



Landmarks

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WETSHOP 2015

Grand Isle, La. - During the week of June 14th-19th, Louisiana teachers participated in one of the premier wetland education trainings in the nation. This is a week-long, dynamic teacher workshop that allows teachers to work with educator/scientists to learn about Louisiana coastal wetlands, issues and history. The focus of the summer workshop is to create wetland stewards of teachers in order for them to educate co-workers and students in their home parishes about coastal land loss.

Teachers spent more than 70 hours learning about various watershed topics. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries lead the weeklong training. BTNEP, LA Sea Grant, TNC, LUMCON and CWPPRA were active partners helping to provide a well-rounded week of experiential

learning. Teachers had field experiences including visiting wetland restoration sites, seining, creating wetland transects, birding, wetland plant identification, dock fishing, boat fishing, and learning about water quality testing techniques. Additionally these hardworking educators had lessons on the Mississippi River history, Grand Isles' maritime forest, edible wetland plants, and invasive species. Teachers also learned about some of the economic value of Louisiana's wetlands by visiting Port Fourchon, trawling for shrimp, and learning about oyster ecology and harvesting. The CWPPRA outreach team provided information on land loss and coastal restoration efforts for the past twenty-five years across the state.

To learn more about WETSHOP contact Angela Capello at ACapello@wlf.louisiana.gov



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DATES TO REMEMBER...

July 21	Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority Monthly Meeting	Lake Charles, LA
August 8	BTNEP Management Conference Meeting #72	Thibodaux, LA
August 11	LEEC Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Sept. 10	Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
Sept. 26	National Hunting & Fishing Day	Woodworth, LA

LEEC ANNUAL AWARDS AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION 2015

Baton Rouge, La. - On June 23rd, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) held its annual Arts and Language Arts Contest awards ceremony at the Louisiana Governor's Mansion. Twenty-one students ranging from ages 5-18 were recognized for first, second and third place in art and language categories. The theme of the contest was "Biodiversity in Our World." Attendees included winners in each age category of both the art and language arts contests. Cole Ruckstuhl, CWPBRA Media Specialist and LEEC Chairman, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne Natural Estuary Program was the keynote speaker for the awards ceremony. Bergeron urged everyone to take notice of the rich biodiversity we have right here in Louisiana. Bergeron addressed the contest winners and emphasized the significance of their art: "Your works of art and written words will help people to learn that about the value of having a variety of plants, animals, fungi, and micro-organisms. Your words and art are designed to remind us that we as humans need to ensure that we protect and preserve the land, water, and air that these creatures depend upon to flourish."



Vibriyogn Epuri, 14-18 year old arts winner, shakes hands with Susan Testroet-Bergeron while accepting his award.

Top overall winners in each category received a monetary prize presented in part by the Alcoa Foundation. Following the ceremony, participants were invited to take a group picture with Louisiana Environmental Education Commission members in front of the Governor's Mansion. For information on next year's contest, check out the CWPBRA Newsflash on LaCoast.gov for announcements made by the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission. ■



FEATURED PROJECT: WEST FOURCHON MARSH CREATION AND NOURISHMENT

The project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, in Lafourche Parish.

The primary causes of land loss in the project area are oil and gas canals, subsidence, and sediment deprivation, which have resulted in an estimated rate of -0.41% per year based on hyper-temporal analysis conducted by USGS for the extended project boundary for the years 1984 to 2012. Bounded by Bayou Lafourche to the east and Timbalier Bay to the west the project area is also subject to shoreline erosion.

This project would create 302 acres of saline intertidal marsh and nourish 312 acres of emergent marsh using material dredged from the Gulf of Mexico, southwest of the project area. Earthen containment dikes will be constructed along the project boundary to contain the material. Vegetative plantings are planned at a 50% density, with half planned at TY1 and half planned at TY3 if necessary. Containment dikes will be degraded or gapped by TY3 to allow access for estuarine organisms. Funding will be set aside for the creation of tidal creeks if needed. This project, along with TE-23 West Belle Pass Headland Restoration and TE-52 West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, will help stabilize the edge of the marshes and protect Port Fourchon from the west. The initial construction elevation is +2.4 feet NAVD 88; after settlement, marsh is expected to be +1.4 NAVD 88.

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2015 and is funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.



Remnant mangrove/spartina marsh hangs on at the site of West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment project.



TE-134 West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Nourishment Project

ACADIAN CULTURAL CENTER - SUMMER CULTURE CAMP

Lafayette, La. - The Jean Lafitte National Park: Acadian Culture Center hosted their summer program called "Culture Camp." Culture Camp is a summer camp for students to learn about Acadian and American Indian culture, folklore and how their environment has shaped these cultures.

On June 24th and July 22nd, CWPPRA Outreach staff engaged 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. Each student also received a copy of the children's activity book, "Henri Heron's Louisiana Wetlands."

The Acadian Cultural Center in Lafayette tells stories of the origins, migration, settlement, and contemporary culture of the Acadians (Cajuns) and other area groups. Ranger programs, films, exhibits, and events share a variety of local traditions including music, story telling, dance, and food, and explore the mysteries of the Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana's wildest place.

WETLAND CURRICULUM WORKSHOP FOR INFORMAL EDUCATORS

Baton Rouge, La. - CWPPRA Outreach staff participated in a Wetland Curriculum Workshop for Informal Educators on May 22nd at the BREC Bluebonnet Swamp Education Building. The 4-H Youth Wetlands Program hosted this fun, hands-on, and educational workshop to demonstrate lesson plans about Louisiana's wetlands and the animals that rely on them. Specifically geared towards non-formal educators, this workshop explored hands-on, place-based activities about real world issues surrounding wetlands and their animal inhabitants. These activities

can be used in community outreach, on-site programming, and summer camps. Some of the topics covered were crawfish exploration, an arthropod adventure, threats to alligator snapping turtles, symbiotic relationships, and endangered species.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

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