



Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest

711 N. Carancahua, Ste 120
Corpus Christi, TX 78475
(361) 881-9316

wildlifephoto@sbcglobal.net



Photo Opportunity:

Thursday, November 9th

8:15 AM

Montclair Elementary School

5241 Kentner

Corpus Christi, Tx 78412

School Contact: Mrs. Bissell

994-3651

Students at Montclair Elementary School go WILD with a grant from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Montclair Elementary School students will receive the **Kritters 4 Kids** Science Curriculum Resource Guide thanks to the generous support of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. Join us Thursday, November 9th, at Montclair Elementary School as representatives from the Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest present a classroom set of 25 books to students. The new curriculum, funded by the Harvey Weil Sportsman Conservation Fund, helps teachers prepare the students for the TAKS test by using local interactive activities with Wildlife in Focus II Photography Books. The lessons challenge the students in physical and environmental sciences by building food chains, living terrariums, and school yard conservation projects.

“Ours is a visual culture- we need to see it to believe it. Creating compelling images of both Texas Wildlife and the critical habitat on which it depends is a powerful way to let all Texans know what we have and of the desperate need to preserve it.”

–Sean Fitzgerald, Professional Photographer

Kritters 4 Kids teaches students about the vastness and variety of habitat being threatened by urbanization. Our *Wildlife in Focus II* photo book is accompanied by a fun yet educational activity guide, and leads the student thru the varied species of plants and animals native to the Coastal Bend of Texas. The **Kritters 4 Kids** curriculum targets the elementary and middle school Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) guidelines which specifically require students to study the relationships of organisms to the environment. **Kritters 4 Kids** teaches students about our local ecological regions, native plants, ecosystems, and the importance of stewardship and conservation.

Using the resource guide, a local science teacher commented, “The beautiful photos and the activities which are targeted specifically for this age group will be invaluable in piquing their interest. Starting them on their way to awareness of how valuable and fragile this beautiful land we coexist on is imperative to their success and ours.”

Additional schools can be added to our waiting list by filling out a short grant application available online at www.wildlifephotcontest.com or by calling our office at 361-881-9316.

About us:

The **Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest** was created in 2000 to expand awareness of the various and important eco-systems in the Coastal Bend region of Texas. The 501(c)(3) organization supports four Programs:

Wildlife Photo Contest- The 2nd Richest wildlife photography contest in the world in which private landowner's team up with photographers to capture winning images. In 2005, \$75,000 in prize money was awarded.

Wildlife In Focus I, II & III photography books- These books showcase over 150 winning images from the previous photo contests in 2001, 2003 and 2005. The books capture an intimate and artistic view of Coastal Bend Wildlife as seen thru the eyes of the landowner and photographer.

Kritters 4 Kids- This program brings awareness to youth about the vastness and variety of habitat in the Coastal Bend that are being threatened by urbanization. Wildlife in Focus is supplemented by a fun and educational activity guide and leads the student thru the varied species of plants and animals native to the Coastal Bend. The goal of **Kritters 4 Kids** is to plant seeds of passion for a new generation of naturalists, biologists, and nature lovers to protect and preserve our local ecosystems.

Traveling Benefactors Photo Exhibit- The sponsor funded traveling exhibit showcases the winning images and our proud sponsors. The exhibit travels throughout 14 counties of the Coastal Bend. To date, our exhibit has visited more than 90 venues including libraries, museums, banks, schools, and art centers.

Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program- The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) was established in 1994 with the goal of developing and implementing a plan to protect and restore the bays and estuaries of the Texas Coastal Bend. The estuary system of the Coastal Bend is one of 28 estuaries of "National Significance" nominated by the State Governor and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The CBBEP includes representatives from local governments, state, and federal resource agencies, industry and business, environmental organizations, and citizens who have developed and are implementing the 50 action items of the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan*. The CBBEP implements management solutions and supports research with a focus on *Water and Sediment Quality, Freshwater Inflows, Maritime Commerce, Habitat Loss, Human Uses of Coastal Resources, and Public Education and Outreach*. The CBBEP's Education and Outreach action items feature resources and programs for teachers and students with a focus on Coastal Bend history, local ecology, and general science.

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