

Texas Coastal Watershed Program

Workday photos

September 4, 2014

Photos by Chris Kneupper



Mary Carol Edwards of the Texas Coastal Watershed Program is leading an effort to convince municipalities and other flood-control agencies to develop their existing and new stormwater retention ponds into more of a natural wetland area, which would create wildlife habitat while also improving the quality of water outfall of the ponds. The setting would be more like a park, with public access and uses, rather than a plain fenced-in hole in the ground. Retention ponds at Clear Falls High School, Pearland Nature Center, Exploration Green (Clear Lake) and the Kost Prairie (Alvin) are being considered.

On Thursday, 4-Sep-2014, the first of a series of weekly workdays occurred involving the Cradle Of Texas chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. The workday involved about three hours of work at a “wetland plant nursery” which has been previously built on Exploration Green in Clear Lake. Plants from Lake Shelton had been collected previously in large buckets, and some of these plants were divided, potted up, and placed in shallow above-ground holding ponds. Photos are attached showing this facility for TMN-COT members. Future workdays will also involve plant collection at other far-flung sites.



Photo of the nursery, with perimeter fence including a locked gate. The above-ground ponds are visible with wooden lumber sides.



Exploration Green is the name for the re-development of an old golf course in Clear Lake into a greenbelt with a lake. The nursery is built on one end of the property.



Above-ground plastic-lined ponds used for growing out potted wetland plants.



Above-ground ponds with potted wetland plants.



View of ponds. Please note trailer with large tubs on extreme left, which is how plants are transported from collection sites



Potting benches and shade cover with volunteers potting up plants in 1-gallon black plastic pots. Notice tubs of previously-collected plants coming off trailer on extreme right edge of photo.



Another view of potting activity (Mary Carol is in green boots). Tree nursery in background is a separate nursery of “Trees For Houston”. Please note large tubs for dug-up plants and individual potted plants on green wagon (ready for ponds).



Cullen Ondracek (assistant to Mary Carol Edwards). Sand and topsoil are mixed in 1:2 ratio for potting up plants. Background shows more of the ponds.



The locked shed on the nursery property



More of the ponds with previously-potted plants. Please note that facility is mostly for wetland plants which grow in water, for use in all stormwater projects, starting with Exploration Green - Phase I.



Mary Carol Edwards placing potted-up plants into pond.



Mary Carol Edwards placing potted-up plants into pond. Background shows shed and potting benches.



Potting benches with crew at work: (1) divide clumps into sprigs (2) pre-load pots with soil (3) plant sprig into pot and fill to 1" of top (4) place pots into ponds.