

LA Wetland Education Coalition

Wetland News for December 2, 2004



1. **Faults and Earthquakes in Louisiana? You bet....**
2. **USGS Partners with SEEDS Program for Student Field Trip to the Louisiana Wetlands**
3. **Close call pushes state to try to ease evacuation, but B.R. bottleneck looms as formidable obstacle**
4. **BoatU.S. Foundation Makes Funding Available For Clean Water Grants Aquatic Nuisance Species Focus Topic for 2005**
5. **LAWEC-L listserv information**

1. **Faults and Earthquakes in Louisiana? You bet....**

Faults in Louisiana? You bet! Years of oil exploration has mapped many subsurface faults in Louisiana. In south Louisiana, most of the fault traces roughly parallel the coastline. Evidence of activity on some of these faults can be seen in cracked buildings and pavements that straddle fault traces in Baton Rouge, Scotlandville, and Denham Springs. Movement along these faults is by gradual creep rather than a sudden large earthquake. Still interested? Read more about earthquakes and Louisiana geofacts in the following Louisiana Geological Survey publications: ***Earthquakes in Louisiana*** (June 2001, Public Information Series No. 7), ***Active Faults in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana*** (June 2001, PI Series No. 8), and ***Louisiana Geofacts*** (February 2001, PI Series No. 6). These publications are available from the Louisiana Geological Survey, 208 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; 225/ 578-5320, fax 225/ 578-3662; <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu>.

2. **USGS Partners with SEEDS Program for Student Field Trip to the Louisiana Wetlands**

Competitively chosen African American, Latino American and Native American college students from across the United States and Puerto Rico participated in a field trip to Louisiana's wetlands hosted by the USGS National Wetlands Research Center (Lafayette, LA), on November 18 – 21, 2004. USGS scientist and SEEDS mentor, Dr. Jacoby Carter, along with fellow scientists Tom Doyle, Richard Day, Larry Allain, Andrea Anteau, and USGS contractors Sergio Merino, Garrett Thibodeaux, and Susan Horton, met with the students and fueled their passion for wetland ecology through presentations, tours, and visits to field sites in the swamp, marshes and coastal prairie ecosystems of south Louisiana. The field trip was part of the Ecological Society of America's SEEDS program, Strategies for Ecology Education, Development and Sustainability, which has as its goal to build a "grass roots movement of ecologically knowledgeable students who have traditionally been underrepresented in the ecology profession." (submitted by Susan Horton, Lafayette, LA, 337 266-8655)

3. **Close call pushes state to try to ease evacuation, but B.R. bottleneck looms as formidable obstacle**

By Jan Moller, **Capital bureau**, New Orleans Times Picayune, November 29, 2004

BATON ROUGE -- The 2004 hurricane season, which officially ends Tuesday, is likely to be remembered in Louisiana not for high winds but for long waits.

State evacuation plans for Hurricane Ivan, fashioned after Hurricane Georges in 1998, proved inadequate in mid-September as thousands of motorists were stranded for up to 12 hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic en route to Baton Rouge and beyond from New Orleans.

State emergency officials initially proclaimed the evacuation a huge success, but they amended that assessment after hearing numerous complaints from those stuck in the traffic.

Since late September, state officials have been working on an "after-action review" ordered by Gov. Kathleen Blanco in an attempt to speed up future evacuations. The results are expected to be unveiled Thursday, when emergency officials are scheduled to testify before the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security about future evacuation plans.

Ivan "gave us a good test case to test some of our evacuation operations, and it demonstrated that we still have some problems in that particular area," said state climatologist Barry Keim of Louisiana State University.

In particular, Ivan provided the first trial of a contraflow traffic plan in which all Interstate 10 lanes were opened to westbound traffic between Kenner and LaPlace. Cars in the normal westbound lanes were routed to Interstate 55, while those traveling west in the eastbound lanes continued toward Baton Rouge.

Many of those routed north on I-55 were intent on heading west, causing a bottleneck to develop in Hammond at the intersection of Interstates 12 and 55. "We just sent them in a big loop, from 10 to 55 to 12 back to 10," said Department of Transportation and Development spokesman Mark Lambert. "We know we need to control the traffic better. We need to anticipate."

Another major bottleneck occurred in Baton Rouge, where I-12 joins I-10 westbound, and five lanes of traffic merge into two.

Lambert said last week that agency officials are still reviewing several options for improving contraflow before sending specific recommendations to the governor.

"We need to do a better job of signage and education and letting people know there are more ways than the interstate to get out of New Orleans," Lambert said. "We're also looking at several different versions of contraflow right now, and we're trying to look at which version . . . makes the best sense and which one is going to help the most."

One option under consideration is to extend contraflow all the way to Baton Rouge. But Lambert said that might not solve the major problem.

"The core problem is you've got a huge logjam in Baton Rouge, and getting people to that logjam quicker . . . is not necessarily going to improve traffic flow," Lambert said. "We're looking at three (to) four different scenarios involving traffic patterns in New Orleans and Baton Rouge."

Louisiana State Police spokesman Lt. Lawrence McLeary said traffic jams are inevitable during an evacuation, no matter what changes are ultimately made, because freeways are not designed to accommodate nearly everyone leaving at once. "You're not going to remove the bottleneck," McLeary said. "You're just going to move it to a different place."

Jan Moller can be reached at jmoller@timespicayune.com or (225) 342-5207.

4. BoatU.S. Foundation Makes Funding Available For Clean Water Grants Aquatic Nuisance Species Focus Topic for 2005

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is seeking nonprofit groups to help educate mariners about good environmental habits with grants of up to \$4,000 for clean boating projects. Clean Water grants are designed to educate boaters on issues such as petroleum pollution prevention, pumpout education, and littering prevention. Although all clean boating education proposals will be considered, the 2005 "focus topic" is reducing the spread of aquatic nuisance species - with extra consideration given to proposals that address the issue.

"Boaters who trailer their boats can inadvertently transfer non native plants, fish, and other species from one body of water to another," explains Margaret Podlich, environmental director for the BoatU.S. Foundation. "When alien species are spread to new waters, they can devastate the native ecosystem. We are looking for proposals that educate boaters about practical habits to prevent the further spread of invasive species - for example, zebra mussels in middle America, purple loosestrife in the Great Lakes or even the infamous snakehead in Maryland."

Last year's grant program received 62 proposals; of these, 19 projects in 15 states were selected for funding. To view previous grant projects, learn more about aquatic nuisance species, or download a 2005 application, please visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Cleanwater/grants>. Applications must be e-mailed or postmarked by midnight February 1, 2005.

The BoatU.S Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of 575,000 members of BoatU.S., the nation's largest recreational boat owners association. The Foundation has more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" clean fueling campaign, a free kid's Life Jacket Loaner program, and grants for nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

(submitted by Susan Testroet- Bergeron, Johnson Controls, Inc., USGS Wetland Research Institute, Lafayette)

5. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserve:** A listserve 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 listserve. As a participant, you are welcome to send messages to educators subscribing to the LA Wetland Education Consortium listserve. 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!

