



Land Marks

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CWPPRA DEDICATION CEREMONY

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Task Force celebrated seven projects protecting and restoring southeast Louisiana's coastal wetlands. The ceremony was held Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at the Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex in Lacombe, LA and included participants from the five federal managing agencies, along with state and local dignitaries. The ceremony marked recent work by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) to support Louisiana's coastal wetlands, and highlighted seven projects in the southeast region, including:

- Barataria Basin Landbridge Shoreline Protection, Phase 3 (BA-27c)
- Bayou Dupont Ridge Creation and Marsh Restoration (BA-48)
- Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery - Marsh Creation and Terracing #3 (BA-164)



Following the ceremony, attendees visited the featured Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104) project site, where sediment is actively being pumped from Lake Pontchartrain to build new land. Danny Breaux of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Joe Guillory of the Duplantier Design Group stop to discuss the success of the nearby Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33) project, with the hope that the Bayou Bonfouca project will have similar success once complete.

- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)
- Hydrologic Restoration and Vegetative Planting in the des Allemands Swamp (BA-34-2)
- South Lake Lery Shoreline and Marsh Restoration (BS-16)
- Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation (PO-104)

Attendants participating in the ceremony were able to tour the Bayou Bonfouca (PO-104) and Goose Point/Point Platte (PO-33) projects. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Director Bill Honker also reflected on his time as the longest serving CWPPRA Task Force member.

"...[W]e have the CWPPRA Program to thank for making initial and important investments in coastal monitoring," said Johnny Bradberry, Executive

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

November 21	Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group	Baton Rouge, LA
November 30- December 2	NSTA New Orleans Area Conference	New Orleans, LA
December 7	CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
December 19	Chenier Plain Authority Meeting	Abbeville, LA

(continued from page 1) Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities. “So, when you think about the understanding of our coast that CWPPRA has helped to provide over the years, the innovative project ideas that have come to fruition through CWPPRA, and the steady investment in our coast that this program has provided, you can see how absolutely essential this program has been for coastal Louisiana.”



Task Force member Bill Honker highlighted the importance of CWPPRA's early work in setting the stage for current and future coastal restoration projects.

WETLANDS OUTREACH FOR FISHING AND HUNTING

National Hunting and Fishing Day is an annual event created by Congress in 1972 to celebrate the role played by hunters and anglers in conservation efforts. Held the fourth Saturday in September, the day is an opportunity for families to spend time together outside and explore the many ways that they can interact with nature. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries hosts 4 National Hunting and Fishing Day events across the state which attract more than 10,000 people each year. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Outreach staff, Sinead Borchert and Mirka Zapletal, brought their Wetlands Jeopardy game to the event in Woodworth, LA where friends challenged each other, children challenged parents, and everyone had the opportunity to answer questions about the flora, fauna, characteristics, and restoration efforts in Louisiana's wetlands. Although we might think about Louisiana's wetlands as being a coastal habitat, the freshwater and other interior water bodies mean that, wherever

ecosystems of the Atchafalaya Basin, Red River, Mississippi River, and other interior water bodies mean that, wherever you are in our state, you aren't very far from wetlands. And hunters in pursuit of waterfowl or anglers looking for bass, trout, or other fish depend on our wetlands for wildlife habitat.



CWPPRA Outreach staff member, Sinead Borchert, tests an NHFD attendee's knowledge of wetlands

Outreach staff also distributed recent issues of WaterMarks magazine, Henri Heron's Activity Book, #ProtectOurCoast posters, and other CWPPRA publications. Other exhibitors included squirrel hunting dogs, a ropes course, fishing, and CWPPRA partner agency NRCS which had a toy duck race game.

THE HABITATS WHERE WILD THINGS LIVE



Families gathered at Bayou Lacombe Center in the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges



Attendees of the Wild Things Festival who stopped by the CWPPRA table were encouraged to match the wildlife species to the correct wetland habitat.

Complex on October 14 to explore the great outdoors and the many plants and animals that live there during the 20th Annual Wild Things Festival.

Attendees got up close and personal with owls, learned to tie knots, watched a wood-carving demonstration, and experienced everything in between during the day-long event which was complete with food and music.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act outreach staff, Mirka Zapletal and Sinead Borchert, were ready to join in the fun with a game which asked children to match bean bag animals with the correct wetland habitat. In addition to testing kids' knowledge of native wildlife, the game also pushed them to think about the differences between swamps, marshes, barrier islands, and marine habitats. Since some animals are found in more than one place, CWPPRA staff could talk about the importance of understanding species' life cycles and protecting a variety of habitats. Staff also passed out posters from the #ProtectOurCoast series, activity books, and recent issues of WaterMarks. Other exhibitors included USGS, Louisiana Girls Scouts East, and USFWS.

FEATURED PROJECT: BAYOU BONFOUCA

The marsh in this area was fairly stable prior to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. There was extensive damage to the marsh along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and especially localized in the marshes near Bayou Bonfouca when the storm surge removed many acres of marsh. Currently, there is one large breach and several smaller ones in the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline, with many more breaches seemingly imminent. These breaches provide direct connection between the fresher interior marshes and higher saline waters of Lake Pontchartrain. The breaches in the bankline should be filled before they grow to become a major exchange point causing an increase in interior loss rates.



Picture depicts the broken marsh due to Hurricane Katrina.

The primary goal of the project is to create 533 acres and nourish 42 acres of low salinity brackish marsh in open water areas adjacent to Bayou Bonfouca with sediment pumped from Lake Pontchartrain. This project would consist of placing sediment, hydraulically dredged from Lake Pontchartrain, in open water sites to a height of +1.2 NAVD 88 to create 458 acres and nourish approximately 133 acres of marsh. Several historic marsh ponds have been identified and would be restored. Tidal creeks are also proposed to connect these ponds to facilitate water exchange and fisheries access. Containment dikes would be sufficiently gapped or degraded to allow for fisheries access no later than three years post construction.

WETLAND WONDERS AT OCEAN COMMOTION

Can you figure out the mystery coastal item based on the following clues? It contains a bivalve that a) makes pearls, b) is a filter feeder, and c) we eat here in Louisiana. Over 1600 elementary and middle school students had the chance to read those clues at LSU Sea Grant's Ocean Commotion on October 24 in Baton Rouge. Students, teachers, and chaperones then reached their hands into a box and tried to identify the item (oyster shell) they were holding. Other mystery items included a nutria pelt, cypress knees, an apple snail shell, and a magnolia seed pod- all from plants and animals that call Louisiana's coastal wetlands home.



Exhibitors at Ocean Commotion were arranged in a circle around the Pete Maravich Assembly Center as school participants made the rounds to various booths.

2017 marks the 20th Anniversary of Ocean Commotion, an annual event meant to give students the chance to get up close and personal with coastal and sea life and the challenges facing those environments. This year 70 exhibitors taught students about topics as diverse as boating safety, mosquito control, and microplastics. CWPPRA outreach staff talked with students about the diversity of species found in Louisiana's wetlands and the challenges of invasive species, giving students an opportunity to think about how different species impact ecosystems in different ways.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

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