

PRESS RELEASE

CCISD STUDENTS ENJOY FLOATING CLASSROOM

Cruising down the Trinity River in a floating classroom is a unique way for a group of CCISD students to learn about wildlife in its natural habitat. Students in the Bridgeport Communities In Schools program were treated to such a trip recently as part of their summer program. This group of lucky students was able to reach remote parts of the Trinity River delta aboard a 45-foot boat that was modified and certified as a floating classroom for students and residents who are interested in learning about our local wetlands.

“BCIS students were able to see a variety of bird life on the river and several alligators. The boat anchored in a shallow area, lowered its ramp and allowed a team of participants to draw a 6-foot net through the water. Students were treated to tiny blue crabs, shrimp, sand trout, juvenile mullet and other interesting creatures.

Joanna Wactor was the facilitator for this trip and taught students about local wildlife, history of the area, economic impact of the Trinity watershed and the importance of the Trinity delta as a critical hatchery and nursery for Galveston Bay. Joanna also brought a baby alligator along to entertain and teach the students. “It is so much more meaningful for students to experience this environment first-hand”, said Joanna.

This water-borne educational field trip was provided by Youth Educational Support Services, an outdoor adventure program for young people in the Galveston Bay Area. YESS provides various types of adventurous, outdoor activities to at-risk students including sailing, camping and fishing, and is supported by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Seabrook Rotary Club and Capt. Gene Schwantes with Windward Sea Venture. More educational field trips on and around Galveston Bay are in the planning stages and will be called “BaySmart”. Anyone interested in participating should call Dr. Huey Barnett at 281-326-1464. Dr. Barnett is looking for teachers and others who would be interested in volunteering their knowledge and expertise.