

Shell Beach
by Mandy Merkl

In your life you will see many beautiful places; however, most of these places are manmade. Fortunately, there are places that have held on to their natural magnificence, like Shell Beach, Louisiana. Shell Beach is one of many places that was destroyed by hurricanes, but has strived and is still growing through its natural beauties. Shell Beach has retained its beauty of its animals, people and water.

The animals in Shell Beach are one of the things that create Shell Beach's natural beauty. When you walk outside from a hard day, it's relaxing to sit down and look at the fish jumping out of the water, turtles swimming around and the beautiful birds talking to one another. The animals help bring out Shell Beach's beauty, but they aren't the only things that make the place magnificent.

When you cross over the Shell Beach bridge, you are always welcomed with a beautiful smile and a warm hello from everyone who passes. In Shell Beach, everyone was raised together, so it feels like family, and in a place like that, that's beauty alone. The people make their livings by crabbing and fishing, and when they have had a good day, it's nice to see them come home happy because they caught a lot of food.

Shell Beach is filled with many beautiful things, but my favorite is the water. As a young girl, I always used to go sit on my uncle's pier and throw rocks in the water when the sun was setting. The colors would change with every ripple the rock would make. When the boats would pass by, I would watch them move over all the waves they would make. The water is my favorite most of all because it reminds me of my godfather and reminds me of his frequent saying, "It don't get any better than this."

The next time you go to Shell Beach, I hope you don't just look at it for a few minutes and leave. Realize how beautiful it is and how it is still growing; maybe even throw a rock in the water and see what happens.