



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District participates in Science Family Fun Night, Earth Week

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"Name something on the island the Corps of Engineers has built," said regulatory specialist Lisa Lathem to a crowd of eager students.

"The seawall!" they shouted.

And with that energy and enthusiasm, the Galveston District helped kick off Austin Middle School's Science Family Fun Night April 20 on Galveston Island.

More than 50 students and their parents from the Galveston Independent School District's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math magnet program learned about wetlands, environmental issues and the Corps' permit process during an informative exhibit presentation and engaging question and answer session.

"It's very important to educate the public about the Corps and our processes," said Steven Walls, a regulatory project manager with the Galveston District.

"Our involvement in Science Family Fun Night helps pass the stewardship baton to the next generation."

The Galveston District joined other organizations and agencies, including NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Texas A&M University's Galveston Campus during the hour-long event.

"Having community organizations participate is a number one priority for us and one of our goals," said Austin Middle School principal Cathy Van Ness.

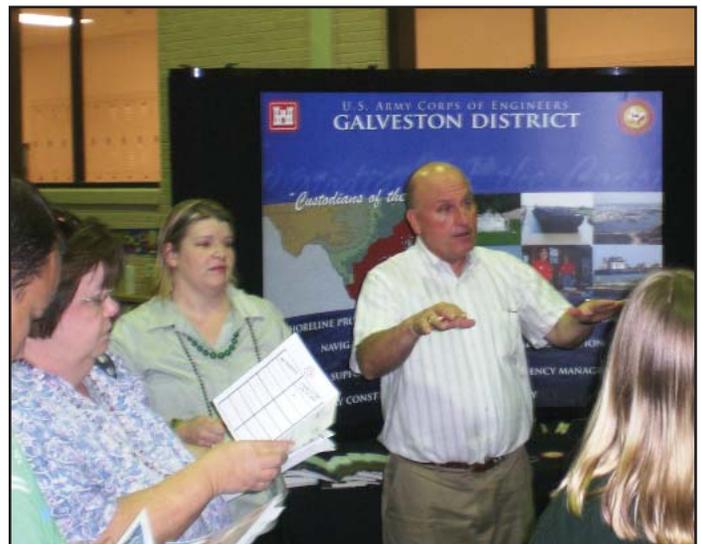
Science Family Fun Night was one event in a series of activities planned to coincide with the school's Earth Week. Other activities included "Go Green Day," in which students and faculty wore green and a live tree planting in the school's garden. Additionally, winners of the school's garden recycle and poster competitions were announced.

"The Corps is here to protect aquatic resources and to promote education," said Lathem.

During the question and answer dialogue, one parent said that her family owned a 10-acre wetland nearby.

"What do you have to get through the Corps to build anything on it?" Lathem asked.

"A permit!" a student exclaimed.



Regulatory specialist Lisa Lathem and regulatory project manager Steven Walls discuss wetlands and the environment with parents and students at Austin Middle School April 20.