Sea Grant Brown Bag Lecture Series

Sea Grant's Army of Volunteers: Taking on Turtles and Other Hurdles

J. Logan Respess

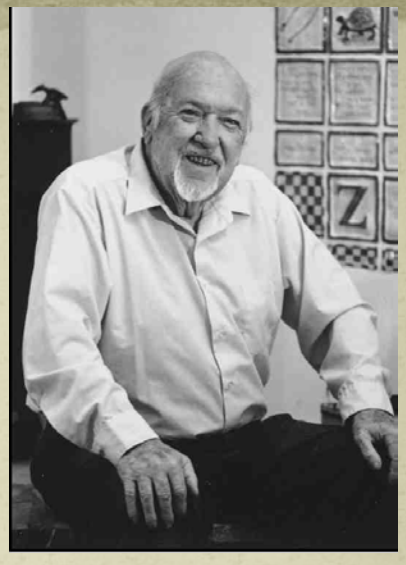
Associate Director & Extension Program Leader

Texas Sea Grant

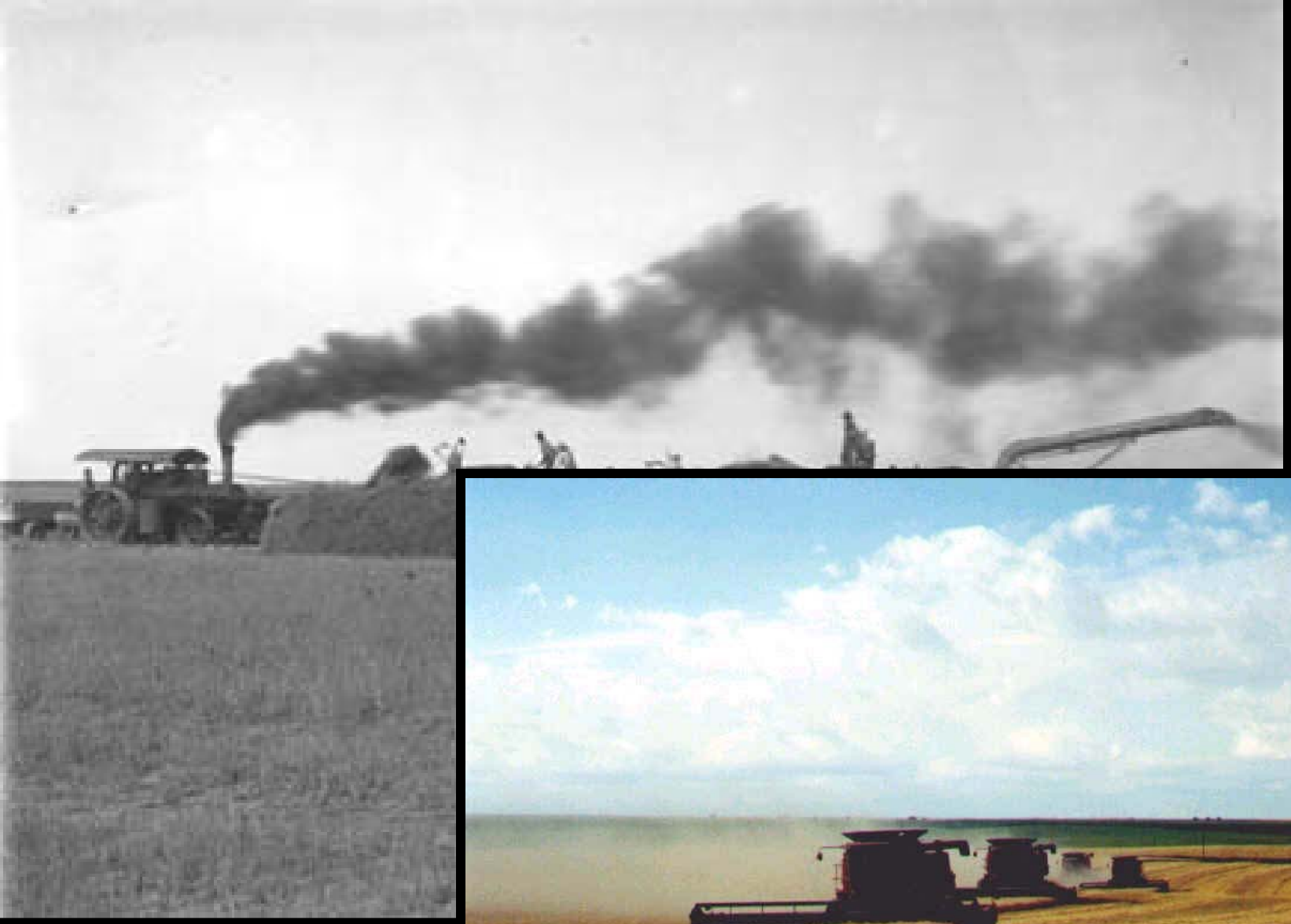
Presentation Overview

- A brief background on Sea Grant and Extension
- Change is coming…quickly
- Against this backdrop – a bit about me.
- Doing more with more – the role of **master** volunteers
  - Texas Master Naturalists
  - Texas Coastal Naturalists
- "Raising me to the power of we!"
- Our strengths are your strengths
- Questions

Father of Sea Grant
Athelstan Spilhaus



- I have suggested the establishment of ‘sea-grant colleges' in existing universities that wish to develop oceanic work . . . These would be modernized parallels of the great developments in agriculture and the mechanic arts which were occasioned by the Land-Grant Act of about a hundred years ago . . . Establishment of the land-grant colleges was one of the best investments this nation ever made. That same kind of imagination and foresight should be applied to *exploitatio*n of the sea."



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Texas Sea Grant's Tripartite Arrangement

County Commissioner's Court

What is an Extension Agent?

- "Extension agents must be people their neighbors will listen to and believe in."

What is an Extension Agent? Educator

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Sea Grant Areas of Expertise

- Fisheries
- Seafood Safety/HACCP
- Aquaculture
- Marine Transportation
- Environmental Quality
- Emergency Management/Safety
- Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Marine Education
- Ecotourism
- Habitat Restoration
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
- Coastal Resiliency
- Coastal Community Development
- ***Volunteer Development**

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Our Changing Coasts

Growth & Development

- A net 630 new residents are moving to Texas every day!
- 13.6 million new residents by 2030

Leading Counties in Building Permits Issued for Single Family Homes from 2006 to 2010

1. Harris, TX
2. Fort Bend, TX
3. Lee, FL
4. Hillsborough, FL
5. Hidalgo, TX

THE TAKEAWAY

The next quarter-century should be marked by prosperity in Texas, driven by population and job growth. By 2030, the state is expected to add 13.6 million people, the equivalent of adding another Dallas–Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Corpus Christi.

A bit about me…

Fall in LOVE with ROCKPORT ~ FULTON

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Aransas County, Texas

Aransas County, Texas

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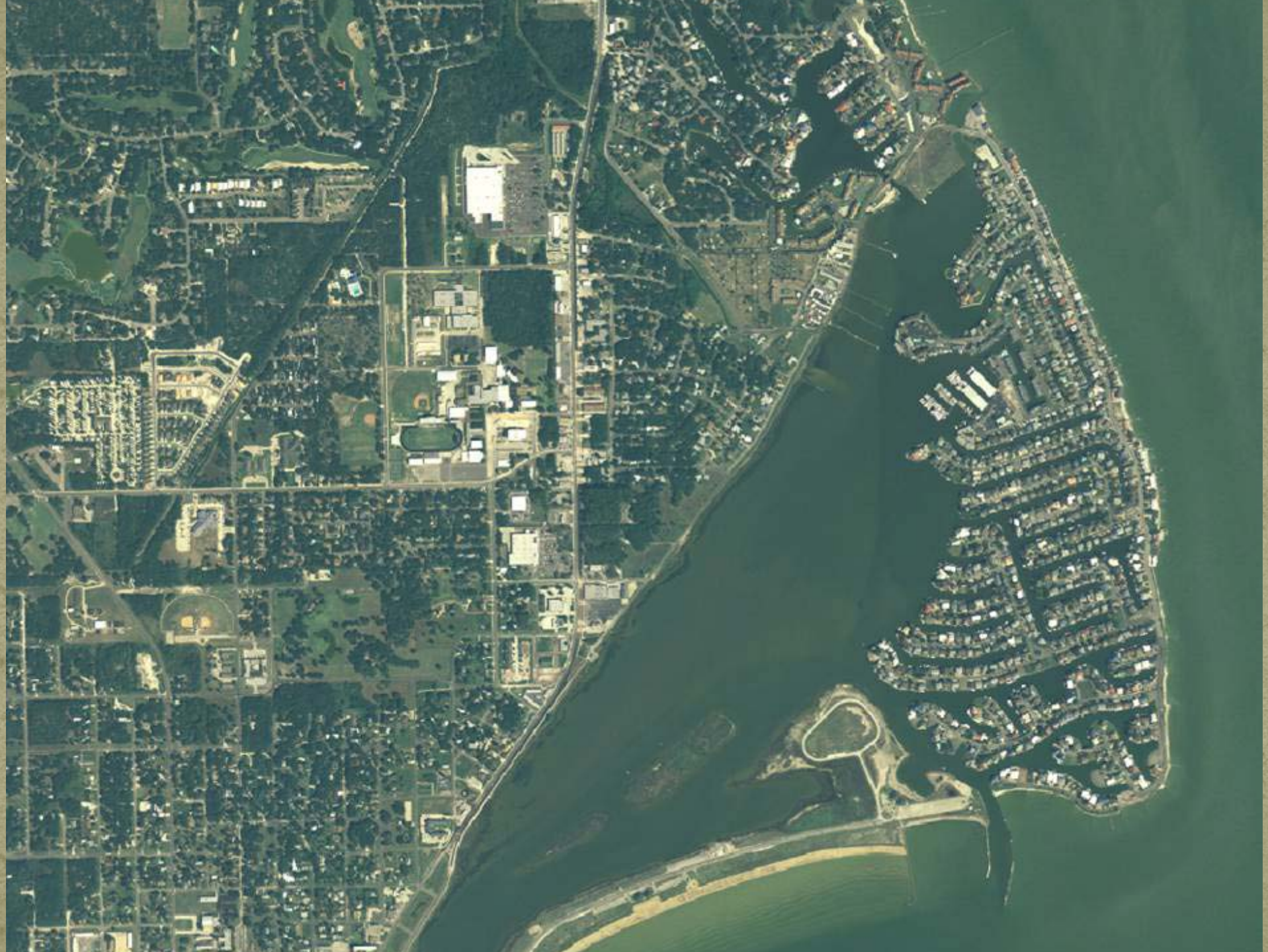

What is an Extension Agent? Educator

What is an Extension Agent? Volunteer Coordinator

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Texas Master Naturalists

Texas Master Naturalist Program

Mission: To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities

Texas Master Naturalist Program

- Complete an organized training program
  - 40 hours of instruction composed of both classroom and field experiences.
  - Obtain a minimum of 8 hours of approved advanced training.
  - Complete a minimum of 40 hours of chapter approved volunteer service.
- Annual re-certification
  - Minimum of 8 hours of advanced training
  - Minimum of 40 hours of volunteer service in approved project activities.

LONE STAR
NASA

American Heart Association
american
heart
walk
GAIL

Galveston Bay
Fifth largest bay system in USA
30% of US petroleum production
US chemical
two of the
ports in US
second largest boating
in US

Tigers

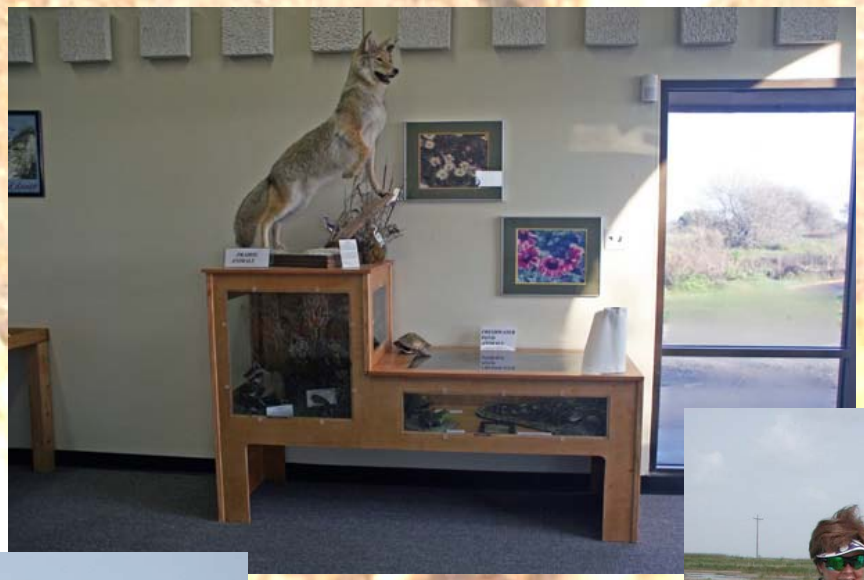
Hands on field experiences

TEXA LEGAL LIMI
Angela

Galveston Island State Park Restoration

GISP Restoration

GISP Restoration



GISP Restoration

- 212 TMN Volunteers
- 16,960 hours
- Reestablished 16-acres of prairie
- Constructed 600' of sand fence
- GISP reopens 6 ½ years ahead of schedule

Red Tide Bloom Off South Padre Island

Texas Coastal Naturalist

Follow

Texas Coastal Naturalist

on

facebook.

Specialized training in Red Tide/HABs, Dolphin strandings, and Sea Turtle strandings

Coastal Naturalists
Red Tide Rangers

Coastal Naturalists - Sea Turtle Rescuers

Coastal Naturalists - Sea Turtle Rescuers

Coastal Naturalists - Sea Turtle Rescuers

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Sea Grant takes me to the power of WE!

- Certification of 75 new TMN volunteers (join 493 active TMNs)
- TMN volunteers contribute 36,752 hours (25.8 FTEs), valued at $766,280 ($20.85/hr via Independent Sector).

Sea Grant takes me to the power of WE!

- Transplanted 32,346 plants
- Development of 8.15 miles of nature trails
- Restoration of >5,000 acres of habitat.
- Conducted 567 educational programs for > 19,000 people

Volunteer opportunities with the Sea Grant Network

Volunteer opportunities with the Sea Grant Network

http://seagrant.noaa.gov

Volunteer with Sea Grant

From beach monitoring to master naturalist programs, there are many opportunities to volunteer in your state. Join us.

Sea Grant's Strengths Are Your Strengths

- Located in the communities and serving the needs of the Community
- Generalist to Specialist
- Result Demonstrations
- Provide unbiased research-based information
- If we don't know, we know who does

Together we can make a difference!

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Questions?

- Logan Respess
- L-respess@tamu.edu
- http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu
- 361.790.0103
- 979.845.7526