

Marsh Notes

Finding Vegetative
Solutions for
Conservation
Problems



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

Mark Felarise Moves On

After serving 16 years as a Biological Science Technician, Mark Felarise has decided to say "So Long!" to the staff at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center. Mark was involved with many of the PMC's planting projects across Louisiana, working closely with NRCS field offices and technical specialists. Mark enjoyed working with equipment used around the center. He always said "if it has an engine, I can run it," meaning there was nothing he couldn't operate. Mark, we wish you the best of luck in your new career and thank you for all you have done during your time here at the PMC. You will be greatly missed by all of us.



Summer Issue 2013

Green Facts

1 Tablespoon of soil has more organisms in it than there are people on Earth!!

<http://magblog.audubon.org/10-incredible-facts-about-dirt>

PMC Staff

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Texas A & M at Kingsville Intern



The Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (PMC) had the opportunity to station an eager to learn intern in the summer of 2013.

Yvonne J. Welther, a student at Texas A&M at Kingsville, majoring in the Agricultural Sciences spent ten weeks performing various duties here at the Center. Yvonne quickly learned that it takes a lot of bending, lifting, sweating and quick

thinking to successfully operate a Plant Materials Center. Her quote at the end of each day as she was walking down the steps was "Whew, the PMC ain't for wimps."

Yvonne assisted in numerous PMC's daily duties. Her primary project consisted of Evaluating Cultural Techniques for Propagating Black Mangrove for Commercial Production. The purpose of the study was to discover which method would yield better results for commercial vegetative propagation of the Pelican Black Mangrove Germplasm (*Avicennia germinans*).



(Cont.)

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.

PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Spring 2013 PMC Veg
Quiz:
Obedient Plant *Physostegia
virginiana* (L.) Benth

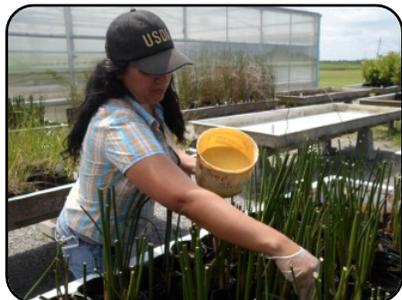
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Finding the most time efficient and economically feasible method that benefits the commercial growers' efforts to propagate successfully and be able to raise black mangrove throughout the year without depending on seed. This project allowed Yvonne to further her knowledge about specific plant species, statistics and experimental design.



Other duties included collecting PMC plant releases and preparing them for 2013 grower distribution, using tractors to rotor till in the fields, seed cleaning, vegetative transplanting, weed pulling and watering of grasses and trees.



After work hours Yvonne enjoyed cooking, teaching the sport of fencing and learning the Cajun French language fluently spoken "Down the Bayou." The PMC was delighted to have such a dedicated, hard-working individual assist over the summer. After graduation in the spring of 2014, Yvonne is keeping her fingers crossed that the PMC will have a vacancy position.

Live Oak Planting on Grand Isle

In early summer the Golden Meadow PMC staff, along with Bayou Land RC&D and other volunteers transported approximately 300 Sand Live Oak trees to Grand Isle State Park. The trees were planted in designated areas throughout the park. Hurricanes and other inclement weather have over the years diminished the park of its native trees. Herbivory protective shields were also wrapped around the trees to increase survival percentages. This fall we will travel to the park to monitor the success of the plantings.

Beating the Summer Blues

The month of June is Red Snapper season here on Louisiana's coast and the weekend's waters consist of many offshore boats in route to find their special offshore rig to catch their favorite fish. Curt (left) is holding a Red Snapper and Garret (right) is holding a Scamp Grouper. This is just one of many trips, approximately 30 miles offshore from Port Fourchon, LA in 200 feet of water that the guys took for the 2013 fishing season. This year was exceptionally great for Red Snapper catching a limit each trip. Other common fish caught in these waters include, but not limited to Mangrove Snapper, Cobia, King Mackerel, Dolphin Tripletail and Black Tip Shark.



Unseasonably Wet Summer

The Center received unseasonably wet weather this summer. Field activities and maintenance were delayed for quite some time due to daily rain showers. The month of May received 8.73", June 4.03", July 7.33" and August 8.14". Not all of these rainfalls came as "gully washers", but rather 0.2" and 0.3" every 2 to three days making it frustrating in terms of allowing the field to dry up and perform work duties. Thus, far, we have been hurricane free and we are keeping our fingers crossed that nothing tropical forms anywhere near the Gulf of Mexico and comes our way.

We're on the Web!

www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov



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