



FREPORT LNG AND STEPHEN F. AUSTIN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TEAM UP TO PROTECT DUNES AT QUINTANA BEACH COUNTY PARK

On Friday, November 16, 2012, Freeport LNG's Anthony "Bud" Wruck launched a dunes restoration project at Quintana Beach County Park with fifth- and sixth-grade science class students from Stephen F. Austin Elementary School in Jones Creek, Texas. To help protect the beach dunes against erosion, the students planted sea oats and bitter panicum grasses, which commonly grow on the seaward face of foredunes, are highly erosion-resistant and easily established.

The school's website wrote about the project:

Students in groups of three, each helped play a role in finding out what kind of vegetation is best to plant along the beaches to deter erosion. Bud Wruck, Freeport LNG's health, safety, security and environmental training coordinator, showed the students the best way to plant the long stalks of grass into the sand. "We plant all of this grass and the roots will grow down to anchor the dirt," Wruck explained. Students spread out along the beach, digging holes deep enough to make sure their grass stalks had plenty of sand to grow. Over the school year Wruck will inspect the progress and send pictures to the students so that they can chart the progress. Wruck's goal is to take pictures from the same spot that he will visit monthly, to give students a good representation of how the grass is doing.