



Land Marks

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WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2015

HOUMA, La. - February 2nd was the sixth annual World Wetlands Day. The educational celebration took place at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum and was hosted by The South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center. Local schools participated in the event that is part of a global day for wetlands preservation. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Public Outreach Team participated in the event.

CWPPRA's activity focused on engaging the students with a variety of animals that occupy wetland habitats such as swamps, marshes, and barrier islands. This allowed students to make the connection between the value of these habitats and the importance of biodiversity in our coastal wetlands.

Students participated in an activity called "Where the Wild Things Belong." Each student placed a bean bag animal that represented a native species to Louisiana in the appropriate habitat. Approximately 200 students were in attendance at the Waterlife Museum through the World Wetlands Day celebration. Each student also received a copy of the children's activity book, "Henri Heron's Louisiana Wetlands." The vibrantly colored activity book

helps children understand that conservation is an integral step to ensure our wetlands will exist for future generations. It features activities such as a hidden picture puzzle, a wetland maze, and word search. A sticker page to use within the book completes the educational fun!

*Parents, please go to www.LACOAST.gov under "Education" and then "Activity Books" to view the answer key.



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DATES TO REMEMBER...

March 21	Audubon Zoo Earth Fest	New Orleans, LA
March 28	"I Remember..." Exhibit and Wetlands Festival	Marrero, LA
Apr. 16	Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Apr. 19-25	Environmental Education Week	Louisiana



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BOOK

Produced in house by CWPPRA staff, Henri Heron's Louisiana Wetlands Children's Activity Book is a beautifully illustrated and vibrantly colored educational publication. The activity book teaches children through illustration that conservation is an integral step to ensure our wetlands will exist for future generations. It contains nine pages of enriching activities.

The color alone is enough to entice any student, but the sticker page is an added bonus for entertaining student engagement. A thoughtful message regarding wetland conservation is included on the inside of the cover from Jane Schwandt Frayle, an Early Childhood Education Consultant. Inside the activity book are a multitude of educational exercises. These include species matching with stickers, hidden picture puzzle, life cycle of a frog, connect the dots, wetland maze, image comparison, species word search, matching coastal restoration techniques with stickers, and a wetlands protection art activity. A fun facts page



about Louisiana Wetlands complements the children's activity book.

Use this activity book to start the discussion with your children about how to protect, restore, and conserve Louisiana's precious coastal wetlands. To request copies, please visit www.LaCoast.gov under "Education" and "Free Stuff."



FEATURED PROJECT: NEW ORLEANS LANDBRIDGE MARSH CREATION

The project is located in Region 1, Pontchartrain Basin, Orleans Parish, flanking U.S. Highway 90 along the east shore of Lake Pontchartrain and areas surrounding Lake St. Catherine.

Since 1956, approximately 110 acres of marsh have been lost along the east shore of Lake Pontchartrain between Hospital Road and the Greens Ditch. One of the greatest influences of marsh loss in the area can be attributed to tropical storm impacts. Wetland losses were accelerated by winds and storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina, which converted approximately 70 acres of interior marsh to open water. Stabilizing the shoreline and protecting the remaining marsh would protect natural coastal resources dependent on this important estuarine lake, communities that thrive on those resources, the Fort Pike State Historical Site, and infrastructure including U.S. Highway 90. USGS land change analysis determined a loss rate of -0.35% per year for the 1984 -2011 period of analysis. Subsidence in this unit is relatively low and is estimated at 0-1 foot/century (Coast 2050).

Lake Pontchartrain supports a large number of wintering waterfowl. Various gulls, terns, herons, egrets, and rails can be found using habitats associated with Lake Pontchartrain, which has been designated as an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. Restoring these marshes will protect the Orleans Landbridge and will help to protect fish and wildlife trust resources

dependent on these marsh habitats, particularly at-risk species and species of conservation concern such as the black rail, reddish egret, brown pelican, mottled duck, seaside sparrow, king rail, and the Louisiana eyed silkmoth.

Borrow material will be dredged from areas within Lakes St. Catherine and Pontchartrain to create 169 acres and nourish 102 acres of brackish marsh. Containment dikes will be constructed around four marsh creation areas to retain sediment during pumping. The lake shorelines will be enhanced with an earthen berm to add additional protection from wind induced wave fetch. Containment dikes that are not functioning as shoreline enhancement will be degraded and/or gapped. Vegetative plantings are proposed including five rows along the crown and two rows along the front slope of the shoreline protection berm, as well as within the marsh platform area.

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2015.



(Above) PO-169 New Orleans Landbridge Shoreline Stabilization & Marsh Creation Project.

(Left)

As a result of marsh scoured by Hurricane Katrina, a remnant shoreline east of U.S. Highway 90 offers little protection from wave energy coming from Lake St. Catherine and Rigolets Pass.



2015 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The 2015 Louisiana State Environmental Education Symposium was held in Baton Rouge on February 27th and 28th. Approximately 40 exhibitors attended the event, including the CWPPRA Outreach Team.

The State Symposium is held annually to help engage both formal and informal educators in new methods of teaching students about the various environmental issues facing Louisiana. Over twenty workshops and information sessions were held during the weekend symposium. On the first day of the Symposium, attendees participated in field trips for short course experiences. Fifteen participants visited the Big Branch NWF CWPPRA Restoration project in Lacombe, LA. The short course included an hour of classroom experience, learning about coastal land loss issues in Louisiana, followed by an air boat tour of the restoration project.

The Symposium drew an overall attendance of more than 200 people. Each attendee received a copy of the new children's activity book, produced earlier this year.

CWPPRA Outreach Coordinator, Kelia Bingham, and Media Specialist, Cole Ruckstuhl, attended the event. Hundreds of attendees visited the CWPPRA booth to learn more about what is being done to help protect and restore coastal Louisiana.



Friendlier than the average snake, these guys were quite comfortable at the Symposium.

Getting up close and personal with a small Alligator.



The CWPPRA Public Outreach Booth at the 2015 Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

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