

Marsh Notes

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

Finding
Vegetative
Solutions for
Conservation
Problems



Plant Materials Center Assists Mississippi State University Professor

The Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center recently provided 'Vermilion' smooth cordgrass stems and wetland plant planting expertise for Dr. Pete Melby's, Professor at Mississippi State University, research project. Professor Melby's current research effort is with biological engineer Dr. Tom Cathcart developing a restoration plan and tree planting methodology using deep planting irrigation for Deer Island, located across from Biloxi, Mississippi. Additionally, research is being conducted by Melby on a methodology to establish emergent salt marsh grasses along the Harrison County beach front. Determining how to accomplish this has been ongoing since 1995 and the *Spartina alterniflora* 'Vermillion' is being used to help solve this most challenging project. Positive results are evolving. The Center for Sustainable Design is most excited to work with the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center on finding vegetative solutions for coastal restoration.



His interest in coastal Mississippi began in 1995 when his class developed a tourism design plan. A component of that plan was to make the 26 mile sand beach in Harrison County more attractive. Further study evolved and it was determined that traditional beach grooming techniques contribute to beach erosion and loss of beach width. Through several design efforts along the beach, a technique called deep planting irrigation has been developed that provides nearly 100% survival of sand dune plantings. This same conclusion was determined by the NRCS Plant Materials Center.

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PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Summer 2011 PMC Veg Quiz:
Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.

If you would like more information call us at (985) 475-5280 or visit our web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/lapmc>



Plant Materials Center Joins 2011 La Fête D' Ecologie

La Fête D' Ecologie put on by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is an annual, one-day festival with distinct Louisiana flair. This festival is a celebration of the amazing environment, rich history and the unique blend of cultures found in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. This national estuary is 4.2 million acres between the Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers (including the city of Morgan City, LA) and, much like its people, is truly unique. It is also the most rapidly disappearing area on earth and is one of the world's richest natural resources providing fisheries, rich farmland and oil and gas resources to the nation.



Garret Thomassie and Curt J. Riche' will be representing NRCS's Plant Material Center and engrossing members of the event to a display booth. We will have plant brochures available for educational purposes on all eight of the PMC's plant releases. Additionally, there will be live display plants at the booth in order for the public to correctly identify respective vegetation species released from the PMC and their importance in combating coastal erosion.

Enhancing Local Wildlife Habitat

The LSU AgCenter's Crowley Rice Research Station, courtesy of Dr. Steve Linscombe (station director), graciously donated 200 pounds of seed rice to the PMC in



efforts to house numerous aquatic wildlife species. Two of our one acre ponds were planted in the spring of 2011 and now supplying food and cover to many different species of wildlife. Red wing blackbirds, fulvous tree duck and blue wing teal are just to name a few. The PMC will continue in its efforts to utilize the land in a fashion that sustains, promotes and increases habitat for numerous forms of wildlife.

Plant Materials Specialist Corner

- **2200 California bulrush plants - \$8,800**
- **22 Fishing Kayaks - \$15,000**
- **3,000 feet of Louisiana coastal shoreline protected - Priceless**

This past July, Morris Houck, Plant Materials Specialist for Louisiana NRCS coordinated an event where 22 kayak enthusiasts donated their boats and time to transport and plant over 2200 one gallon containers of California bulrush along the bank of East Cote Blanche Bay in St. Mary Parish.



Morris who is also an avid kayak fisherman coordinated a Going Green Coastal Shoreline Planting with the Lafayette Kayak Fishing Club and the Lafayette based outdoor store Pack & Paddle.

The event was sponsored by the St. Mary Parish Soil and Water Conservation District, the Franklin Field Office, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Coastal Revegetation Program and all the volunteers were signed up as Louisiana Earth Team Volunteers.

After a morning of getting wet and muddy around 2200 plants were planted to help stabilize and protect over 3300 feet of critically eroding shoreline along the banks of East Cote Blanche bay.

Kayak fishing, touring, and nature watching has become very popular in Louisiana and both volunteer groups were excited at the opportunity to help with this Going Green Coastal Shoreline Planting.



We're on the Web!
www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov

