

LA Wetland Education Coalition

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



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1. Quick Access to NASA Information

NASA materials are often lengthy and include many color pictures and graphics that can take hours to download. A partnership between NASA and OfficeMax, Inc., means that NASA enthusiasts can have the large files printed at the closest OfficeMax store. OfficeMax Print and Document Services facilities are offering savings of up to 50% on all materials printed from the NASA website. Anyone can search for free materials by visiting <http://www.nasa.gov/education/materials>. Educators can print the materials themselves or select the new OfficeMax icon on the NASA website and the materials will be professionally copied and collated for delivery or shipping or made available for next day pickup at the nearest OfficeMax store.

2. Wetland Education through Maps and Aerial Photography (WETMAAP) Workshop Set for March 18

WETMAAP (Wetland Education Through Maps and Aerial Photography), a wetland workshop for educators that provide basic ecological concepts, technological skills, and methods of interpretation necessary for understanding and assessing wetland and upland habitat change. Our objective is to introduce wetland habitats and their functions and values to educators. By providing this wetland workshop to educators, we hope to increase their abilities to promote student awareness of and interest in wetland issues. Workshop participants will explore wetlands by using aerial photography, satellite imagery, and wetland maps and will learn

how to introduce traditional mapping techniques into the classroom. WETMAAP offers a low-cost method of accessing high-tech data and using up-to-date techniques, procedures, and theories for data interpretation and assessment of wetlands. The concept of geographic information systems (GIS) is introduced. Workshop participants or website users have the option to reproduce workshop materials at a minor copy price or to print most of the materials from the website. Through use of the WETMAAP website and workshop (<http://www.rac.louisiana.edu/wetmaap>), educators can increase their ability to promote student awareness of and interest in wetland issues.

To register for the workshop, contact Lindsey Broussard <lindsey_broussard@usgs.gov> or register on-line by going to <http://www.rac.louisiana.edu>. The registration form will be under education.

3. LPBF Launches *Basin Bulletin*

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) is excited to announce their new email newsletter, the *Basin Bulletin*. The *Basin Bulletin* will contain reports on what's happening around the Pontchartrain Basin including information on LPBF's projects, action alerts, events and much more. If you are interested in receiving the email newsletter, visit http://www.saveourlake.org/bulletin_join.htm to sign up. Please forward this email to any interested friends. We also welcome your comments.

4. Education Department Seeks Nominations for 2006 "American Stars of Teaching"

The U.S. Department of Education plans to honor outstanding classroom teachers through the American Stars of Teaching program. The Department's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is seeking nominations and information about teachers who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom, and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored this fall as 2006 American Stars of Teaching. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching. One teacher will be recognized from each state. To learn more or nominate a teacher to become an American Star of Teaching, please visit the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative Web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>. All nominations must be completed by **April 15**. The U.S. Department of Education received more than 2,000 nominations for the 2005 school year. A list of past years' honorees can be found at: <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/american-stars-teachers.html>.

5. The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes seeks nominations for its 2006 awards. The Barron Prize honors young people ages 8 to 18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet. Each year, ten national winners each receive \$2,000 to support their service work or higher education. This year's nomination **deadline is April 30**. For more information and to nominate, visit <http://www.barronprize.org>.

6. ARMADA Project Deadline is Feb 6

There is still time to apply to the **ARMADA Project- Research and Mentoring Experiences for Teachers. Application deadline is February 6, 2006**. The ARMADA Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, provides K-12 teachers an opportunity to actively participate in ocean, polar, and environmental science research and peer mentoring.

Selected Master Teachers (with five or more years teaching experience) are paired with leading

scientists and participate in shipboard, field, or laboratory research with all expenses paid. Research experiences will take place during the summer, although there may be opportunities during the school year. Upon completion of their research experience, Master Teachers develop ways to bring the fruits of their research experiences, including scientific data, methodologies, and technology into their classrooms. They share their experiences by mentoring new teachers in their school district and by presenting their results at the National Science Teachers Association National Conventions.

The ARMADA Project has placed teachers in research experiences all over the world. Past experiences include taking part in the largest North Pacific humpback whale study in the waters off the coast of Alaska, investigating the impacts of global change in the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic, monitoring and assessing tidal creeks in South Carolina, studying the impact of human activity on dusky dolphins in New Zealand, exploring the seafloor off the coast of Sumatra to better understand the forces that lead to the 2004 Asian tsunami, water circulation studies in the Norwegian Sea, and a variety of ecosystem monitoring projects in the Bay of Fundy, Narragansett Bay, Gulf of Maine, Stellwagen Bank, Western Shelf of Florida, Sargasso Sea, Bahamas, Alaska, and Block Island Sound.

For more information about teacher qualifications, responsibilities, and to download an application see the ARMADA Project website <http://www.armadaproject.org> or contact Andrea Kecskes [401-874-6211, <armada@gso.uri.edu>].

7. Stimulating Interest in Careers in Fisheries Science and Management for Secondary Students

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is designed to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Students (Grades 10-12) spend 8 weeks in the summer working alongside their mentor who is a fishery professional in their local community. Maximum Award: Participants receive a \$3,000 scholarship paid out in 6 installments over the summer months. Eligibility: all sophomore, junior, and senior high school students regardless of race, creed, or gender. Because the principal goal of the program is to increase diversity within the fisheries

professions, preference will be given to qualified women and minority applicants. Deadline: February 15, 2006. For further details, visit <http://www.fisheries.org/html/hutton.shtml>.

8. NOAA Teacher at Sea

Are you or your colleagues interested in gaining first-hand research experience on a government ocean research vessel? If so, we encourage you to explore the opportunities offered by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program, now accepting applications until **February 28, 2006**. The mission of NOAA's Teacher at Sea program is to give teachers a clearer insight into our ocean planet and a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and to foster an interdisciplinary educational experience that provides a unique environment for learning and teaching. **Who May Apply:** currently employed K-16 teachers. **For more information, visit** <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/>

9. Bridge Ocean Observing Activities and Survey

The BRIDGE has developed several classroom-ready activities using coastal and ocean observing system technologies. The September, October, and November BRIDGE Data Activities all feature data, either real-time or archived, from observing systems. In order to make coastal and ocean observing systems more education-friendly, the BRIDGE has created a brief online survey asking educators to comment on observing system technology and integrating it into their curricula. The information collected from the survey will be used to develop additional BRIDGE resources, as well as facilitate collaboration between educators, observing system scientists, and technology specialists.

In exchange for your input, the BRIDGE is offering a **reward to the first 50 respondents**. The survey can be accessed either through the BRIDGE < <http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge> > or directly at < http://www.marine-ed.org/bridge/survey_oos_2.html >.

10. Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence Summer Institutes

Incorporate more marine science into your classroom! The Centers for Ocean Sciences

Education Excellence: Central Gulf of Mexico (COSEE: CGOM) will offer in-service and pre-service teachers two Teacher/Scientist Summer Institute opportunities this summer. J.L. Scott Marine Education Center & Aquarium of The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Florida Sea Grant and The University of Florida/IFAS Extension, along with institutions in Alabama and Louisiana are taking part in a national initiative designed to promote a deeper understanding of the ocean. As part of this initiative, two 5-day field institutes will be offered. The locations for these institutes will be Ocean Springs, Miss., and Cedar Key, Fla. Teachers and scientists from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas are invited to participate. These National Science Foundation (NSF) funded summer institutes will focus on coastal processes, marine habitats and organisms, and marine technology related to the Gulf of Mexico. Once the field component is completed, participants will then take part in an online component during July/August of 2006. The dates for the Florida and Mississippi institutes are June 18-23 and June 25-30, 2006 respectively.

These institutes establish a working partnership between marine and ocean scientists and teachers, giving each the opportunity to share information and ideas about scientific research and science education. The NSF grant provides room and board, a wealth of ocean sciences education materials, instruction, and a \$500 stipend for each teacher. Teachers will canoe and explore a salt marsh, collect data on board a research vessel, visit islands, explore salt marshes, investigate oyster communities, and more!

The institutes will:

- Introduce teachers to current research topics in ocean and coastal sciences.
- Provide an effective interface between teachers and researchers that will build mentoring relationships.
- Promote inquiry and field-based teaching and learning strategies.
- Provide opportunities for teachers to demonstrate their leadership skills.
- Facilitate the development, exchange and implementation of experiential-based curricula into the classroom.

For the more information contact Karen M. Blyler (352) 846-0996 ext. 246 or blylerk@ifs.ufl.edu for information for the Florida Institute and Shelia A. Brown (228) 818-8892 or shelia.brown@usm.edu for the Mississippi Institute.

11. 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 Coalition 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!