



**Coastal  
Bend  
Bays  
Foundation**

**CBBEP/CBBF Community Outreach Partnership**

Annual Report

Project Number – 2308

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**Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program**

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# **Summary Report for: CBBEP/CBBF Community Outreach Partnership Contract 2308**

## **Background/Objective**

- 1. Coastal Issues Form**
- 2. Earth Day Bay Day**
- 3. Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards Program**

1. Coastal Issues Forum - Provide nine (9) free public information monthly forums on coastal issues which increase opportunities for regional public education and outreach. CBBF secured speakers and venue (virtual or in person), publicized meeting by email and on CBBF website and Facebook page.
2. Earth Day Bay Day - CBBF worked in partnership with the CBBEP and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as top sponsors. Plans for the 2023 event included continuation of regionalizing the project, with CBBF providing displays about Earth Day-Bay Day to other communities in the 12-county area of the Coastal Bend. Long-term goal is for CBBF to encourage areas to have their own local celebration, and/or add Earth Day-Bay Day to their already scheduled area events
3. Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Awards Program - CBBF coordinated the annual Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Awards Program and Banquet with the CBBEP as a top sponsor. This popular event provides recognition to worthy individuals, organizations and activities involved with protecting the bay system and its resources.

## Coastal Issues Forums

Coastal Issues Forums are designed to bring together diverse community interests to identify Texas Coastal Bend concerns and seek solutions as well as educate our community about programs and opportunities all in an unbiased atmosphere. This year we reached about 270 people that came out to enjoy these *FREE* informative presentations.



## Earth Day – Bay Day

Our 24th Annual Earth Day – Bay Day *FREE* festival was a smashing hit! Holding to tradition, the event was completely free and open to the public, with as much as 9,000 people showing up throughout the day to partake in the festivities, all while learning about the importance of taking care of our Coastal Bend’s environment on all levels. In a span of six hours, participants explored more than 60 exhibitors, including industry, government, non-profits, scholastics, and community groups, who brought their own interactive, educational activities and tons of giveaways for festivalgoers of all ages. Additionally, highlights included:

- Valero giving away 2,000 plants/trees
- Fishing’s Future Catch & Release fishpond stocked with 200lbs of catfish
- The Raptor Project “Birds of Prey” presentations
- Gladys Porter Zoo animal presentations
- Youth Odyssey climbing rock wall
- Texas Parks & Wildlife’s Coastal Expo marine life touch tanks
- Texas Parks & Wildlife’s Operation Game Thief Trailer
- Port of Corpus Christi’s PORTable Learning Lab
- Sierra Club electric vehicles
- TAMU-CC Free emissions testing
- City of Corpus Christi animal adoption





## Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Awards Banquet

The 21st Annual Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Awards Banquet was held on October 26, 2023 at the Ortiz Center. A little over 250-plus guests gathered at the event and celebrated the Coastal Bend's environmental heroes for their remarkable contributions to improving and positively impacting the Coastal Bend's environment. The evening was full of fun and excitement, with KIII-TV Chief Meteorologist Alan Holt serving as the enthusiastic emcee for the third consecutive year. Attendees also enjoyed an enlightening presentation by Director L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member of the Texas Water Development Board, participated in silent auction bidding wars, and won fabulous raffle prizes. CBBF President Sharon Bailey Murphy personally thanked and handed out handmade custom tile plaques by Aloe Tile Works to the award recipients.



