

# Scientist Spotlight



## Amanda Fontenot

### Q1. What is your educational background?

I have an Associates in general studies. I started in Dr. Nancy Rabalais' lab at the very bottom and through hard work, I have been able to work my way up to my current position. Education is very important to me and I plan on finishing my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology in the near future. I know that hard work and determination will help me to further my career

### Q2. What inspired you to become a scientist?

I would have to give credit to the wonderful Bill Nye the science guy for my interest in science. During school, I always excelled in science and it was something I naturally gravitated to. I figured that making a career in the field of science would make me happy so I worked hard to make it happen.

The Coastal Waters Consortium's mission is to assess the chemical evolution, biological degradation, and environmental stresses of petroleum and dispersant within Gulf of Mexico coastal and shelf ecosystems.



### Q3. What is your role as a scientist for CWC?

I playfully refer to my position as a minion. I handle most of the "grunt" work as I like to call it. I spend most of my time out in the field collecting samples, making sure instruments are working correctly and making sure the data that is coming in is correct and ready for the principle investigators.

### Q4. Can you describe what you enjoy the most about conducting scientific research?

I enjoy getting my hands dirty. The best part of my day is being out on the water or waist deep in the marsh collecting samples. I am one of the problem solvers when it comes to instruments. I love that when the break down it is like a puzzle to determine, then fix the problem. The way our research works, I get to see the results from beginning to end and it really emphasizes that I am a part of something bigger.

