

# the Lafourche Gazette

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WETLAND  
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**SERVING: MATHEWS • GHEENS • LOCKPORT • VALENTINE • LAROSE  
CUT OFF • GALLIANO • GOLDEN MEADOW • LEEVILLE • GRAND ISLE**

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## Groups across the nation assist NRCS's Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

With temperatures in the upper 90s and three months of droughty conditions, the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (GMPMC) not only got desperately needed rainfall recently, but also several hard working groups of volunteers to provide assistance with GMPMC plant release collections and propagations.

Volunteer groups have risen at the PMC since horrific hurricanes have pounded the southern coasts of Louisiana and additionally in the aftermath of the Deep Water Horizon explosion. Multiple groups ranging from Louisiana to states across the country have directly assisted the PMC primarily by harvesting plant releases located at the PMC and propagating greenhouse vegetative material in order to fill 2011 nursery grower orders.

The Seattle Academy visited from Seattle, WA and spent two days harvesting thousands of 'Vermilion' Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), one of the PMC's cultivar releases, stems from the one-acre

foundation pond located at the PMC.

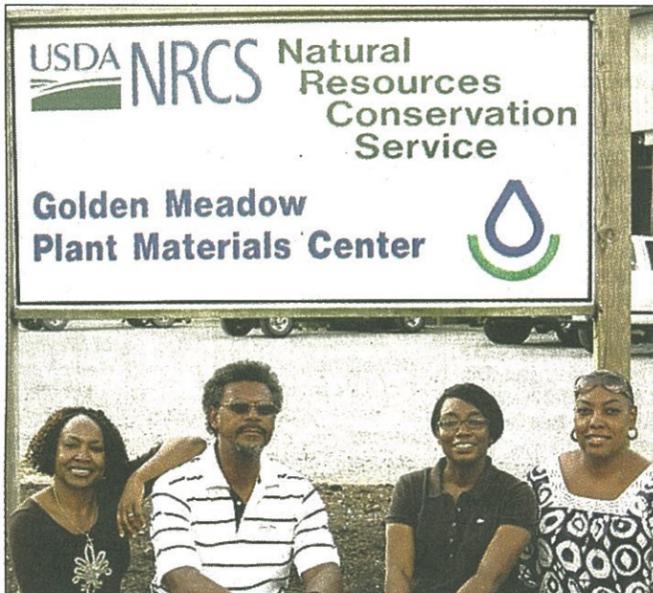
Additionally, the group was able to propagate numerous trays of Timbalier Germplasm Gulf Bluestem (*Schizachyrium maritimum*) to insure sufficient stock will be in place and readily available for future studies and projects. Another volunteer group consisted of current NRCS interns from states across the southeastern United States. The group spent two days learning how Plant Materials operations and centers operate and how PMC's fit into the puzzle for natural resource conservation.

This group concentrated on the propagation techniques of Bayou Lafourche Germplasm California Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*), and was able to successfully propagate hundreds of plants. Not only did the groups benefit from the knowledge they have obtained about the physiology, harvesting and propagation techniques of our vegetative releases, but also the importance of the NRCS and the mission and objectives of the Plant Materials Program.

The PMC was also visited and toured by Southern University's College of Agriculture's BAYOU students (Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited). This served as an annual opportunity for the group to use plant materials

as a natural resource remediator to aid in the stabilization of the beaches of southern Louisiana.

Approximately 2000 Bitter Panicum (*Panicum amarum*) and over 700 Seashore Paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) plant species were transplanted on the beaches of Grand Isle. All were delighted in their times here and look forward to seeing the PMC next year.



Pictured are NRCS Interns: SanJeanette Williams, Jerry Jones, Shelia Scott and Janice Gibbons.