies for Matagorda Island Cleanups	(\$ 511.26)
BP Faculty Training Grant for CAST Conference Nov 2009	(\$ 750.00)
Matagorda Island Cleanup April 24, 2010	(\$6,494.36)
Welder Wildlife "Crossing Boundries" Summer Training June 18-30, 2010	(\$7,040.00)

Deliverables:

1. Pre-seminar faculty sponsors assessment survey

A. Informal survey of 94 Science teachers at the Coastal Bend Informal Science Educators Extravaganza on September 28, 2009 SSC sponsors on how the acquire current coastal issues information in the informal setting and transfer that information into the formal classroom setting.

Gulf of Mexico Foundation
Science & Spanish Club Network
Informal Educators Survey

2

1. Have you ever heard of the Science & Spanish Club Network? Yes ___ No not sure ___
If yes, how have you heard about it?
___ Other teacher ___ Organization ___ Outdoor event ___ Other ___
___ Student ___ ISD Administrator ___ newspaper ___ radio
2. Please list three barriers to a student acquiring science knowledge.
a. time b. vocabulary c. _____
3. Do field trips make a difference in a student's science knowledge acquisition? Yes ___ No
4. About How many science-based field trips do you make in a given school year?
 None ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ Other ___
5. What is the greatest barrier to scheduling science-based field trips?
 money ___ JSD administration ___ Science Dept. chair ___ Band ___
___ principal ___ student behavior ___ Athletics ___ Other ___
6. Would you favor the development of on campus Science Booster Clubs? ___ Yes ___ No Not sure
7. Does your school district have technology it does not use for science learning activities? Yes ___ No ___ Not sure
8. How long have you been a science teacher?
___ first year 1-3 years ___ 4-7 years ___ 8-10 years ___ 11-15 years ___ 15-20 years ___ 20 years +
9. Do you use distance learning technology in your science classroom? ___ Yes No ___ Not sure
10. Do you have the flexibility to connect current extracurricular science information into your classroom curriculum? ___ Yes ___ No Not sure
11. How do you present current priority coastal environmental issues into your current curriculum?
 classroom discussion ___ web-based ___ television ___ videos ___ newspaper ___ power point
___ Video conferencing ___ Other _____
12. Can expanded extracurricular science-based experiences improve student science knowledge in the classroom?
 Yes ___ No ___ Not sure ___ depends on the extracurricular activity
13. Please offer a comment about how to connect informal extracurricular science-based experiences with the formal classroom science curriculum?
informal is usually what appeals to the children
and is more memorable

Survey Results:

Q-1. Have you ever heard of the Science & Spanish Club Network?

No	85%
Yes	11%
Not Sure	4%

Of those who had heard about the Science & Spanish Club Network, they found out about it from Other Teachers.

Q-2. Please list three barriers to a student acquiring science knowledge: (214 responses)

Data for Q-2 was collapsed into broader categories as follows

	<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
Prior Knowledge	55	26%
Lack of interest	43	21%
Vocabulary/Language	31	15%
Student Behavior	19	9%
Supplies/Labs	16	8%
Funding	14	7%
Teachers	13	6%
Time	8	4%
Parents/home life	6	3%
Lack of hands-on activities	6	3%
TAKS	3	1%

Q-3. Do field trips make a difference in a student's science knowledge acquisition? (90 responses)

A near unanimous opinion of 99% that yes, field trips make a difference in a student's science knowledge acquisition.

Q-4. About how many science-based field trips do you make in a given school year? (90 responses)

One third of respondents make no field trips, another one third make one field trip and nearly a third make 2 to 3 field trips in a given school year. A very small percentage of classroom teachers go on four or more field trips in a given school year.

Q-5. What is the greatest barrier to scheduling science-based field trips? (110 responses)

Classroom science teachers responded that money was the most significant barrier (84%) to scheduling science-based field trips. Another 5% responded that principals or administrators were the greatest barrier and only 4% responded that student behavior was the greatest barrier.

Q-6. Would you favor the development of on-campus Science Booster Clubs? (91 responses)

Over three-quarters (76%) of classroom science teachers favor the development of Science Booster Clubs on-campus. 20% responded not sure and 4% responded no.

Q-7. Does your school have technology it does not use for science learning activities? (87 responses)

Nearly half (47%) of science classroom teachers said their school has technology they do not use for science learning activities. Nearly one-third (28%) are not sure. Combined, 75% or three out of four teachers indicate their schools have technology they do not use for science learning activities. About one in four teachers (23%) responded no.

Q-8. How long have you been a science teacher? (84 responses)

Nearly one-fifth (17%) of respondents were in their first year of teaching, while 26% have been teaching less than three years. About 30% of respondents had 11 or more years of teaching experience.

Q-9. Do you use distance learning technology in your classroom? (90 responses)

Only 29% of respondents indicated they use distance learning technology in the classroom. Another 59% indicated they do not, and another 12% were not sure.

Q-10. Do you have the flexibility to connect current environmental issues into your current curriculum? (90 responses)

About 68% of respondents indicated they do have the flexibility to connect current environmental issues into their current curriculum. Another 17% indicated that they do not have flexibility and another 16% were not sure. Combined, 33% or one third of teachers are potentially, not conveying current environmental issues into their current curriculum.

Q-11. How do you present current priority coastal environmental issues into your current curriculum? (90 responses)

The following preferred methods of communication are used by respondents in presenting priority coastal environmental issues into their classrooms:

<u>Method</u>	<u>%</u>
Classroom discussion	83%
Videos	46%
Web-based	43%
Powerpoint	36%
Newspaper	20%
Television	20%
Video conferencing	8%

Q-12. Can expanded extracurricular science-based experiences improve student science knowledge in the classroom? (91 responses)

About 80% of respondents said that expanded science-based experiences could improve student science knowledge in the classroom while another 13% indicated it would depend upon the extracurricular activity. Combined, 93% of respondents indicate that expanded science-based experiences could improve student science knowledge in the classroom. Only 3% were not sure and another 3% indicated no.

Survey comments about how to connect informal extracurricular science-based experiences with the formal classroom curriculum:

There is a need for more hands-on activities to reinforce concepts.

Make science more fun.

Make field trips TAKS and TEKS based.

If cannot make field trips, then bring in expert speakers.

Keep students actively learning or they lose interest.

Informal is usually what appeals to the children and is more memorable.

Prep students before the field trip, make them use field journals.

Create more opportunities for extracurricular activities.

Clubs afterschool and parent/student events on campus.

Tours need to be guided by someone more knowledgeable than the classroom teacher.

Connect to how students can be affected.

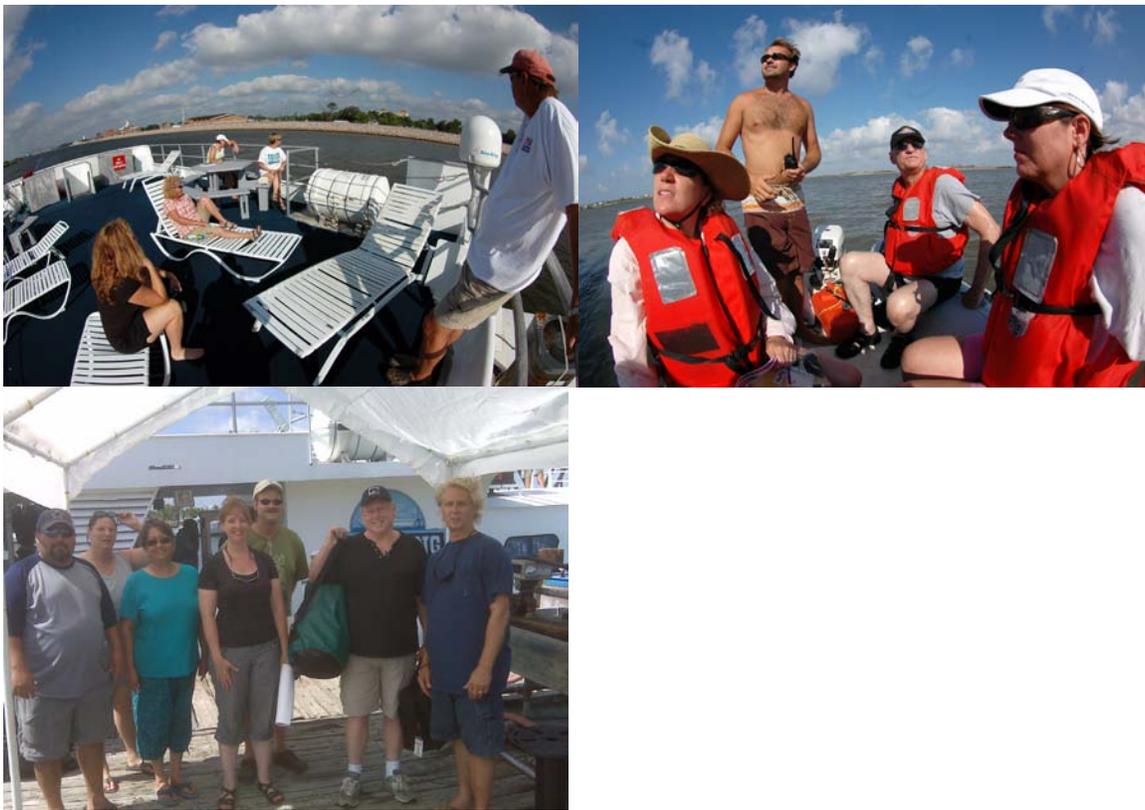
We have created a science room with small hands-on activities. We are working on getting more equipment.

Need the ability to make money.

2. Faculty Training seminar

A. Four SSC faculty sponsors on Intracoastal Water Way Training (IWWT) June 15-18, 2009 that took them from Freeport to the Sabine Pass along the Texas Gulf Coast. The training was a joint project of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation and ConocoPhillips which provided \$40,000 to conduct this hands-on training. The IWWT training program was recognized by the Gulf of Mexico Program as the first place winner in the Business and Industry category at the annual Gulf Guardian Awards in Biloxi on October 29, 2009. The video about the award can be seen at the Gulf of Mexico Foundation website (www.gulfmex.org).





B. Six SSC faculty sponsors, working partners and project coordinator meeting at The Woodlands at Anadarko Headquarters with Gulf of Mexico Foundation board members and three Anadarko staff members to discuss the development of a SSCN scope and sequence, curriculum and Master Teacher Training Program on August 4-5, 2009. Robin Flores, from Ingleside, was designated to do a trial run of the scope and sequence for school year 2009-10. Flores would be teaching a sixth grade Aquatics Science course and could see if the scope and sequence (developed in the informal setting of SSCN activities) could be used effectively in the Aquatics Science formal curriculum setting. Flores reported just after Spring Break in March of 2009 that she had completed the scope and sequence schedule suggesting that informal frameworks for learning can be used within formal frameworks for learning. More classroom settings will have to be tried before any conclusions can be made. Anadarko sponsored all costs of travel, training, hotel and food.



Robin Flores, SSC Faculty Sponsor Ingleside

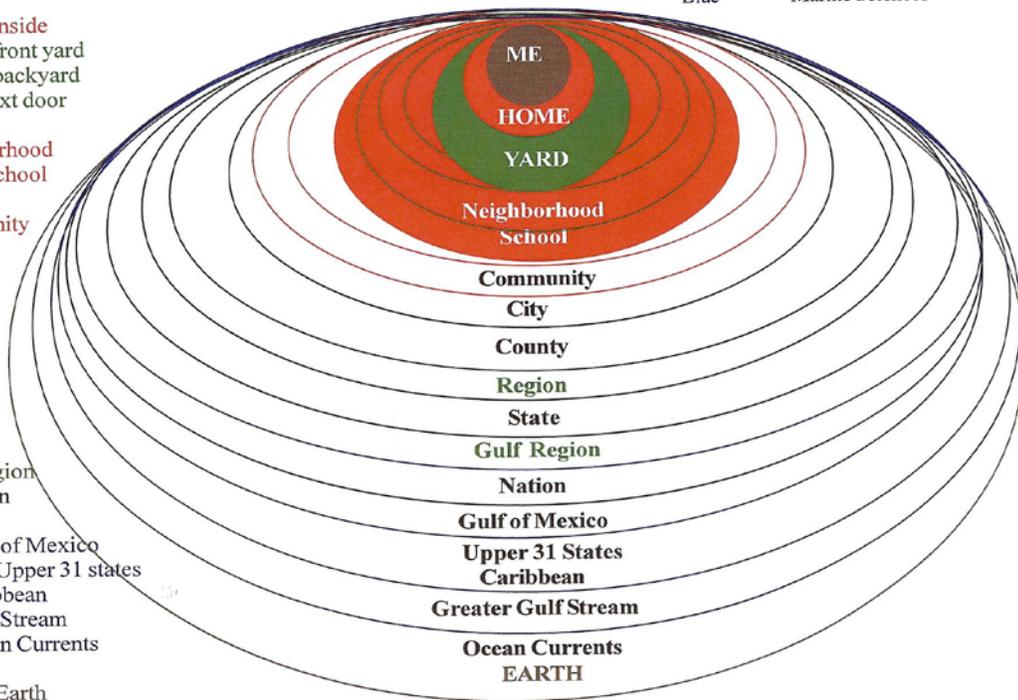
C. Five SSC faculty sponsors training seminar July 7-8, 2009 at Sinton Discovery Center

The figure below shows a spherical model for guiding an individual student to discover their ‘sense of place’ within a coastal environmental awareness framework. This was used in Flores’ Aquatics Science class and also used in a beginning of school year parent meeting with the SSC at Martin Middle School in Corpus Christi. The model has also been used as an activity for SSC students at the beginning of the school year.

It's ALL Connected!

Brown Psychology/Self-to-world
 Red Social Studies/History
 Green Environmental Sciences
 Black Civics/politics/culture
 Blue Marine Sciences

1. ME-my 4 walls
2. ME-home inside
3. ME-home front yard
ME-home backyard
4. ME-WE next door
5. ME-WE-neighborhood
6. ME-WE-school
7. MW-WE-community
8. ME-WE-City
9. ME-WE-County
10. ME-WE-Region
11. ME-WE-State
12. ME-WE-Gulf region
13. WE-Nation
14. WE-Gulf of Mexico
15. ME-WE-Upper 31 states
16. WE-Caribbean
17. WE-Gulf Stream
18. WE-Ocean Currents
18. ME-WE-Earth



D. 7 SSC faculty sponsors training seminar June 9-10, 2010 at Sinton Discovery Center. Faculty began the process of developing a SSCN manual for current and future faculty sponsors. Faculty sponsors from Van Vleck, Sinton, Corpus Christi, Ingleside, Aransas Pass and Rockport were trained on the use of distance-learning technology, reviewed the SSCN manual, helped to design the new SSCN t-shirt and banner, made a Conn Brown Harbor Cleanup display and selected November 6, 2010 as the date for the 6th Annual Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference to be held at the Aransas Pass Civic Center.



E. 2 SSC faculty sponsors from Corpus Christi Martin Middle School participated in the Welder Wildlife Gulf Watershed Training in Texas and Montana June 18-June 30, 2010. This is the second time in three years that the Gulf of Mexico Foundation has arranged for SSCN faculty to gain Gulf and Upper 33 watershed hands-on training. Dr. Selma Glasscock, Welder Wildlife director expressed that she would welcome a faculty pipeline for this summer training. Below, left, is Yolanda Aviles, faculty sponsor prepares to collect samples in one of the many streams that feed into the Missouri River watershed. Below, right, Billie Swacker, faculty sponsor observes Welder Wildlife Refuge graduate students collect water samples. Far below left and right, shows the contrast in ecology at the higher altitudes at the headwaters of the rivers that flow into the Gulf of Mexico.



Below, left, teachers in training are creating an activity from flora collected on the Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton, Texas. Below, right, teachers study the ecology of the Aransas River which runs through the Welder Wildlife Refuge and into Copano Bay and into the Gulf of Mexico. Far below, right and left, teachers boarded the KATY from the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas to do bay and Gulf hands-on activities.





3. Position Paper on how to connect the extracurricular with the curricular in coastal environmental education

Task 4 White Paper

School systems need Science Directors the equivalent of Athletic Directors. It sounds like a valid idea but it may never happen because many Science Directors are also coaches that may be forced to follow an “educational” system tradition that makes coaching duties the higher priority. After all, winning is everything, and in America, we love to compete, and win.

I do not believe anyone would argue that football on Friday night, and Saturday and Sunday afternoons are close to the essence of defining a winner, a NUMBER ONE. The entire process is driven by basic adrenalin and a massive support system from marching bands to cheerleaders to mandatory Pep Rallies to time out of classes to guaranteed buses to school boards to Band Boosters to Athletic Boosters.

Can you imagine if our society would take to a three-day series of research competitions to see what medical school or research lab had made the most progress in the search for cures for cancer, arthritis or some other priority problem? Perhaps we are satisfied to get our fix of that through watching serial television programs on Monday through Thursday nights that prepares the psyche for a three hour field-based experience at the stadium.

I am a coastal environmental educator who founded the Science & Spanish Club Network (SSCN) in 2000. The SSCN is a multicultural and ecosystem-based non-formal extracurricular coastal environmental education program with just over 20 sites in the network in 2010. The SSCN uses a three-phased framework that strives to improve a student’s sense of physical place in an estuarine environment, where the fresh water meets the salt water. A student must become aware of their shoreline, their watershed and the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Field based experiences are the basic ingredients in cultivating environmentally engaged middle schoolers. To see first-hand the emergence of stewardship that continues to build into the high school years and thereafter, has given me the courage and confidence to seek ways to sustain this program.

The strategy I have used in striving for organizational sustainability is to have assumed an attitude the equivalent to that of an Athletic Director because I am “competing” on behalf of science within an educational system that has yet to make science a high priority. I have to be competitive about student and faculty time and school resources and in smaller rural school districts, it is even more challenging to elbow one’s way into getting field trips scheduled. You have to be determined.

In the early years it was not always easy to schedule field trips. There were, and still are, too many hurdles to jump over. First, the reality of paying for a bus means dealing with the bus request process from the campus to the Bus Barn to school district business manager. Then there is the matter of weekend field trips vs. school day field trips. Weekday requires a substitute teacher and weekends bus drivers get paid extra. So that means addressing concerns from classroom teachers, principals, the bus barn and the daily bus pick-up and drop-off schedules and superintendent attitudes towards field trips.

I have found that field trip culture varies from school district to school district, principal to principal. Some schools have no field trips while others simply allow for one field trip for the entire year. In a survey conducted of 94 science classroom science teachers, one third of respondents make no field trips, another one third make one field trip and nearly a third make 2 to 3 field trips in a given school year. *A very small percentage of classroom teachers go on four or more field trips in a given school year.*

I am privileged to have a sample of this very small percentage of classroom teachers who go on four or more field trips a year. This sample is the pool of 28 teachers who are the faculty sponsors of Science & Spanish Clubs (SSCs) within the SSCN. They know the value of field-based experiences and every attempt is made to make the best of every field trip just like a coach who strives to make the best out of every home or away game.

In the survey of science classroom teachers, they were asked to offer up to three barriers to a student acquiring science knowledge. Out of 214 responses, 26% listed a student's degree of prior knowledge, 21% listed a general lack of student interest and 15% listed the student's level of vocabulary and language skills as the top three barriers. The behavioral barriers were mentioned by only 9 % of teachers but not as significantly as the academic and motivational barriers. Field-based experiences will give students hands-on knowledge they can build upon and it can take them somewhere they may never have been to before; in turn giving them something to talk about, as well as expanding their vocabulary at the same time. That is my interpretation and it is further supported by the 99% of classroom science teachers who say that, *yes, field trips make a difference in a student's science knowledge acquisition.*

If the K-12 education system continues to be inundated with study after study that proves that field-based experiences improve academic performance then they will be forced to adopt new strategies to integrate this "new" reality. Across America state education agencies and other organizations are busy preparing for the new stream of federal funding that support new legislation such as the "No Child Left Indoors Act," and the Connecting Children and Nature movement in the non-profit sector is gaining more and more attention. Simply said, states must have an acceptable plan in place to get in line for these new funding streams. Everyone seems to smell the money.

This is all good, but I am skeptical about giving the existing educational system the additional funding because a part of me screams, *"the educational system should have already been doing this and if you give them more money....it will go to sustain the educational system as it is."*

The SSCN is a grant-driven operation. As a coastal environmental educator in a coastal state, I have never applied to the state education agency for grants. I have applied to the state agencies who are directly involved with the science-based needs of managing coastal resources. The new nature-based funding streams would be better administered by those state agencies and other organizations that are destination points for science-based field trips. These include river authorities, zoos and aquariums, council of governments, county and municipal governments, NGOs, National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and Forests, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Bays & Estuaries Programs and others to implement public education and outreach programs that foster stewardship. The federal government needs to consider allocating a fair share of funding to these destination points to foster a steady stream of buses going on science-based field trips.

The SSCN sends their clubs to sites overseen by many of the aforementioned nature-based organizations. Many of these organizations have become working partners and that has allowed for introducing process-oriented and field-based activities from one site to the next. SSCs are strategically clustered around several federally defined critical habitat areas. This strategy gives students the opportunity to be exposed to and participate in a variety of partnership activities such as shoreline cleanups, marsh plantings, trash parades, endangered species protection efforts, and numerous public outreach events.

The classroom science teacher survey indicated that 84% of teachers said that money was the most significant barrier to scheduling science-based field trips. If new federal dollars are allocated to the state educational agencies, these agencies are going to have to reevaluate how current inventories of buses are scheduled and resist the temptation to use the science-based field trip funds for other purposes. There may even be a need for the existing education system to buy more buses just for educational field-based curriculum. *Can you imagine what the Band Boosters and Athletic Boosters*

would think if they knew there would be additional buses, but not available for their uses?! That additional buses would be designated to support science education!?

So to prepare for the battle for buses ahead, it is time to introduce Science Boosters into those schools who need or want one. It is time to make Science Boosters an additional thread in the social and educational fabric of the American educational system.

If money is the rationale used to justify such an entrenched support system for Athletic Departments in higher education, then Science Departments can boast about the millions of grant dollars that support research. But I am not talking about changes in higher education. I am talking about changes in the K-12 educational system.

It is obvious that football can generate the dollars to justify its top ranking in our school hierarchy. Athletic Boosters will proudly tell you that the football program helps to pay for other sports, including Title IX sports for girls. At the same time, Athletic Boosters are notorious for doing whatever is necessary to provide financial support for building a winning sports program and every so often, an overzealous supporter gets caught in illegal behavior. One can only imagine what an overzealous Science Booster would do to support the high school robotics team or water quality monitoring team.

So let us explore the money issue within the context of establishing Science Boosters at middle schools and high schools. Local watersheds and ecosystems as well as the need to sustain them, is also an economic generator. Going on watershed field trips with students visiting sites upstream and downstream is like playing the longstanding school rivals. If you look at the way competitive sports in the public school system organizes itself, you will find many districts are organized within shared ecosystems and watersheds. It is how “natural” rivalries are shaped. Playing and beating the town down the road is also the town up or down the river. Friday night rivalries are well intentioned but in a down economy, these rivalries are also very costly to taxpayers who would benefit from a series of school district consolidations. But the economic efficiencies of consolidations are not the focus of this white paper and will be left for another time. I am in search of economic efficiencies for establishing Science Boosters to support campus science departments.

Science education approaches need major overhaul that include the obvious, more field-based experiences to support the theoretical nature of science. It is no different than a coach on the playing field as coaches prepare their student-athletes for competition that ultimately is measured by a winning score. The end result is always about winning and sportsmanship.

Field-based is not only a physical movement from point A to point B. It can also be a web-based virtual experience to sites never explored. It can also be the visual observation of the micro world under the latest designed microscope or the universal travel to the macro world through the eyes of telescopes and satellites, equipment that most school science departments do not have. If Science Booster were in place more schools would have access to more equipment, equipment needed to better understand science.

If as many people who support a Friday night football game supported a watershed monitoring project or wetland restoration marsh planting it would be called community-based participation. This community-based support for sustainability of natural resources is the goal of many federal, state and local government agencies charged with regulatory responsibilities. It is also the goal of many non-profit organizations whose missions, goals and objectives are compatible to a sustainable planet. Community-based means the people who live in a given watershed and having people live up to the daily responsibilities of a sustainable planet would go a long way in economic and ecological efficiencies. Community-based means the students and their families, families and their neighbors, neighbors and their neighborhoods and their neighborhoods and communities.

Now more than ever, the stage is set for rejuvenation of science and with that the establishment of Science Booster Clubs at our middle schools and high schools. Environmental awareness is up, the understanding of the need for equilibrium between the economy and the ecology is growing. It is within this constant search for equilibrium that proper funding streams can be found to support the need for more field-based experiences to support science education. The following quote offers a clue worth investigating.

"The most powerful argument of all for saving open space is economics; in most states, tourism is the number two industry. And nature tourism is right up near the top. Preserving a river or a creek can bring a lot of revenue." –Jim Fowler from an interview about Four Mile Run

If sportsmanship is the “real” goal of competitive sports, then there would be more of willingness for school boards, Athletic Booster Clubs and Band Boosters to share the buses and to share the substitute teachers for during school and afterschool events. But that will never happen as the attitudes and priorities are entrenched. Only bold determination will make Science Booster Clubs happen.

I am inspired to pursue boldness and determination because 76% of science classroom teachers surveyed said they would support the establishment of a Science Booster Club on their campus. About 20% said they were not sure and 4% responded no. I know that Science Boosters are needed. I know that science classroom teachers need outside the classroom support. I know this will happen.

Current Coastal Issues Addressed in Task 4

- A. Whooping Crane food bank August 2009 with Port Lavaca SSC launching a school-wide campaign to raise funds for the drought stricken flock at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.
- B. The prioritization of marine debris on Matagorda Island by Dan Alonso, Refuge Manager in September 2009. By October 26, 2009 four SSCs from Aransas Pass, Corpus Christi and Sinton were able to mobilize a workforce to assist the ANWR in conducting the first public shoreline cleanup of Matagorda Island with 8 tons of trash picked up by 92 volunteers over a 5 hour period. The event was a resounding success and students said, “We have to go back because we are not done yet.” The activity was repeated on April 24, 2010 with 84 volunteers and 5 tons of marine debris picked up in a four hour time frame. Students from Sinton raised over \$1200 by conducting a penny a pound fundraising campaign on their campus and in their community.

Discussions and web-based searches were held in SSC Faculty Sponsor, Robert Torres’ classroom about the cleanups and the importance of habitat conservation for endangered species in between cleanup events. In addition, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation are collaborating on the following scenario as copied and pasted from a June 30, 2010 email from the project coordinator to Dan Alonso, Manager, ANWR:

Please let me know if you would be interested in a poster board or presentation at this International Marine Debris Conference to be held in Honolulu in November, 2010. The deadline is July 30. I would like to collaborate between Gulf of Mexico Foundation and ANWR on how we are moving forward on the Matagorda Island Cleanups. Some of the elements would be:

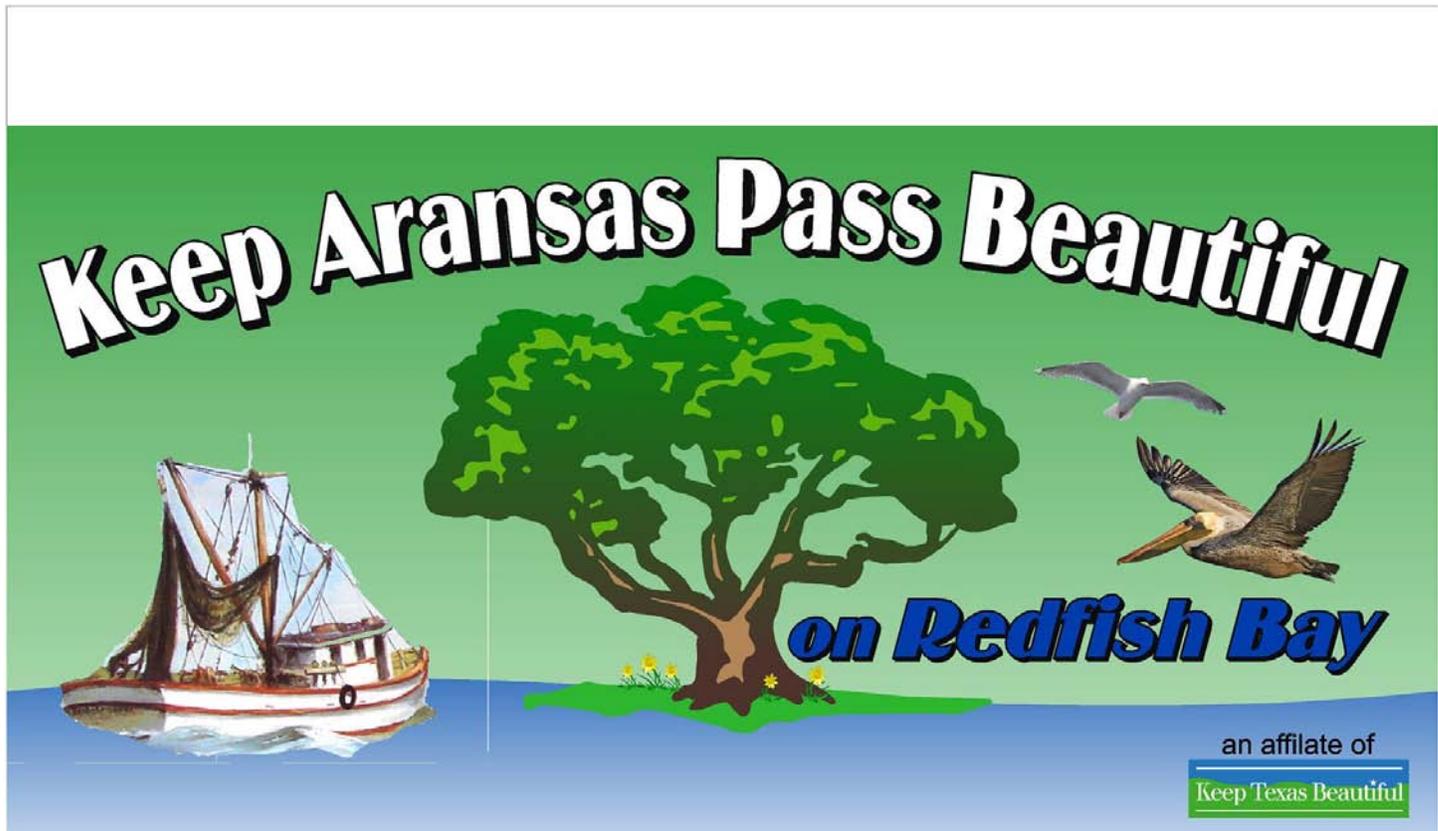
- 1) USFWS inter-governmental partnership with US Coast Guard and TCEQ to conduct hazmat identification and cleanup*
- 2) Formation of the SSCN public participation in conducting medium to small marine debris cleanup after hazmat cleanup.*
- 3) Recruitment of inkind participation from the Barge Canal Association for future debris removal from MI*
- 4) The introduction of the idea for NOAA to consider grant set asides for MEGA-Coastal Cleanups, which means shoreline cleanups of large magnitude like we are proposing to cleanup the entire 38 mile stretch of MI and the Billy Sandifer Cleanup of Big Shell Little Shell.*

C. The evolution of an integrated approach to addressing an identified current coastal issue(s): The Re-establishment of the Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful Chapter July 2009-June 30, 2010

Sometime in July	Rosemary Vega, executive director of the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce, asks Richard Gonzales to become the liaison to the community at large for the purpose of reestablishing the Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful chapter that had been dormant for five years. She shares the KTB website with community grant winners and their successful landscaping projects, suggesting that Newbury Park is a good starting point for projects. He told her that he would accept the assignment if the aquatic side (Redfish Bay) of Aransas Pass could be included in the revitalization of the chapter.
July 27	Richard Gonzales makes first contact with Hester Bloom, South Texas Regional contact for Keep Texas Beautiful for organizational information for reviving the Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful chapter.
August 25	<p>School year starts and the AC Blunt Middle School Science & Spanish Club restarts it's on campus recycling campaign. Students meet every Wednesday and go class to class picking up recycling boxes (they decorated the previous school year) from participating classrooms. Through the course of the 2009-10 school year they will have collected 1500 pounds of recyclable paper.</p> <p>Richard Gonzales begins a dialogue with Mr. Cornelius, Regional Manager for Allied Waste in Corpus Christi about supporting this school initiative and to discuss the broader community-wide recycling challenges in Aransas Pass and other communities in the Redfish Bay bayshed.</p>
August 29, 2009	Paul Summers approaches Richard Gonzales at the first Farmers Market about his interest in the revival of Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful. We agreed to begin meeting in the near future. Ironically, future charter members of KAPB, Janet white and Juanita Davidson are also at the same Farmers Market representing another organization.
Sept 21	The KAPB chapter's first meeting was held at the Aransas Pass Chamber community room. It was agreed upon to meet every two weeks to get the core group organized before announcements to general public to attend meetings.
Sept 26	First KAPB activity was Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park and Aquatics Center. KAPB members Juanita and CW Davidson attending, as well as the public and Science & Spanish Clubs from Sinton, Aransas Pass and Ingleside. Over 104 volunteers picked up 3,500 pounds at Lighthouse Lakes and Aquatics.
Sept 29	Dan Alonso, program manager from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge approaches Richard Gonzales about a public cleanup on Matagorda Island. He was in need of support due to arranging for the US Coast Guard and TCEQ to conduct a hazardous material cleanup first and then to have public volunteers pick up small to medium debris. This was valued at \$40,000 each for two cleanups to be conducted before Whooping Cranes arrived (October) and Whooping Cranes depart (April).
October 5	2 nd KAPB meeting. Richard announces plan for possible public cleanup at Matagorda Island to coincide with National Refuge Day also on October 17. The effort to support the ANWR with public cleanup participation begins to shape up with the integration of using the SSCN's TGLO grant cycle 13 funds for a task called "Current Coastal Issues" which allows for covering the cost of transporting public volunteers to Matagorda Island from Fulton Harbor on the Skimmer.
October 6	Aransas Pass High School and AC Blunt Middle School SSCs agree to participate in public cleanup at MI
October 7	Sinton SSC agrees to participate in the public cleanup at MI

- October 9 Corpus Christi SSC agrees to participate in the public cleanup at MI. The same Science & Spanish Clubs that conducted the Lighthouse Lakes and Aquatics Center cleanup on Sept 26 are on board for the first public cleanup at MI.
- October 16 Richard Gonzales submits the TGLO Coastal Management Program Cycle 15 grant that includes funding for four more Matagorda Island Cleanups from October 2010 to April 2012. A project that will be promoted throughout Texas and all areas that are a part of the Whooping Crane's migratory path...from Canada to Kansas to Aransas.
- October 17 The KAPB chapter's second activity was the Matagorda Island Cleanup on October 17, 2009. The participants were the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge staff (8) and 84 students, faculty and parents from the Science & Spanish Clubs from Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass and Sinton. They picked up **8 tons of trash** in a five hour period for a total of 460 hours. If you include the travel time of buses and boat transport to and from the number is 9 hours for 84 students and 7 hours for the ANWR staff for a total of 756 hours plus 56 hours = **812 volunteer hours**. Supplies (bags, gloves, grabbers) were obtained through Keep Texas Beautiful through the KAPB membership benefits. Discretionary funds from the City of Aransas Pass used to cover costs of water, food and supplies for Lighthouse Lakes cleanups (annual contributions are made to the SSCN from the City of Aransas Pass for cleanup events (February, April and September). Students boldly state that they want to come back and finish the task of cleaning up the shoreline.....a task they learned while conducting the Lighthouse Lakes cleanups in Aransas Pass.
- October 19 KAPB conducts its 3rd meeting. An announcement is made about the results of the Matagorda Island Cleanup. Richard has conducted this activity based upon assuming a leadership role with the capacity to have helped the federal government using state and local government resources for a common good.
- October 20 Richard Gonzales sends media release from Gulf of Mexico Foundation to Aransas Pass Progress and San Patricio News about the cleanup event. The results of the cleanup offer benchmark data for future cleanups and for the ANWR to pursue other grants. It is now known how many public volunteers and how many hours of time it will take to cleanup up the entire island.
- October 22 The Sinton Science & Spanish Club indicated they want to raise funds for the next cleanup and come up with the idea for a penny a pound pledge campaign for their school and community. They eventually raise \$1200 by April 24, 2010, the date of the second cleanup.
- December 11, 2009 The Science & Spanish Clubs from Aransas Pass and Ingleside participate in the Holiday Parade along Wheeler Avenue marching with 15 birds, fish and marine animals made of wood to be placed at the Community Christmas Tree as a "Saltwater Manger" marketing strategy to raise public awareness of Redfish Bay, Whooping Cranes and other endangered species in the Aransas Pass ecosystem. The wood cuts complimented the JUMBO SHRIMP that was also on display during the holiday season. The wood cut figures were also part of a grant SSCN driven task for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The animals are still on display around the "Welcome to Aransas Pass" sign on July 12, 2010 per the permission of the City of Aransas Pass City Manager.
- February 12, 2010 Richard Gonzales finds out that Keep Port Aransas Beautiful facilitates the Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups at San Jose Island, thus, giving assurance that KAPB did the right thing by facilitating the Matagorda Island Cleanup. He found out from Mike Secich, co-chair of the KPAB, during the **13th Annual Whooping Crane Festival, a joint annual event KPAB and Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce event**. (I need to inquire why Port Aransas with NO whooping cranes, hosts this very successful event).
- March 5 The SSCN establishes 'World Seagrass Day' at the first Seagrass Festival of Knowledge at the Aransas Pass Civic Center with 360 5th and 6th graders from Charlie Marshall Elementary School.

- March 6 The SSCN conducts the 5th Annual Redfish Bay Seagrass & Trash Parade and Coastal Cleanup with 150 students and faculty participating. Fifty volunteers cleaned up at the Lighthouse Lakes and Aquatics Center. The Trash Parade was moved from Aransas Pass to become a 'parade within a parade' at the Fulton OysterFest Parade.
- April 24 The 2nd Matagorda Island Cleanup was conducted in conjunction with the Spring Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park. 80 volunteers and 5 tons of trash picked up in a four hour period, including travel by buses and boat that is 8 hours for a total of 640 hours. Supplies and materials were sent from KTB for this event.
- June 11-13, The SSCN organizes the Redfish Bay Seagrass Tent at the 62nd Annual Shrimporee and collaborates with the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce in supporting the Kidz Korner activities. Over 4,000 pieces of coastal environmental education were passed out to the public. A survey on waterfront development was conducted with 194 responses. A survey result press release was sent to the City of Aransas Pass, the Aransas Pass Progress and the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce. SSCN faculty sponsors made a display on the five year history of the Cleaning Up of Conn Brown Harbor. The display was made from a powerpoint presentation made by Bill Haines of the City of Aransas Pass. The KAPB had a resting spot within the Redfish Bay Tent and some of the SSCN students from Aransas Pass, Corpus Christi, Ingleside and Sinton helped to pick up trash on the grounds. The KAPB members were instrumental in introducing an on-site recycling program and introducing the idea of a "Trash-Free" event. There were 70 SSC student volunteers assisting throughout the weekend.
- June 30, 2010 Richard Gonzales sent the following email to Dan Alonso at the ANWR who agreed that the story of the priority of marine debris on Matagorda Island is one to be shared at the International Marine Debris Conference.



- D. Texas Seagrass Working Group appealed for a strategy to increase public awareness of the importance of seagrass in coastal ecosystems in December 2009. Since the SSCN has been conducting Redfish Bay State Seagrass Scientific Study Area activities for four years prior to this appeal, the SSCN project coordinator told this adult group they take up the challenge. By March 5, 2010, the SSCN established the first “Seagrass Festival of Knowledge” and had a North American launching of “World Seagrass Day” to be the first Friday in March. The Seagrass Festival of Knowledge was a mix of Tasks 2,3,4. Two elementary principals from Rockport and Aransas Pass were contacted in mid-February 2010 with a sales pitch that it was crucial for those living closest to seagrass meadows to gain better understanding of the importance of seagrasses and to then become the best advocates of seagrass stewardship. Both principals agreed to this reasoning and agreed to participate in the inaugural event. Aransas Pass Charlie Marshall Elementary School was the only school to attend with 360 5th and 6th grade students and teachers. Although the Seagrass-Coastal Expo event was months in planning
- E. Recycling in Aransas Pass and Port Isabel communities emerged as a current coastal issue in the Fall of 2009. Aransas Pass Middle School had implemented an on-campus classroom recycling project at the beginning of the school year and Port Isabel had plans to open a Citizens Collection Center on November 14, 2009. Below left, an attendee at the November 1, 2009 World Shrimp Cook-off signs a pledge to recycle petition collected by SSC students. The other photos below show the Grand Opening of the City of Port Isabel’s Citizens Collection Center on November 14, 2009. Several Winter Texans also signed the pledge to recycle and became the spark for the evolution of developing a speakers’ bureau and creating the Upper 33 Club that came to fruition in February of 2010.

All school campuses in Port Isabel have recycling programs in place. The idea of a speakers’ bureau, comprised of Winter Texans who come from northern communities that have been recycling for 20 to 30 years, was planted for the future. These recycling Winter Texans will be invited into the classrooms in Port Isabel school to give local students insight as to how to conduct a recycling household.



- F. AC Blunt Middle School in Aransas Pass conducting their weekly pickup of on-campus recycling boxes they had made the previous school year. By end of school year 2009-10, students collected over 1500 pounds of recyclable paper. This recycling effort was shared with the City of Aransas Pass City Manager, Reggie Winters to encourage community-wide recycling. See photos below.



- G. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill occurred on April 20, 2010 and by May 5 the project coordinator was sending daily updates to all SSCN faculty sponsors and working partner organizations. These updates were driven by information from various sources, but primarily centralized and reliable information from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's Environmental Education Network staff. SSCN faculty sponsors were asked to share any student reaction to the constant update information. One teacher responded and said the updates were very useful in generating science-based discussion about the oil spill. Oil spill response updates continued to be sent through June 30, 2010. SSCN faculty sponsors will continue to receive updates throughout the summer. The Sinton SSC faculty sponsor is using Summer School science classes to research the oil spill impact on various elements such as sea turtles, birds, fish, wetlands and people. This research will be used to make an Oil Spill documentary and will be featured at a CMP 15 Task, that is, the 6th Annual Gulf of Mexico Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference on November 6, 2010.

Task 5: Redfish Bay Ecotourism and Waterfront Development Survey of Visitors and Redfish Bay Causeway Signage

The City of Aransas Pass and Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce have given approval for reviving the Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful Chapter. A new working partnership is under construction with the Nueces County Parks and Recreation Department to consider collaboration in Redfish Bay Causeway shoreline maintenance, debris management, signage and recreational activities with the SSCN. There is consideration of creating an Adopt-A-Coastal Park program whereby the Aransas Pass, Sinton, and Ingleside SSCs would adopt the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park and Conn Brown Harbor for ongoing service-learning projects.

Windfall activities for this task included the establishment of the Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful Chapter on September 21, 2009. The KAPB has held every other week meetings through June 28, 2010. The KAPB working partnership allowed for further state-level collaboration with Keep Texas Beautiful which allowed for in-kind supplies to be used for the marine debris current coastal issue in Task 4. The KAPB group chose the Seaman's Memorial Tower located in Conn Brown Harbor to be their first beautification project which was completed from February to June 2010. Over \$10,000 in cash and in-kind services were raised to complete this project. This is significant as the Tower is the symbol of the maritime heritage to the City of Aransas Pass, which is 50 square miles, of which 40 square miles are in Redfish Bay.

The connection between beautification and cleanups was highlighted with a photo exhibit of the chronology of the cleaning up of Conn Brown Harbor at the Annual Aransas Pass Shrimporee. The exhibit was prepared by the SSCN faculty sponsors during a Task 4 training session.



In order for SSC students to gain an appreciation for Live Oak Peninsula and the bay system around it, SSCs made several service learning and observational field trips to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to Rockport to Aransas Pass to Ingleside and to Port Aransas. The objective was to generate a broader view of the types of existing shorelines and potential development in the area. The GMF's SSCN students from Aransas Pass High School and AC Blunt Middle School helped officials at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to celebrate the refuge's 71st birthday by presenting a birthday cake to refuge staff during a science field trip on December 15, 2008. About 22 students climbed the refuge observation tower while braving the cold to search for endangered Whooping Cranes who winter at the Refuge. In addition, students cleared a picnic area of large and small limbs under the guidance of Tonya Stinson, ANWR environmental educator. On the way back, the students toured the new Rockport Aquarium, Cove Harbor, Conn Brown Harbor and other waterfront developments along Redfish Bay. The clubs will make the birthday cake presentation an annual event to help raise public awareness about the refuge and its migratory birds. The ANWR birthday cake was also celebrated on December 31, 2009 at the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce. The SSCN also helped to restore a hiking trail that had been beaten down by roaming alligators.



For their efforts in helping to raise consciousness about the body of water near their home town called Redfish Bay, Aransas Pass SSCN students attracted the attention of Dr. Larry McKinney, former director of Texas Parks & Wildlife. After meeting the students “Everything Kayak” Expo in Aransas Pass in October, McKinney arranged for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation to make a \$5,000 contribution to the GMF for projects that the SSCN is doing in the Redfish Bay State Scientific Study Area. To help educate the public about Redfish Bay, the SSCN operated a Sea Grass Dice Game and Redfish Bay Outreach booth at the October kayaking event. Club members also participate in clean-ups of the area and were instrumental in designating State Highway 361 as "Redfish Bay Causeway," a well-traveled road for kayakers, fishermen, birder watchers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts.



Dr. Larry McKinney, yellow shirt poses with SSC students at the Redfish Bay Kayak Expo in Aransas Pass, October 25, 2008.

SSCs from Aransas Pass, Ingleside, Corpus Christi and Sinton, the Redfish Bay bayshed team, conducted Adopt-A-Beach Cleanups at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park on February 21 and September 26, 2009 and March 6, 2010 as a mix of Task 5 (to gain better understanding of ecotourism activities) and Task 2 (Limpionato Parades).

Limitations:

-The City of Aransas Pass has not been able to locate the original Redfish Bay Causeway name change resolution inspite of several inquiries from the SSCN project coordinator. The resolution is what Texas Department of Transportation needs to proceed with making official state highway signs.

Match:

Third Party from the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, giveaways (\$ 4,228.50)

Deliverables:

1. Survey Instrument design

The 2010 survey was derived from waterfront development concerns from the City of Aransas Pass' City Manager, Reggie Winters. The following survey was drafted and used to survey attendees at the 62nd Annual Shrimporee in Aransas Pass.

Redfish Bay Waterfront Survey at 2010 Shrimporee

What City are you from? _____

1. Would you like to see Conn Brown Harbor developed for the ;
 - a. Marine Industry
 - b. Tourist Industry
 - c. Both
 - d. Other (Please explain) _____

2. Would you like to have more restaurants at the harbor?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. Would you like to have a fitness area at the harbor with a walking trail and exercise stations?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

4. Would you like to have a family area at the harbor with a playground for children?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

2. Conduct Survey & Data Analysis and report/media release of final report

The above survey was conducted by students using a mall-intercept method and at a table in the Redfish Bay Seagrass Tent at the 62nd Annual Shrimporee June 11-13, 2010. There were 194 responses. See attached Excel file for data spreadsheet.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 30, 2010

CONTACT: Richard Gonzales, 361-779-7351

Redfish Bay/Conn Brown Harbor Waterfront Development Survey Results Reflect High Interest in More Physical Activities

The Gulf of Mexico Foundation's Science & Spanish Club Network (SSCN) conducted a Conn Brown Harbor Waterfront Development Survey during the 62nd Annual Aransas Pass Shrimporee on June 11-13, 2010. There were 194 responses to the survey carried out by Science & Spanish Club students from Sinton, Aransas Pass, Ingleside and Corpus Christi. The SSCN has been performing surveys for the past five years as part of their Redfish Bay State Scientific Seagrass Study Area public outreach and education initiative.

"We already know from previous surveys that the people who come to Shrimporee are outdoor recreationists with about 25% owning boats who enjoy repeated trips to Aransas Pass and Redfish Bay," said Richard Gonzales, project coordinator for the SSCN, a multicultural and ecosystem-based approach to coastal environmental education program established in 2000. "We also know that they come to Shrimporee to enjoy the live music first, then the food, entertainment, arts & crafts and carnival in order of preference. Locals like the mix of Shrimporee and getting together with family and friends which accounts for loyal year to year attendance from folks in Aransas, Ingleside, Portland and Rockport," he added.

"In addition, five years of data have been extraordinarily consistent in where Shrimporee attendees come from, said Gonzales. "About one third of attendees come from Corpus Christi, one third from San Patricio County communities, about 10-15% come from the San Antonio area, and about 7% are from Rockport. Of non-local respondents, defined as persons residing more than 50 miles away, more people come from the north than from the south," he explained.

This year's survey included questions about what type of outdoor activities the public would like to have at Conn Brown Harbor. The City of Aransas Pass has taken great strides to cleanup up Conn Brown Harbor and to obtain city ownership of the harbor land from the Texas General Land Office over the past five years. The City is now looking at developing the Harbor and has been courted by developers. Development preferences have ranged from commercial to residential to industrial to mixed-use plans.

The survey first established the city of residence. The next question asked people if they wanted to see Conn Brown Harbor developed for tourism, marine industry, both or other. About 63% of respondents said they wanted to see the harbor area developed for both tourism and marine industry suggesting a mixed use development plan. Only 13% primarily local residents wanted to see it developed exclusively for the marine industry. Non-local respondents comprised the bulk of the 20% block expressing preference for exclusive tourism development.

Respondents answered an overwhelming 88-91% in favor of more restaurants, a fitness area, a family area and more public access for fishing. The response rates were about the same for local residents and out of area visitors for these types of improvements.

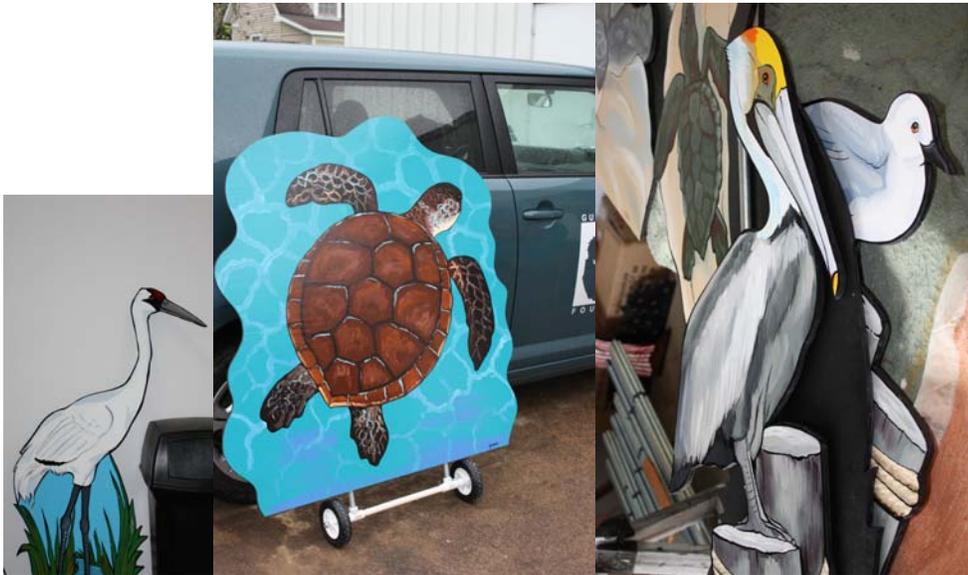
The SSCN also created a five year chronological photo display from former City Harbormaster Bill Haines' Conn Brown Harbor Cleanup PowerPoint presentation that he has used over the past two years to show and tell the successful story.

The Conn Brown Harbor survey and display were a part of a Texas General Land Office Coastal Management Program Cycle 13 Grant.

3. Signage for Redfish Bay Causeway with ceremony during Winter Beach Cleanup.

Due to the facts that the City of Aransas Pass was unable to provide a copy of the original Redfish Bay Causeway resolution and that TXDOT indicated a whole new set of procedures for landscape signage, there was no official ceremony held to highlight a "Welcome to Redfish Bay" sign. So the following series of banners and other promotional images were created to assist in raising public awareness of the importance of the Redfish Bay ecosystem.

A. Endangered species of Redfish Bay ecosystem woodcuts created for use at parades and Coastal Expos.



B. Several banners were made for use in a variety of settings.



Task 6: *Distance Learning as a Tool for Connecting Texas Gulf to Gulf, Gulf to Caribbean and Gulf to Upper 31.*

The project coordinator attended the Texas Distance Learning State Convention April 4-6, 2009 in Corpus Christi. This experience provided immeasurable new opportunities for exploring different styles in distance learning technology in carrying-out the accomplishment of Task 6 deliverables.

Match:

Local Match derived from a BP America sponsorship	(\$18,504.93)
Third Party match Aransas Pass Civic Center	(\$ 4,560.00)
Third Party from student volunteer time to attend Leadership Conference	(\$18,125.75)
Third party from student volunteer time to attend World Seagrass Festival of Knowledge	(\$ 8,787.00)
Third Party match Aransas Pass Civic Center	(\$ 955.00)

Limitations:

Accelerated efforts to convince school district administrators to approve the use of long-distance learning technology for educational purposes usually falls on deaf ears.

Deliverables

1. Develop a Mangroves of the Gulf and Caribbean Guide for website
-Bilingual mangrove guide developed by Jobos Bay Puerto Rico NERR and placed on GMF web site. Efforts will be made to expand the amount of bilingual coastal stewardship information such as seagrasses, artificial reefs, and marine debris. The first of four parts of the guide was created by the Jobos Bay NERR (*Bahia de Jobos*), which is under Puerto Rico's *Departamento de Recursos Naturales & Ambientales*.



- ▶ [MANGROVE GENERAL INFORMATION \(PDF 1MB\)](#)
- ▶ [WHAT DOES A MANGROVE NEED TO GROW? \(PDF 1MB\)](#)

2. Conduct distance learning interactive meetings for Texas SSCs 4mtgs/month
 - A. Video Conferencing events with Edna, Tidehaven, Port Lavaca, Matamoros, Sinton SSCs in collaboration with Texas State Aquarium were held on November 10, 18, 24 and 25, 2008. However, it became very cumbersome to organize ongoing video-conferencing events due to the layers of bureaucracy. In order to organize video-conferencing in school districts, one has to gain the cooperation of an on-campus or in-district IT staffer, then coordinate with the ESC Region IT staffer, and then coordinate with the Texas State Aquarium IT person. A decision was made to pursue web-based distance learning activities.



B. Established oovoo.com web-based communication with SSCs and working partners. A Web cam was purchased and placed at the project coordinators desk at the Gulf of Mexico Foundation office to commence distance communication with SSCs and working partners. Limitations of the use of web cams include a high resistance from school administrators (the students and faculty want to use it) and federal government policy that prohibits web cam use by federal workers, especially within USFWS and National Wildlife Refuges. Oovoo partners include: Sinton ISD Discovery Center, Colegio Juvenal Rendon de Matamoros in Mexico, Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, Sarasota Bay National Estuaries Program and Jobos Bay NERR in Puerto Rico.

C. Distance technology used for Annual Youth Conference November 21, 2009 attended by 200 students and faculty sponsors with a theme of “The Only Barriers Along the Texas Coastline are Islands.” The conference agenda Below, left, six year SSCN student, Adrian Young reads the World Seagrass Proclamation as three windows of oovoo logons listen. Below, right, Sinton ISD Discovery Center director, Robin Mounts uses oovoo.com to demonstrate web searches about endangered species during a breakout session at the 5th Annual Gulf of Mexico Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference.



D. Upper 33 Club for Winter Texans created to foster distance learning between them and SSCN coastal communities. Below, students from Los Fresnos and Port Isabel, Texas, hold up state flags of Kansas, Wisconsin, Maryland, Kentucky and Georgia as they prepare to march with the Upper 33 Club banner, representing the greater Gulf of Mexico ecosystem at the 4th Annual Bahia Grande Limpianato Parade and Coastal Cleanup held in South Texas on April 17, 2010.



E. A long-distance learning activity was conducted on September 5, with Colegio Juvenal Rendon de Matamoros and the Jobs Bay NERR, community educator, Sandra Lebron. The presentation was a bilingual power point on mangroves and seagrasses of the Caribbean. This became the basis for developing the Mangrove web page for this Task. The session was also video-taped by the Gulf of Mexico Program as evidence of the ten years of SSCN programming between the Gulf of Mexico Foundation in the US and Colegio Juvenal Rendon in Mexico who jointly won first place in the Binational category at the 2009 Gulf Guardian Awards in Biloxi on October 29, 2009. The video is available on the Gulf of Mexico Foundation website (www.gulfmex.org).



F. Texas Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of Guinea

Due to the Horizon Oil Spill, the public and the media are much more aware of the dynamics of the currents of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. This includes the North Loop, eddies, the Gulf Stream and now the cross Atlantic currents that connect continents. The SSCN project coordinator made a coastal environmental education presentation to a governmental delegation from Equatorial Guinea. This presentation was made because Marathon Oil is looking to establish the first artificial reef project in the Gulf of Guinea. The photo below uses the SSCN theme of "It's All Connected" to show how the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Guinea are connected by natural forces of Saharan dust and tropical depressions that are sparked by Equatorial Guinea's 300 plus inches of rain and consistently high humidity...that eventually become hurricanes. Now we are also connected by distance learning technology. The SSCN expects to add a school in Equatorial Guinea to connect

with Texas schools, particularly in Cameron County (Texas Clipper artificial reef) and Matagorda County (new artificial reef 9 miles offshore in shallow waters). Distance learning technology will be used to implement this connection.



3. Conduct the annual Gulf of Mexico Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference and Texas student participation in Caribbean Youth Summit
 - A. 5th Annual Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference held on November 21, 2009, rescheduled from May 2, 2009 due to Swine Flu caused cancellation. Over 200 students attending from Corpus Christi, Sinton, Aransas Pass, Los Fresnos, Ingleside, Matamoros, and Rockport. Distance technology was introduced as a learning tool within the conference agenda (attached below).

The highlights of the distance learning was a virtual tour of the Rio Grande/Pecos River ecosystem, following the two Whooping Crane migration paths (Canada to Texas, Wisconsin to Florida), and an update on seagrass restoration in Sarasota Bay, Florida. BP America gave \$20,000 to the Gulf of Mexico Foundation as a matching grant to the CMP Cycle 13 grant.



Above left, Matamoros and Aransas Pass SSC students get together the night before the Annual Conference. Above right, San Patricio County Judge Jim Simpson welcomes conference attendees. Below left, Ron Outen of the Aransas First Project discusses fresh-water inflows and its importance to coastal habitats during one of seven breakout sessions. Below right, former Texas State Representative, teacher and current Port of Corpus Christi Commissioner, Judy Hawley discusses the importance of education and environmental stewardship during the lunch.



5th Annual Gulf of Mexico Youth Leadership in Stewardship Conference

“The Only Barriers Along the Texas Coastline are Islands: Connecting the Gulf of Mexico with the Caribbean and Upper 31 States”

Saturday, November 21, 2009 @ Aransas Pass Civic Center

Sponsored by: Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Texas General Land Office, Coastal Management Program, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and BP America

8:30-9:05 am	Registration and breakfast	(taquitos, juice bar, water, coffee, fruit) Goodie Bags for conference participants!!!!
9:05-9:20 am	Introduction	Richard Gonzales, Gulf of Mexico Foundation Project Coordinator, Science & Spanish Club Network -Elaboration on CMP 13 Tasks, GOMA grant, CIAP grants Research, Investigate, Explore, Solve
	Welcome	Judge Terry Simpson, San Patricio County (361-364-
	Gulf Guardian Award 3 minute video	Science & Spanish Club Network & Colegio Juvenal Rendon 10 years of environmental education outreach
9:20 -9:50	Living & Working in the	Clarence Fenner, South Texas Nuclear Plant, Matagorda County

	Coastal Zone (10min video)	Workforce Development Director -Discussion on educational and occupational career tracks for private and public nuclear energy
9:50-10:00am	Navy Nuclear Program (audio call-in)	Lt. Kristel Ocanas, US Navy Nuclear Program representative (email: kristel.ocanas@navy.mil) 361-548-0574
10:00-10:10	Operation Migration (Call-in) weather permitting Web site Back-up interview:	-Live Cam Whooping Crane Migration Wisconsin to Florida Liz Condie, COO, Operation Migration (email: liz@operationmigration.org) 608-542-0829 Joe Duff at 10am. cell is 608-542-0827.
10:10-10:30	Rio Grande Headwaters <i>(rio grande video)</i> <i>(Google Map)</i>	-Power Point Rio Grande & Video of Guinness River and other Gulf watershed rivers in Colorado
	Gulf Guardian Award (DVD)	Minnesota Science Museum-Gulf of Mexico Exhibit
10:30-10:50	Rio Grande Watershed Midstream Virtual tour <i>(Call-in/powerpoint)</i> <i>Taos to El Paso</i>	Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, San Antonio, New Mexico http://www.fws.gov/Refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=22520 -Paul Tashjian, Hydrologist (505.248.7958) Home# 505-341-0692 (paul_tashjian@fws.gov)
	International Crane Festival www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/	Steve Alvarez cell:575-420-8258
10:50-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:20	Pecos River watershed <i>(Call-in/powerpoint-video)</i>	Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge-Pecos River tributary -Joe Saenz and Steve Alvarez 575.622.6755 (ext. 4019) Home #575-578-0668 cell 361-676-1405 RAMSAR status
11:20-11:40	Whooping Crane Greetings from Canada (video)	"Natural Ecosystems and Ecosystems Inspired by Whooping Cranes" Wood Buffalo National Park, Ft. Smith, Northwest territories, Canada Sharon Irwin, Parks Canada, Reserve Supervisor #867-872-7948
11:40-11:55	The Texas Gulf Coast (Call-In) ANWR web-site	Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Whooping Crane Habitat Update) -Tonya Nix, Environmental Educator (361-205-3949) 361-746-0386
11:55-12:00	Mississippi Watershed 3 minute video	Minnesota Museum of Science Gulf Guardian Award
12:00-12:20	Connecting the Gulf to the Caribbean (power point and oovoo video)	Mangroves and Seagrasses of Puerto Rico - Sandra Lebron, Jobos Bay, PR NERR Educator (787-562-7651) sanjleb@gmail.com
12:20-12:45	Buffet Lunch-	Live music by Hilda Lamas
12:45-1:05pm	Keynote Speaker	Judy Hawley, Commissioner, Port of Corpus Christi Former State Representative, former Classroom teacher

1:10-1:30pm	3 minute video	Gulf Guardian Award
	Nutrient Reduction & Water Quality www.sarasotabay.org	Restoring the Sarasota Bay Seagrasses -Sara Peatrowsky, Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program 941-955-8085/ cell 941-518-3421 sara@sarasotabay.org email
	(http://www.mote.org/)	Mote Marine Laboratory

5 minute break for intermingling, restroom and snacks-Students will rotate from room to room

1:35 pm-2:10pm	Breakout Sessions Redfish Room	A) Use of technology in tracking Endangered Species Operation Migration and Sea Turtle Tracking Robin Mounts, Sinton Discovery Center (needs lap top)
2:15 -2:50 pm	Breakout Sessions Blue Heron Room	B) Moody High School Innovative Academy Robotics Team (video) Demonstration of robots and why they are important Students: Aaron Suarez, Ashley Adame, Alex Campos, Faculty: Romeo Valdez
2:55-3:30 pm	Breakout Sessions Roseate Spoonbill Room	C) Genetic Improvements to Manatee Seagrass-Research Presentation Robert Fuentes, Del Mar College (lap top)
3:35- 4:10 pm	Breakout Sessions Dolphin Room	D) Shell Morphology of Bivalves in the Presence of Predators Phillip Torres, TAMU-CC (lap top)
4:15 pm-4:45	Breakout Sessions Lightening Welk Room	E) Fresh Water In-Flow: The Aransas Project -A Grassroots Approach to Regulatory Change for Whooping Crane habitat conservation The Aransas Project, Dr. Ronald Outen (lap top) ron@ronouten.com 240-418-3385
	Speckled Trout Room	F) "Water Quality and Aquaculture Production". Scott Walker, Texas Parks & Wildlife (lap top) Scott.Walker@tpwd.state.tx.us 361-939-7784 ext. 255
	Songbird Courtyard	G) Introduction to Kayaking Hector Rios, Certified Kayak Instructor www.coastalbendkayaking.com
4:45-4:55	Conference Review	Selected SSCN faculty sponsors-what we learned today and how we can build upon the conference experience
4:55-5:00	Closing Remarks	Richard Gonzales



Science & Spanish Club Network
5th Annual Gulf of Mexico Youth Leadership
In Stewardship Conference
Aransas Pass, Texas November 21, 2009

CMP 13 Media Coverage:

- **Website** (for current CMP 13 activity coverage go to)
www.gulfmex.org

city from	Conn Brown Harbor	More Restaurants	Fitness area	family area	public fishing	geography
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	other	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	n	n	league city
out of state	n	y	y	y	n	illinois
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	Y	Y	Y	Y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	n	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	marine	y	y	y	y	
Nueces County	both	n	y	y	y	bishop
ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	n	n	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	n	y	san benito
over 50 miles south	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	n	
portland	education	n	y	n	n	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	smithville
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
out of state	both	y	y	y	y	louisiana
corpus christi	both	n	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north						tyler
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
rockport	tourist	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	n	y	n	n	

ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	both	n	y	y	n	
	NONE	y	y	n	y	
corpus christi	both	y	n	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	smithville
corpus christi	both	n	y	y	y	
portland	both	y	y	y	y	
rockport	education	n	y	y	y	
aransas pass	tourist	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	both	y	y	y	y	
portland	education	n	y	n	n	
corpus christi	tourist	n	y	n	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	y	y	dallas
portland	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
Nueces County	tourist	y	y	y	y	robstown
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	n	y	n	dallas
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	y	n	y	y	
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	both	y	y		y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	n	n	
	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	n	y	y	n	
over 50 miles south	both	y	y	y	y	
portland	tourist	y	y	y	y	
portland	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	

over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	seagoville
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	n	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	houston
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	y	y	y	y	
port aransas	marine	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	NONE	n	n	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
San Patricio county	both	y	y	y	y	taft
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	n	y	y	bastrop
out of state	both	y	y	n	y	new york
san antonio	both	n	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	marine	y	n	n	n	houston
over 50 miles north	both	n	n	n	n	beeville
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	beeville
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi		y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	beeville
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	y	n	tyler
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	n	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	beeville
over 50 miles north	marine	n	y	y	y	beeville

corpus christi	marine	y	n	n	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	n	n	fort worth
over 50 miles north						
Nueces County	tourist	y	y	y	y	robstown
ingleside	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	n	y	y	bastrop
san antonio	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	y	y	beeville
over 50 miles south	both	y	y	y	y	kingsville
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	n	y	y	dallas
corpus christi	marine	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	tourist	n	y	y	y	galveston
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	houston
san antonio	both	y	y	y	n	
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	y	y	hempsted
rockport	tourist	y	n	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	victoria
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
port aransas	marine	y	y	y	n	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	n	houston
over 50 miles north	marine	y	y	y	y	houston
over 50 miles north	hunting	y	y	y	y	houston
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	crosby
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	marine	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	n	
corpus christi	both	y	n	y	y	
rockport	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles south	both	y	y	y	y	falfurrias

over 50 miles south	both	y	y	y	y	laredo
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	marine	y	n	y	y	
portland	tourist	y	y	y	y	
rockport	tourist	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
portland	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	tourist	y	n	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	marine	y	y	y	y	lufkin
over 50 miles north	tourist	y	y	y	y	lufkin
over 50 miles south	tourist	y	y	y	y	alice
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	n	y	n	y	
over 50 miles south	both	y	y	y	y	kingsville
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
San Patricio county	tourist	y	y	y	y	taft
aransas pass	both	n	y	y	y	
aransas pass	marine	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	NONE	n	n	y	y	

aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
portland	both	y	y	y	y	
out of state	tourist	y	y	y	y	oklahoma
ingleside	marine	y	y	y	y	
rockport	both	y	y	y	y	
aransas pass	both	y	y	y	y	
port aransas	both	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	n	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	n	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	n	y	y	y	
corpus christi	tourist	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	marine	n	n	y	y	
ingleside	both	y	y	y	y	
corpus christi	both	y	y	y	y	
over 50 miles north	both	y	y	y	y	victoria
	both	y	y	y	y	
san antonio	marine	y	n	y	y	

LOCAL

Volunteers wave goodbye to stash of trash

Winter Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup clears bay, gulf sands of clutter

BY MIKE BAIRD
Caller-Times

A syringe, a construction hard hat and plenty of ribbons tied to busted balloons were some of the trash gathered Saturday on Padre Island National Seashore for the Winter Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup.

About 150 people registered for the Padre Island National Seashore cleanup and another 90 volunteered at Redfish Bay, which followed the Redfish Bay Trash Parade through Aransas Pass. The parade, which featured 25 entries that included a Trash Wizard and electric three-wheel vehicle, was held Saturday morning to garner support for the

cleanup, said organizer Richard Gonzales.

At Redfish Bay, cleanup volunteers filled three pickups with trash from the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park along Redfish Bay Causeway. Many of the volunteers for the Padre Island National Seashore cleanup dispersed about noon when it began to rain, officials said.

Another cleanup also was scheduled for Saturday at Corpus Christi Beach. The Spring Adopt-A-Beach cleanup is set for April 25. Information: www.glo.state.tx.us/adopt-a-beach.

Contact Mike Baird at 886-3774 or bairdm@caller.com



Maria Cardenas (left), a senior at King High School, puts a piece of trash into a bag held by classmate Kenny Lim on Saturday as they help clean up Malaquite Beach on the Padre Island National Seashore. The students were among volunteers participating in the Adopt-A-Beach program's winter cleanup.



A half-buried bucket lies on the beach Saturday as volunteers help clean up parts of Malaquite Beach during the Adopt-A-Beach program's winter cleanup on the Padre Island National Seashore.

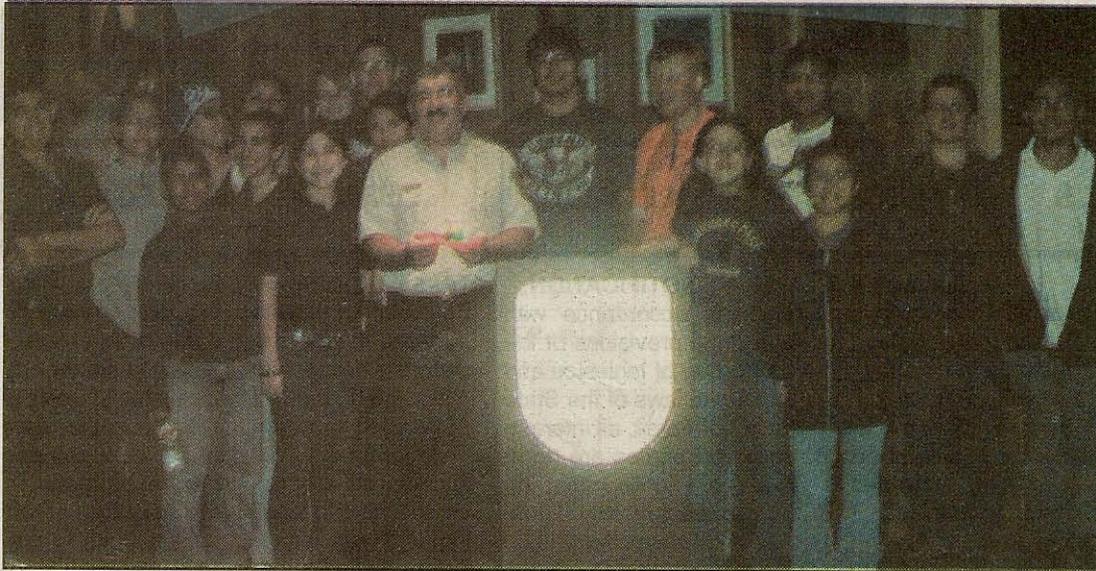


J.R. Jones, an aquatic science teacher at King High School, hands out trash bags Saturday at Malaquite Beach. Jones brought about 30 of his students to participate in the Adopt-A-Beach cleanup.



King High School senior Erich Scholz categorizes the type of trash he picked up Saturday at Malaquite Beach on the Padre Island National Seashore.

Photo by Michael Thomas/Caller-Times



Science and Spanish Club (SSC) students from Aransas Pass High School and AC Blunt Middle School brought a birthday cake to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), on a science field trip on Dec. 15. The ANWR was created on Dec. 31, 1937, by Executive Order 7784 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The first slice of cake went to Dan Alonso, new ANWR project manager (at center).

SSC celebrates refuge's birthday

Science and Spanish Club (SSC) students from Aransas Pass High School and AC Blunt Middle School brought a birthday cake to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), on a science field trip on December 15. The ANWR was created on Dec. 31, 1937, by Executive Order 7784 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The first slice of cake went to Dan Alonso, new

ANWR project manager. About 22 SSC students climbed the tower while braving the coldest day of the year in search of endangered whooping cranes who winter at the refuge.

In addition, students cleared a picnic area of large and small limbs under the guidance of Tonya Stinson, ANWR environmental educator. On the way back, the field trip toured

the new Rockport Aquarium at Rockport Harbor, Cove Harbor, Conn Brown Harbor and other waterfront development points along Redfish Bay.

The Aransas Pass SSCs will make the birthday cake presentation an annual event to help raise public awareness in surrounding communities of the refuge and migratory birds.



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A GOOD SIGN EVEN IN TIMES LIKE THIS

Everyone's looking for an encouraging sign in today's economy. The fact is, they'll see one in over 17,500 locations across North America. Because for over 86 years, State Farm® agents have been there helping people protect the things that matter most. That's why more people trust State Farm. And we consider that a very good sign.



PROVIDING INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Another fishy history lesson

The first recorded presidential debate

In honor of Presidents Day is another little known bit of history from the annals of fishing. Believe it or don't, the first two presidents of the United States, George Washington and John Adams were not fast friends, but fishing buddies as well. As often as not you could find them out on the water at the local lake in the presidential canoe, "Paddle Best as can be told, the two went something like this: Very early one Tuesday morning George and John took "Paddle One" for one of their normal fishing trips. They had their creel, which is a kind of small basket that they use to keep their fish in up north. (Down here it's even big enough to hold a trout.) They launched "Paddle One" into the lake and as George was standing up in the bow of the boat with his foot on his jacket and his foot on the seat. John Adams, who for all he was worth figured he was worth a fight, got ticked off and said, "Your pose and start paddling George, we are NOT going to the Delaware again!" George sat down and they moved to their favorite spot. The debate began. George said, "I say de bait to use is fish!" John replied forcefully, "I think de bait to use is worms!" There it is, the first recorded presidential debate. It's not documented as to who won, but they say they filled that creel with fish and had fish for dinner. So there it is, another little known history lesson, sadly,



YAKKIN' IT UP
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unknown to most school children.

The 4th Annual Redfish Bay Trash Parade and Coastal Cleanup will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 10 am in downtown Aransas Pass. The theme is RECYCLING, and marchers will make posters, banners, floats and other creative items to reflect this message. The parade lineup is at 9:15 am at the Dairy Queen and VFW on Cleveland Blvd (across the street from City Hall) and is led by the Trash Wizard, followed by the High School Science & Spanish Club, SSC, and the Trash Court is comprised of princes Trash Royalty. The Trash royalty are the King and Queen selected from the Aransas Pass and princesses selected from SSCs from Sinton, Ingleside and Corpus Christi. For more information call Richard Gonzales @ 361-779-3571 or e-mail Richard@gulfmex.org

The 2nd Annual 3rd Coast Kayak Fishing Series to benefit the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program is scheduled for February the 27th at the Riviera Volunteer Fire Department. Winners will be determined by the length of a single redfish and a single trout. For more infor-

mation go to thirdcoastkayakfishing@yahoo.com.

Now for the report: Reports are coming in from anglers making some nice catches of black drum. Jetty anglers and surf fishermen are picking up some keeper and oversized drum. The run is on

in the channels and piers. Some nice catches are being hauled in near the naval base in Ingleside Point. Dead shrimp and sea lice have been the bait of choice.

Dagger flats along the channel are producing some scattered reds and trout. Live

shrimp freelined along with DOA shrimp and Berkley Gulp new penny fished slowly along the bottom are bringing good results. If we have some nice days of full sun, check the flats for reds and specks. Plum and chartreuse Norton Sand Eels should produce well along with

Berkley Gulp Pogies. I seem to catch a bigger variety of fish than the pogies for some reason. I always seem to go back to them for the natural colors and they seem to produce on a regular basis.



Ms. Kranzle's
(Ms. K's) Computer Classes:

*Computer's the way of the past,
present, and especially the future!!*

Welcome to the Geek Squad –
All of my students are:



G-Great
E – Energetic
E – Efficient
K - Kids

The first six weeks is all about learning to use the keyboard and computer properly. All of our focus is on making sure proper form and hand placement are used when typing on a keyboard. In addition to learning the keyboard students are being introduced to some "fun" programs they can use:

1. Sketch Up-a 3-D program that allows you to design houses, architectures use a more advanced form of this program
2. Tux Paint-allows students to create pictures and designs
3. Picasa – software that sorts, edits, and organizes pictures.
4. Microsoft Office Publisher – create newsletters (each grade level will have their own), brochures, posters, etc.

One of the exciting projects we will be working on throughout the year is a program called E-pals. This is a highly monitored web site that allows students to communicate with other students from around the world. They will be able to talk to students on blogs, send them e-mail (they will have their own pen pal), and work on combined projects with students from other schools.



Choir News
Middle School Choir is off to a terrific start this year! We are learning exciting music including: Sign- Language, Spanish, Italian, African, and French! Additionally, we are discovering how to read and sing notes. Our first concert will be December 3rd at Smith Middle School, which will also be a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. Finally, please remember our choir shirts are \$10.00. The shirts have already been ordered and will be in about two weeks. They look great, so make sure your child gets one to wear for our concerts and spirit days!



Welcome to the Technology Discovery Center!
On Friday, September 4th, Robert Torres brought his first place winning SSCN team to the Discovery Center for a special event. Their presentation involved living downstream from neighbors and the effects people upstream have on the water! These bright students were filmed by a two-man professional crew from Memphis, Tennessee and Orlando, Florida who have also filmed events for CBS, NBC, and the news program 60 Minutes. Mr. Torres and our students looked great and "performed well" on camera. Mrs. Mounts was proud to host the members of the SSCN. They have put in many extra hours and have gained great knowledge about our coastal environment.

The Discovery Center would like to send a special thanks to Richard Gonzales of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation for his support in coordinating this wonderful experience for our kids, as well!

The DC's broadcast studio is conducting business behind the scenes to present future special events to our campus. Our media class is learning how to use state-of-the-art broadcast equipment. They are directing anchors from a control booth that sits "behind the glass" of our studio, choosing which shots look best on camera, and mastering the techniques of writing scripts for the teleprompter! Mrs. Mounts told us that the students learned to use the broadcasting equipment in less than ten minutes! She was overheard saying, "What an incredible crew! Not only do they have talent, but they have a great imagination! I believe that's what it takes to create an awesome broadcast!"

Now, to let you in on a little secret... Mrs. Mounts has been talking to people in England about setting up discussions with other classrooms, but she won't say more because she wants to surprise you all! One thing is for sure, Marauders, you never know what you may discover at The Discovery Center!



Coach Mounts
The 8th grade Marauder football team traveled to Corpus Christi September 16 after noon to take on the Baker Broncs at Cabiness field. The Marauders delivered a punishing 44-0 thumping. John

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Guzman scored two touchdown runs and a two point conversion try. Trey Burk scored two touchdowns with one being an interception return for a score. He also caught a two point conversion pass from Donovan Lopez. Donovan Lopez scored two touchdowns. Brandon Hesseltine ran a two point conversion in for a score and hit Chris Lopez with a conversion pass.



Coach Selby
7th and 8th grade vb A teams girls traveled to Aransas Pass for a tournament on Friday 9-19. The volleyball team will be going to Robstown on Monday 9-21. 7th and 8th grade vb A teams will be going to Calallen next week, 9-25.



Mr. Turk
¡Hola!
I am in awe of the amount of retention that last year's Spanish students have demonstrated. Spanish students face a unique challenge in that, many times the 50 minutes they are in class are the only 50 minutes that they are exposed to the language throughout the day. The level of retention shows me that students are working with the language outside of class, and friends and family are also assisting with the study of the language. As impressive as the amount of retention that last year's Spanish students are demonstrating is the enthusiasm that this year's new Spanish students are showing. They have proven to be quick studies and on many levels are as proficient as the more seasoned students.

In particular, The Exploratory Wheel students have exhibited enthusiasm and intrigue in learning the alphabet and greetings. They are creating a strong foundation for further use and study of the language. The 7th grade students working on verb conjugation have done an excellent job of adjusting to the depth of study that having Spanish for the entire year calls for. The 8th grade students are demonstrating an incredible level of retention and mastery.

THE ARANSAS PASS PROGRESS

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75 CENTS

Watch that trash! Cleanup, parade slated for Aransas Pass on Saturday

The fourth annual Redfish Bay Trash Parade and Coastal Cleanup will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. in downtown Aransas Pass. The parade begins on Wheeler to Commercial and ends on Spencer. After the parade Science & Spanish Clubs from Aransas Pass and Ingleside will join volunteers from OxyChem, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation and other volunteers in the Winter Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup at the Lighthouse Lakes Trail Park along Redfish Bay Causeway. This cleanup is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. In addition, the day will include a Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. Crab Trap Removal at Conn Brown Harbor from 8 a.m. to 12 noon (see related story).

"This parade gives the residents of Aransas Pass and the entire Live Oak Peninsula an opportunity to learn why trash management is so important to a healthy state of our water bodies as well as our communities on land," said Richard

Crab trap pickup is part of beach cleanup. See story, Page 12

Gonzales, Gulf of Mexico Foundation project coordinator for the Science & Spanish Club Network. "Since 2003, SSCN students have been working on several coastal conservation projects in Redfish Bay and the Trash Parade is one way to broaden the environmental education outreach effort to include more residents and organizations," he added.

"The parade is a new event and we are trying to get people out to downtown Aransas Pass to watch the parade," Gonzales said. "So we are attaching gift certificates from area restaurants that have seafood items on their menus to some of the Coastal Bend satellite maps and fish rulers to be given away during the parade route," he explained. These restaurants include The Big Fisherman,

M&I's Hometown Café, Bakery Café, Trout Street and Dairy Queen of South Texas. The Trash Wizard will lead the parade, followed by Trash Royalty, the Aransas National

Wildlife Refuge fire truck, the Texas State Aquarium, San Patricio Municipal Water District, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., OxyChem, Aransas Pass Chamber of

Commerce, Shrimpporee Shrimp, Aransas Pass Yacht Club, Aransas County Navigation District, Coastal

See TRASH ... page 12

COUNCIL, from Page 1

Bend Bays Foundation and Science & Spanish Clubs from Sinton, Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass and Ingleside.

A special feature of the parade will be the "Zap Car," an all-electric three-wheel vehicle made in China and owned by an Aransas Pass resident.

The Redfish Bay Trash Parade and Coastal Cleanup is sponsored in part by the Texas General Land Office, Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 13, City of Aransas Pass, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, OxyChem, and Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

For more information contact Richard Gonzales at 361-779-7351 or Richard@gulfincx.org.