



## Delta Discovery

Connecting Classrooms to Nature at the  
Nueces Delta Preserve

### Upcoming Dates

March 02: Texas Independence Day

March 12: Plant a Flower Day

March 13: Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 22: World Water Day

April 01: Fossil Fools Day

April 09: **Delta Discovery Family Picnic**, Earth Day - Bay Day

April 13: International Plant Appreciation Day

April 22: Earth Day

May 08: Mother's Day

May 14: **Delta Discovery Family Picnic**

May 22: International Biological Diversity Day

May 30: Memorial Day

# Teacher Discovery News

### Did You Know?

**Gaylord Nelson** is best known as the founder of Earth Day. The first **Earth Day** was held on April 22, 1970.

After returning from World War II, Nelson began a career as a politician and environmental activist that was to last the rest of his life.



In addition to founding Earth Day, he also:

- Created an **Outdoor Recreation Acquisition Program** that saved about one million acres of park land as governor of Wisconsin
- Was instrumental in the development of a national trails system (including the **Appalachian Trail**), and helped pass the **Wilderness Act**, the **Clean Air Act**, the **Clean Water Act** and other landmark environmental legislation



**Earth Day** (April 22nd) brings students an opportunity to examine their relationships with the environment and to think about how their lifestyles affect the world around them. Use these journaling prompts to encourage students to think about environmental issues.

1. We must preserve nature because.....
2. We are lucky the Earth provides us with.....
3. Where is the most beautiful nature in your city?
4. What are 5 ways our school could start recycling?
5. Write down 10 words related to nature. Then compose a poem including these words.

Visit [www.journalbuddies.com](http://www.journalbuddies.com) for more journaling topics.



For more information contact  
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# Upcycled Bird Feeder

Recycle a milk carton and make new feathered friends with this creative nature craft for kids.

Another option is to make a FULL milk carton Bird Feeder.

## Materials:

- Empty quart sized milk carton or a full gallon size carton
- Scissors
- String or cord
- Hole punch or pencil
- Bird seed



## Instructions:

1. Cut a hole in the bird feeder – it should be big enough so a bird could come and sit and eat the feed, but not too big or the carton will become unstable.
2. Cut a hole using the hole punch in the top of the milk carton and put a string through the hole. Alternatively, you can poke a hole on either side of the flap at the top of the carton by poking a pencil through the top.
3. Tie a knot in the string.
4. Fill the carton with bird seed until it reaches the top of the hole.
5. Hang the cart on a tree branch and watch the birds enjoy their snack!

## Tips:

- A quart size carton works perfect as it isn't too large and holds a decent amount of food.
- You may choose to decorate the outside of the carton but keep in mind that it will be outside in the elements and decorations may wash off in the rain. Also, you wouldn't want the birds pecking at flaking paint!

•Check your bird feeder regularly and refill as needed.



# Homemade Plantable Seed Paper

Earth Day is April 22, so celebrate by growing some paper. Made from recycled materials, this homemade paper has added seeds so that it can be planted. If you punch a hole in the paper, these would make wonderful gift tags for a Mother's Day gardening themed gift. So you can make them on Earth Day and give them on Mother's Day! Making paper is a simple process that you can complete using household items, but it is a bit of a messy project, so be prepared.

## Materials:

- 3" embroidery hoop
- Stapler
- Floral tape or duct tape
- Mesh screen
- Paper
- Blender
- Bowl
- Pressed flowers
- Seeds
- Fabric
- Sponge



## Instructions:

1. Cut the screen just larger than the embroidery hoop and staple it to the outside.
2. Secure the screen and cover the staples with waterproof floral tape or duct tape.
3. Tear the paper into small pieces and add it to the blender until it's about half-full. Add warm water until the blender is 2/3 full and blend until the paper is completely processed with no lumps.
4. Dip the screen into the pulp and, holding it level, scoop pulp on top of the frame.
5. While you are holding it on the frame, allow it to drip and sprinkle on some pressed flowers and seeds.
6. In one quick motion, flip the paper onto the fabric and before removing the frame, press with a sponge to remove excess water. Once you have removed the frame, you can press again to remove more water.

\*Allow the paper to dry on the fabric for a few hours, then carefully peel it up and move it to a dry surface, then let it dry overnight. Now you can plant your paper and grow some green stuff. Happy Earth Day!



## Delta News

Please join us in congratulating our very own **Lari Jo Johnston** for receiving the Education K-12 award at the 13th Annual **Coastal Bend Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards** Banquet. Lari Jo has made tremendous contributions in educating the region's youth and adults about the importance and value of their natural surroundings here in the Coastal Bend. Congratulations Lari Jo!



Over 10,000 acres?! This is BIG! The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program closed on the purchase of a 1,970 acre parcel of land in the Nueces River Delta, the final piece in a multi-year effort to acquire the entire 4,737 acres of what once was the Dos Rios Division of Wyatt Ranches. The acquisition of the ranch property nearly doubles the size of the Nueces Delta Preserve and creates more than 10,000 acres of contiguous conserved estuarine habitat for endangered and threatened wildlife species, protecting the fresh water flowing into Nueces and Corpus Christi Bays, and expanding environmental educational opportunities offered by CBBEP.



## Learning On the Edge News

We have had a great year utilizing our new Texas Parks and Wildlife COOP Grant! Through the grant we have been able to acquire new technology for high school students to use while attending two different field trips, one with us here at the Nueces Delta Preserve, and one at an area state park. The hope is that students will be able to compare and contrast habitat between the Delta and the state park and use the technology to record data that can be used back in the classroom.



Click on the link to catch a glimpse into one of those field trips. This video features CCISD's Miller High School Students. We are excited to partner with CCISD to foster learning outside of the classroom. The video was produced by the MANERR at Mustang Island State Park. We look forward to many more trips with high school students this upcoming year!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7esZ\\_aOh8Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7esZ_aOh8Y)





## Upcoming Events

### Delta Discovery Days

Please join us for our remaining Family Picnics! The Delta will be open to the public (free of charge!) the following dates:

**April 9** – Come help us celebrate Earth Day! We will have a Dutch oven cooking demonstration (BYODO: bring your own Dutch oven to throw into the pot luck) and a recycling craft – upcycled bird feeders. The event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please remember to bring a picnic lunch or a Dutch oven to throw on the fire to join in the pot luck.

**May 14** – Join us for a day of discovery and nature. The event will run from 11 to 2. Please bring a picnic, picnic blanket and plenty of water for everyone (we recommend at least two bottles per person). Bug spray and sunscreen is also highly encouraged! There will be staff scattered around the area to answer questions and give background information on plants, animals and history. We look forward to seeing you out there!

\*For more information and to pre-register please visit our website: [www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org](http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org)

### Upcoming Summer Workshops:

June 21-23 Coastal Bend Environmental Science – Elementary Workshop

June 27-30 Coastal Bend Environmental Science – Alumni Workshop

The Coastal Bend Environmental Science workshop provides all the tools necessary for teachers to engage in successful science instruction in their classrooms: the experiences, the curriculum, the pedagogy for teaching field-based science, and the equipment necessary for student field experiences.

Educators participating in the Summer Academy exit the program obtaining added insight into the issues affecting the bays and estuaries, a sound knowledge base of the local ecology, and curriculum that translates into successful science experiences for their students.

Class size is limited. For more information and/or to register please visit our website: [www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org](http://www.nuecesdeltapreserve.org)

