



## PRESS RELEASE

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# PORT MANCHAC HOSTS COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA GROUP



(Manchac, LA) The Port Manchac inter-modal terminal recently completed another season as host to the annual series of tree planting events sponsored by the Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL). The nonprofit group inspired by the motto "Our Coast, Our Future" once again planted several thousand trees along the North Pass area corridor during the 2019-20 season of planting operations based at the Port Manchac facility that provides direct access to the planting locations in the surrounding marsh.

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The focus of the CRCL organization is the restoration of coastal Louisiana and the adjacent wetlands that are vitally important to the seafood industry, the natural beauty of the landscape, the reduction of flood risk, and the overall quality of life for residents of Louisiana. The annual CRCL tree plantings assist in the ongoing battle to protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands that are disappearing at an increasingly alarming rate, according to recent environmental studies.

Historically, the marsh areas around Lake Maurepas were heavily logged in the early 1900s, and the area swamps have never fully recovered for various reasons, including lack of sediment input, the introduction of nutria, and the construction of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO), which allowed for damaging saltwater intrusion to occur over time. CRCL has a long-term plan to help the return of these coastal swamp forest by annually planting and monitoring (along with Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation) the growth of thousands of Bald Cypress, Water Tupelo, and Red Swamp Maple trees. Thus far, 535 CRCL volunteers have planted 8,900 trees along the Lake Maurepas land bridge! Our current restoration work in the area has been made possible by generous support from the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program and Entergy, and additional tree donations were provided by Apache and Restoration Ecological Services.

The CRCL's mission is to drive bold, science-based action to sustain a dynamic coastal Louisiana through engagement/advocacy, and its Habitat Restoration Program provides community members the opportunity to participate in hands-on coastal restoration work. Additional information on the organization's operations and volunteering opportunities for upcoming tree planting events in 2020 is available online at [crcl.org](http://crcl.org).

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