

Article in Lynn Haven Ledger

Bozeman School Students Successfully Re-establish Bay Grasses in Classes Program

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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source Management
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Bozeman School students have completed initial work to renovate their aquatic plant nursery used to grow bay shoreline grasses. These plants will be used in future environmental restoration projects. Students are participating in a service-learning project that provides them with new skills and knowledge while simultaneously benefitting the local community and St. Andrew Bay ecosystem.

Funding for this effort is through a Coastal Program Grant provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Key partnerships are also vital to the project. RMA is the lead partner that organizes



Bozeman students completing construction and planting activities to create a restoration nursery that will provide over 5,000 plants annually to St Andrew Bay Living Shoreline restoration projects. Photo by L. Scott Jackson, UF/IFAS Bay County Extension.

and works with community volunteers to provide support necessary to complete the project. Another key partner is UF/IFAS Extension Bay County. Extension agents and volunteers from Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs assist with technical expertise. The RiverCamps Homeowners Association (HOA) completes the partnership and provides additional resources. The HOA hosts Bozeman field study activities.

Currently, over 110 students are engaged in Bay Grasses in Classes project at their campus using a model developed by Tampa Bay Watch. This school year, students have installed nursery plants and built a 24' x 24' greenhouse. They are learning about Living Shoreline approaches to address shoreline erosion, as an alternative to using seawalls. Bozeman students will restore a small section of eroded shoreline near Riv-

erCamps this year. By early spring, students involved in environmental and agricultural studies will work with community volunteers and project partners and complete the restoration activities.

Once restoration is complete, the HOA will monitor progress and be responsible for maintaining the site as needed. Bozeman students will also conduct a field evaluation in preparation for future projects. Approximately half of the nursery plants will be planted during restoration while the other half will be replanted in the nursery for future classes and restoration projects. The nursery is capable of producing 5,000 or more plants each year.

For more information, contact UF/IFAS Bay County Sea Grant Extension Agent Scott Jackson at 850-784-6105. All programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap or national origin.



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Environmental Monitoring, Education, and Advocacy
St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association Newsletter

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Don't forget.....	
Join Now or Renew	

RMA Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at Gulf Coast State College in the Gibson Lecture Hall of the SUE building (which houses the cafeteria). Local citizen scientists give presentations at these meetings to inform the public of the interesting scientific activities going on in Bay County! These meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings start at 6 pm and last about 45 minutes. Mark your calendars for these dates in 2016: January 26, February 23, March 29, April 26, and May 24 which is not the last Tuesday but this date avoid conflicts with the Memorial Day weekend.

Grasses in Classes An RMA Living Shorelines Initiative



Alan Collins shows students how to measure water clarity using a Secchi disk.

RMA was the recipient of a grant provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panhandle Coastal Program, to re-establish the Bay Grasses in Classes plant nursery at Deane Bozeman School located in northern Bay County and restore 0.13 acres of coastal marsh in St. Andrew Bay thereby creating a living shoreline at Rivercamps on West Bay.

Deane Bozeman students traveled to the Rivercamps restoration site on October 1st for their initial site evaluation field trip. The students enjoyed a beautiful fall day where RMA volunteers and the University of Florida/IFAS Sea Grant Agent instructed students on aspects of the near-shore environment in activities that included seining and marine life identification, water quality monitoring techniques, shoreline native plant identification and developing and permitting a residential community in an environmentally sensitive area. RMA wishes to thank the Rivercamps Homeowners Association for providing a great lunch for the students and volunteers.

The Bay Grasses in Classes plant nursery at Deane Bozeman School was established on Oct 30th as RMA and UF/IFAS Master Gardener volunteers assisted the students in planting 4000 coastal marsh plants. Students will transplant approximately

See Grasses, page 2

Grasses, from page 1

1500 of these plants at the Rivercamps restoration site in 2016 while the remaining plants will be used in future projects across the St. Andrew Bay watershed. It is hoped that success at the Deane Bozeman School will lead to expansion of the Bay Grasses in Classes program to other Bay County Schools.

Additional community volunteer opportunities will be available at the Rivercamps restoration site for the installation of recycled oyster breakwaters in the near future. These breakwaters will be installed to reduce wave energy coming ashore in order to give the new plants a chance to get established. Many thanks to Scott Jackson, John Ackerman, Bill and Debby Fable, Jim Moyers, Alan Collins, Mike Foate and Jonnie Smallman for organizing this outstanding field trip! **For more information about these volunteer opportunities contact RMA at 850-763-4303.** *By Jonnie Smallman*



Debby Fable leads students on an upland walk helping them identify plants in the area.

A Great Year for Turtlewatch



RMA's Turtlewatch volunteers for 2015. Thank you for protecting sea turtle nests and hatchlings along Panama City Beach!

Turtle Watch just completed its best season ever, finding 48 threatened loggerhead nests which produced over 3000 hatchlings, along with 4 endangered leatherback nests! These are the highest numbers since our program began in 1991! We also saw reduced impacts from artificial lights on hatchlings, thanks to the use of turtle-friendly lights on beachfront development, as required by local ordinance. However, beachfront lighting remains the most serious threat to sea turtles on Panama City Beach, in addition to numerous secondary threats such as beach driving, lounge chairs left on the beach at night, trash, and unleashed dogs. The education crew, led by Nancy Evou, did a great job this year appearing at community events, local schools, and hosting students and scout troops at nest excavations as part of our Adopt-a-Nest program. Recruiting for 2016 will begin in March, so if you are interested in volunteering then email us in March at pcbturtle@yahoo.com.

By Kennard Watson

Interview on Panhandle Outdoors, Thursday 2/18/16

You Tube link:

<https://youtu.be/Qdc6WmSqMsA?t=166>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is a YouTube video titled "Panhandle Outdoors, Thursday 2/18/16". The video player shows three people sitting at a table in a rustic setting. The video has 96 views and is from the channel "PanhandleOutdoors". To the right of the video player is a "Up next" list of other videos from the same channel, including "Panhandle Outdoors, Tuesday 3/29/16", "Panhandle Outdoors, Monday 3/28/16", "Panhandle Outdoors, Wednesday 3/30/16", "Panhandle Outdoors, Friday 2/19/16", "Panhandle Outdoors, Wednesday 2/24/16", "Panhandle Outdoors, Monday 2/22/16", and "Panhandle Outdoors, Thursday 2/27/14". The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdc6WmSqMsA&feature=youtu.be

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YouTube

Panhandle Outdoors, Thursday 2/18/16

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96 views

Up next

Autoplay

Panhandle Outdoors, Tuesday 3/29/16

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No views NEW

Panhandle Outdoors, Monday 3/28/16

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No views NEW

Panhandle Outdoors, Wednesday 3/30/16

PanhandleOutdoors

1 view NEW

Panhandle Outdoors, Friday 2/19/16

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54 views

Panhandle Outdoors, Wednesday 2/24/16

PanhandleOutdoors

57 views

Panhandle Outdoors, Monday 2/22/16

PanhandleOutdoors

47 views

Panhandle Outdoors, Thursday 2/27/14

PanhandleOutdoors

287 views

3:18 PM 3/31/2016

A sample of local news media relations:

Article in Panama City Living Magazine, May 4, 2016



Click link to view: <http://panamacityliving.com/a-living-shoreline-protects-your-property/>



Television, News Print, and Social Media

See this link for video from WJHG TV 7 of the oyster reef installation at RiverCamps on April 19, 2016:

<http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/Bozeman-students-build-oyster-reefs-to-curtail-erosion-376294531.html>. In addition to television coverage, the Living Shorelines oyster reef building event at RiverCamps was reported on GC 90.7 radio. It was also in the Panama City News Herald and the Lynn

Haven Ledger and it was promoted on Facebook.