

LA Wetland Education Coalition

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<http://www.lacoast.gov/education/lawec/>



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1. Gulf of Mexico Alliance meeting – call for educators to participate! NEXT WEEK

As a stakeholder and key partner with an interest in the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico, you are invited to participate in the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshop. The Alliance has been formed to unite Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida on environmental issues related to the Gulf. Now is the time for the voice of Louisiana citizens AND EDUCATORS to be heard. The community workshop will be an important opportunity to add your views to this effort. Your help is needed to identify priority needs to improve the Gulf of Mexico region.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance Community Workshop will be held Tuesday, **February 21, 2006; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** The event will be hosted by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), in partnership with coastal wetland stakeholders throughout Louisiana. The meeting will be held at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve at 314 St. Mary Street (Hwy 1) in Thibodaux, LA.

As space is limited, **please RSVP to join us.** Contact Sandra Helmuth in the BTNEP office [985/447-0868; <Sandra@btnep.org>] to let BTNEP know you want to participate.

2. *Nab the Aquatic Invaders (Exotic Species) Workshop set for March 11.*

An exotic species workshop sponsored by Louisiana Sea Grant College Program is set for March 11, 2006, in LSU's Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge. The workshop is open to all 6-12 teachers.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn a multi-disciplinary approach for enhancing your current curriculum on biology, environmental science and geography
- Understand the importance of how invasive species impact native ecosystem balance
- Discover ways for students to become environmental stewards and share information with their communities
- Incorporate instructional technology that meets science and geography standards— all activities are linked to these standards
- Implement creative activities that were developed by your peers
- Create new activities and suspect profiles for species in the Gulf region for the site.
- Provide your students with enjoyable ways to do research on invasive species
- Create opportunities for your students to share their projects with other students
- Earn CLUs as part of this professional development.
- Opportunity to earn a stipend for developing lessons, suspect profiles and stewardship projects.



To register, contact Dianne Lindstedt [225-578-1558, FAX 225-578-6331, <dlindst@lsu.edu>].

3. New Book on Tides Released

Dr. J. G. McCully, author newly released *Beyond the Moon: A Conversational, Common Sense Guide to Understanding the Tides*, would like to invite educators interested in teaching or learning about the tides to view information about his new book at <http://www.worldscibooks.com/envirosci/6015.html>.

4. Marine Advanced Technology Education Center's 2006 Summer Institutes- Come Join Us in California!

The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center is announcing two Summer Institutes at Monterey Peninsula College for 2006- Creating a GIS Field Project to Address Marine and

Coastal Issues and Building Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs).

Creating a GIS Field Project to Address Marine and Coastal Issues will be held from July 8th-14th. The institute will walk educators through each step of creating their own GIS projects they can use in their classrooms. Participants will learn the basics of GIS and cartography and increase their knowledge of data sources, data types and data management. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with marine and coastal GIS experts to achieve a better understanding of how GIS is being used to better understand marine and coastal issues.

Building Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) will be held from July 31st to August 5th. This institute will teach educators the basic skills and knowledge to help their students design and build ROVs that can compete in MATE's regional and National ROV competitions. Instructors and experts for industry will provide information about Roves and their uses and will conduct hands-on sessions. Educators will work in teams to design and build their own ROVs to complete a set of predetermined mission tasks in a competition at the end of the week. In addition to classroom and hands-on learning experiences, field trips around the Monterey Bay area, including a visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium are planned.

Are you an educator with an interest in these exciting fields of marine technology? If so, please apply and join MATE for a weeklong hands-on workshop! There is **no fee** for participating in these institutes. Lunches and some dinners will be provided by the MATE Center as well as hotel accommodations for participants living more than 50 miles from Monterey. Some travel stipends are also available. For more information, visit the MATE website at <http://www.marinetech.org/education/institutes.php> or contact Lani Clough, MATE Faculty Development Coordinator [831-646-4011; <lclough@marinetech.org>].

5. National Estuarine Research Reserve's System seeks feedback.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking advice and guidance from K-12 educators on the potential development of educational materials associated with the National Estuarine Research Reserve's System (see <http://nerrs.noaa.gov> for more information). **We are looking for thoughtful input/recommendations from K12 educators on how we can develop an effective education program that takes advantage of the unique attributes of water quality and weather data from our nation's estuaries.** We want to know: Can K-12 teachers use this kind of data in their classrooms? And if so, how and what formats and products are they likely to use? We need feedback from teachers who:

- 1) use computers/Internet moderately to frequently;
- 2) use real data (self-collected or online) with students as part of lessons
- 3) teach science or incorporate it into lesson plans
- 4) are familiar with parameters measured by scientific data streams (such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, etc).

If you have feedback that you would like to contribute, email Madeline Gazzale at <mgazzale@marine.rutgers.edu>.

6. A National Marine Sanctuary Professional Development Opportunity

Down Under, Out Yonder Educator Workshop and SCUBA Expedition for teachers offers a classroom theory component accompanied by hands-on activities. The workshop is then followed by an intense SCUBA diving field experience in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary—110 miles off the Texas/Louisiana coastline. Workshop participants learn fish count and coral reef surveying protocols. For more information and to download an application, visit

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>

Applications are due by February 24, 2006

7. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserv:** A listserv serving educators interested in LA wetlands.
- **To send a message of your own to the listserv:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and type your message into the body of the email. The message will be distributed to ALL PARTICIPANTS subscribing to the listserv. As a participant, you are welcome to send messages to educators subscribing to the LA Wetland Education Coalition listserv. We ask that participants focus their emails on educational opportunities and materials *directly related to wetland education*.

- **To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserve:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and enclose the following single line in the body of the email
unsubscribe LAWEC-L
- **To SUBSCRIBE to this listserv:** email LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU, with only the following line listed in the body of the email:
subscribe lawec-l YourFirstName YourLastName
For example: subscribe lawec-l John Doe
NOTE: You should not put anything in the subject line and should remove any automatic signatures from the email, otherwise the signup process will not work. You will get a return message indicating that you have been subscribed to the listserve along with information on other listserve operations you can perform (such as unsubscribe, etc.). If you have trouble, email Dr. Pam Blanchard at <pamb@lsu.edu>.

Please do not reply to the entire list unless you want everyone to read your message!