



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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Date: October 19, 2009

To: CBBEP Board of Directors

From: Jake Herring, Project Manager

RE: Nueces Delta Preserve Update

The Nueces Delta Preserve has received about 7 inches since the middle of September. Although this rain has done wonders for the plants and animals we are still recovering from the spring and summer drought. The presence of fresh water from the City of Corpus Christi fresh water diversion pipeline has attracted blue winged teal and also mottled ducks. This fresh water has helped lower salinity levels throughout the Nueces Delta Preserve.

The Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest wrapped up in July of 2009. The CBBEP received a letter from the Coastal Bend Wildlife Photo Contest stating that the CBBEP had at least one winning image. At the banquet we were delighted to find out that several of Charlie Spiekerman's photos had placed in the contest. To name a few we placed first in the birds of prey division, second in the over all birds division, and received an honorable mention for a bobcat photo.

The CBBEP continues to actively manage the Nueces Delta Preserve while providing access for educational trips. The Nueces County Master Naturalist group was at the NDP the first weekend in October. The group was taken on a field trip around the NDP where we identified plants and animals while learning about fresh water impacts on the estuarine environment. Groups like the Master Naturalists are being targeted to potentially help lead educational field trips led by Lari Jo and Gene.

CBBEP is currently developing conceptual plans to implement project # 1009 to build a deck and sidewalk at NDP's educational complex. This project will greatly improve group mobility between the two existing buildings and also provide a place to gather as a group on the deck. CBBEP is estimating to be done with construction by January 2010. An additional portion to this project is to bring in utilities to the NDP. CBBEP researched both solar and overhead utilities. The prices quoted to the CBBEP to run off solar power were not economically feasible. CBBEP is currently working with AEP to determine our best price scenario while providing the CBBEP with sufficient power to allow for expansion of our existing facilities.