



Land Marks

www.LaCoast.gov

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2 - MARCH/APRIL 2016

COASTAL DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

On Monday, April 4, 2016 The Coast Builders Coalition and the Louisiana Legislature held an annual one-day event dedicated to highlighting the efforts to restore, protect, and enhance Louisiana's coast. The event entitled "Coastal Day at the Legislature" involved educating representatives and legislators from across the state on our depleting coast, land loss rates, and potential methods of restoration.

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act's Public Outreach staff participated by displaying a number of publications on the House side of the Rotunda in Louisiana's Capitol building. In addition to distributing publications and answering questions, the



outreach staff had the honor of being present during a meeting in which Governor Edwards issued an executive order directing all state agencies to operate in a manner consistent with the Coastal Master Plan. *(continued on page 2)*



Governor Edwards issues an executive order.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Coastal Day at the Legislature	2
Earth Day Celebrations	2
Featured Project: East Leeville	3
Educating ESA	4

DATES TO REMEMBER...

May 5	BTNEP Management Conference	Thibodaux, LA
May 6	Bug Blitz, Jean Lafitte NHP&P	Marrero, LA
May 12	Task Force Meeting	Lafayette, LA
May 15	Bayou Vermilion Festival & Boat Parade	Lafayette, LA
Jun. 1-3	State of the Coast Conference	New Orleans, LA

(Coastal Day at the Legislature continued from page 1) Governor Edwards stated, “the Louisiana coast is vital to our heritage and our economy, which is why doing everything within our power to ensure that it is restored and protected must be a priority. The Coastal Master Plan provides safe and sustainable ways in which all departments can operate, thereby helping to ensure that the coast continues to be productive.” In addition to the governor, speakers including Representative Tanner Magee, Representative Robert Billiot, Representative Jerome Zeringue, Representative Stuart Bishop, Senator Norby Chabert, Steve Cochran with Restore the Mississippi River Delta, Sidney Coffee with America’s Wetland Foundation, and Scott Kirkpatrick with Coast Builders Coalition discussed issues pertaining to Louisiana’s coast. Johnny Bradberry, Governor Edwards’ executive assistant for coastal activities, announced that Louisiana will receive a minimum of \$6.8 billion for claims related to natural resource damages, economic claims, and penalties against the Clean Water Act and Oil Pollution Act from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. ■

EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, April 17, 2016 downtown Baton Rouge was filled with free exhibitors, music, arts, and food to celebrate and educate the community on Earth’s natural resources. Situated between the Old State Capitol and the Old Governor’s Mansion, this annual event is managed by Louisiana Earth Day, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education.



The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act was among several exhibitors in the Wetlands Tent sponsored by CH2M. CWPPRA’s exhibit included multiple free publications, a CWPPRA project fact book, and a Wetland Jeopardy game. The CWPPRA Public Outreach staff discussed the relevance of wetlands and coastal ecosystems through the explanation of current projects, as well as explaining how wetlands are a major contributor the health of our Earth.

On April 22, the CWPPRA Public Outreach staff celebrated Earth Day at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Fete de la Terre festival. The outreach staff handed out publications, activity books, wetland hero coloring sheets, and coastal themed temporary tattoos. Students and faculty were able to discuss current coastal projects and methods of restoration with the outreach staff. ■

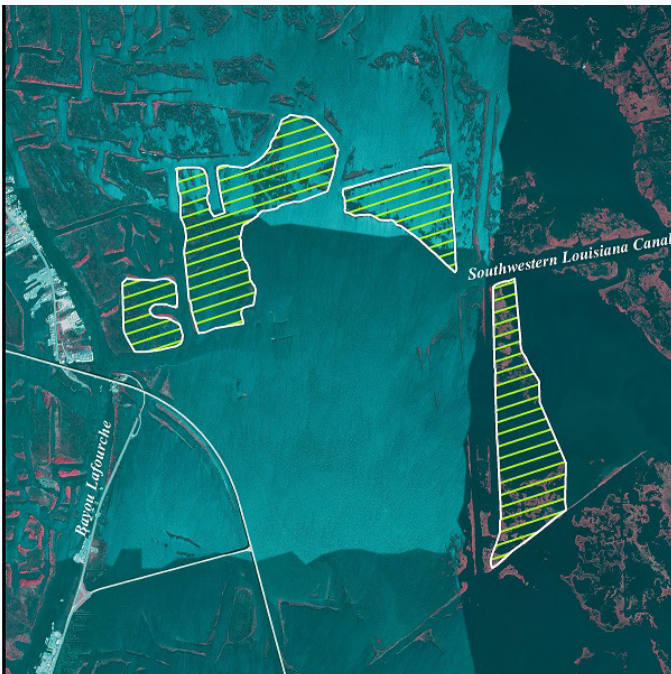


FEATURED PROJECT: EAST LEEVILLE MARSH CREATION AND NOURISHMENT

BA-194, East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment is located primarily in the Region 2, Barataria Basin area of Lafourche Parish. It is also located in the Region 3, Terrebonne Basin area of Lafourche Parish.

There is widespread historic and continued rapid land loss within the project site and surrounding areas resulting from subsidence, wind erosion, storms, and altered hydrology. The wetland loss rate for is -1.53%/year based on USGS data from 1984 to 2015. Furthermore, the limits of Southwestern Louisiana Canal are difficult to determine in some areas because land loss is causing the coalescence of the canal with adjacent water bodies. Natural tidal flow and drainage patterns which once existed are currently circumvented by the increasing area of open water. Data suggests that from 1932 to 1990, the basin lost over 245,000 ac of marsh, and from 1978 to 1990, Barataria Basin experienced the highest rate of wetland loss along the entire coast.

The project goal is to create approximately 358 acres and nourish 124 acres of saline marsh east of Leeville.



Project map for BA-194 East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment.



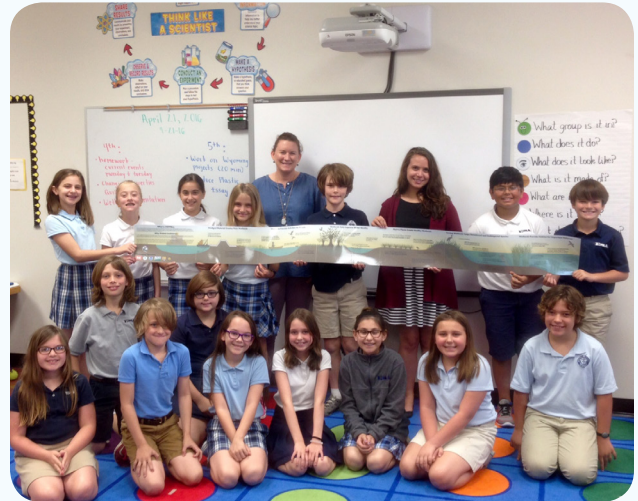
The East Leeville Marsh Creation and Nourishment project would restore the structural framework of marshes to promote coastal wetland habitat and afford some protection for the community of Leeville.

After consideration of three potential alternatives, features and an alignment were selected to establish an arc of wetlands along the north side of Southwestern Canal, Lake Jesse, and the west side of South Lake. This is to begin rebuilding the structural framework of wetlands east of Leeville and provide protection for Leeville from southeasterly winds and tides. A robust engineering and design cost was included for full flexibility during Phase 1 to expand the project if cost allows or to assess alternative configurations, if necessary. The proposed features consist of hydraulically mining sediment from a borrow source in Little Lake west of Leeville and pumping dredged material to create and nourish marsh east of Leeville. The disposal areas would be fully contained during construction and gapped no later than three years post construction to facilitate establishment of tidal connection and function. Additionally, a portion of the created marsh acres would be planted with smooth cordgrass following construction to help stabilize the created platform by increasing the rate of colonization.

This project is on Priority Project List 25. It was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2016 and is funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. ■

EDUCATING ESA

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act's Public Outreach staff traveled to the Episcopal School of Acadiana in Lafayette on April 21, 2016 to discuss the importance of wetlands with the 4th grade class. As part of their ecosystem study unit, the students learned about the purpose of wetlands, their benefits to the nation's economy and local communities, and natural wetland habitats. CWPPRA Public Outreach staff incorporated the use of a projected land loss map to teach students about land loss in Louisiana and the importance of



wetland restoration. The students learned about types of wetlands and their inhabitants through use of a teaching infographic. Each student was given the Henri Heron's Louisiana Wetlands activity book, explaining Louisiana's coastal wetlands and conservation efforts to ensure wetland existence for future generations. ■



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

RESTORING COASTAL LOUISIANA SINCE 1990

USGS WETLAND AND AQUATIC RESEARCH CENTER
700 CAJUNDOME BOULEVARD LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70506
OFFICE PHONE: (337) 266-8623 OR (337) 266-8626

CONNECT WITH US

 WWW.LACOAST.GOV

 FACEBOOK.COM/CWPPRA

 TWITTER.COM/CWPPRA

 CWPPRA.WORDPRESS.COM