DELCAMBRE SEAFOOD & FARMERS MARKET

Situated on the banks of Bayou Carlin, the Delcambre Seafood and Farmers Market is a monthly community project which attracts a great attendance of consumers to browse various vendor products and access fresh Louisiana shrimp directly from a fisherman’s boat. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act’s Public Outreach staff traveled to the Delcambre market on May 7th to partner with the Water Institute of the Gulf. The Water Institute of the Gulf is a not-for-profit, independent research institute dedicated to advancing the understanding of coastal, deltaic, river and water resource systems, both within the Gulf Coast and around the world. In pursuit of a coastal Louisiana community resilience booklet, the Water Institute offered a community mapping workshop to learn about culturally and economically important places within Vermilion and Iberia Parishes that are in need of coastal protection, and ideas for creating community and environmental resilience. (continued on page 2)

Teen Shrimp Queen, Alexis Luquette, tests her wetland knowledge.
The Bayou Vermilion District hosted its 5th Annual Bayou Vermilion Festival and Boat Parade on Sunday, May 15th at Vermilionville in Lafayette, Louisiana. This community-based event invites the public to participate by celebrating the Vermilion River as a viable source of recreation for Lafayette and surrounding areas, as well as further the awareness of the Bayou Vermilion District’s efforts along the Vermilion River.

Whether dropping off a water craft at the Vermilionville starting launch or setting up to watch the parade flow along, the Bayou Vermilion Festival offered a large variety of crafts and activities for festival goers to participate in. Face painting, yoga, and kid crafts were among the activities offered alongside the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act’s wetland table. The CWPPRA Public Outreach staff connected the importance of a healthy river ecosystem to the significance of flourishing, active wetland environments by discussing similar animal species which reside and rely on both habitats. Various CWPPRA publications, stickers, coloring sheets, and a chance to play Wetland Jeopardy were provided to the public by the CWPPRA outreach staff.

Paddlers, boat lovers, and parade watchers alike were welcomed to kick off the boat parade with a celebratory toast by the 2016 Boat Parade Grand Marshal, Project Front Yard. The parade continued from Vermilionville and ended at the Camellia Bridge Launch with live music by Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole.
FEATURED PROJECT: FRITCHIE MARSH CREATION AND TERRACING

PO-173 Fritchie Marsh Creation and Terracing is located in Region 1, Pontchartrain Basin, St. Tammany Parish, located approximately three miles southeast of Slidell, Louisiana. A substantial portion of the project is located on Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge.

A significant portion of the Fritchie Marsh was lost due to Hurricane Katrina. Post storm shallow open water areas dominate the landscape which limits the effectiveness of the PO-06 CWPRRA project. Wetlands in the project vicinity are being lost at the rate -1.09%/year based on USGS data from 1985 to 2015. These marshes cannot recover without replacement of lost sediment, which is critical if the northshore marshes are to be sustained.

Project goals include restoring and nourishing marsh. Specific goals of the project are: 1) create approximately 291 acres of marsh; 2) nourish approximately 49 acres of existing marsh; and 3) construct about 36,610 feet of earthen terraces or 26 emergent acres.

An alternatives analysis was conducted leading to the selection of features and configuration to compliment and work synergistically with the existing PO-06 project and planned mitigation and restoration projects in the Fritchie Marsh. A robust engineering cost is included to evaluate increasing the project size if costs allow or adjust the layout, if needed during Phase 1. Approximately 2 million cubic yards of material would be placed confined to restore 291 acres and nourish approximately 49 acres of brackish marsh. Material would be dredged from a borrow site in Lake Pontchartrain. The borrow site would be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic habitat and existing shorelines. Approximately 26 acres of earthen terraces would be constructed within various locations totaling approximately 36,610 feet or 523 acres of terrace field. All containment dikes would be gapped or degraded no later than three years after construction to facilitate the development of tidal marsh functions supportive of estuarine species. The terraces would be planted as well as 50% of the created marsh acres to expedite colonization and enhance stabilization.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 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.
BugBlitz 2016

The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve celebrated the centennial of the National Park Service at The Barataria Preserve by hosting BugBlitz on Friday, May 6th. This Biodiversity University Science & Nature Festival was held to encourage nearly 500 local K-12 students to learn science and environmental concepts hands-on. Among the exhibitors of scientists, expert naturalists, and researchers were the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act’s Public Outreach staff. The CWPPRA Outreach staff exhibited the Where the Wild Things Are game in which students learn about coastal wildlife and environments by tossing bean bag animals into their correct habitats, such as marsh, swamp, barrier island, and ocean. CWPPRA outreach members offered Wetland Jeopardy for children and adults to test their coastal wetland knowledge. CWPPRA also displayed the Southeast Louisiana Land Loss map, along with Henri Heron’s Louisiana Wetlands activity books and wetland themed temporary tattoos and stickers.

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