



Land Marks

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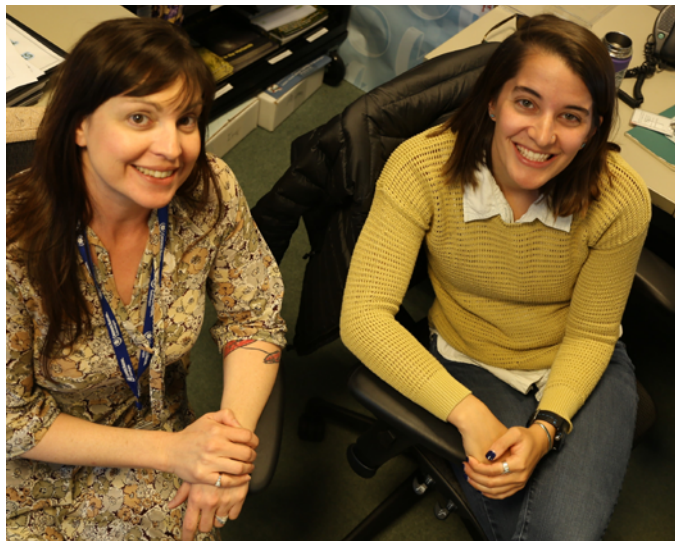
CWPPRA OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATES

The CWPPRA Public Outreach Program has new leadership after the departure of both Outreach Coordinator Mirka Zapletal and Community Outreach & Media Specialist Sinead Borchert. The CWPPRA Program appreciates all the hard work they have accomplished for Louisiana's coastal wetlands and wishes them luck in their future endeavors.

Jumping into the Outreach Program on March 11, 2019, Jennifer Ritter Guidry and Kacie Wright both come from outreach backgrounds with a great appreciation for Louisiana's wetlands. As CWPPRA's new Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer Ritter Guidry brings extensive outreach coordination, communication, and event programming experience in south Louisiana to the CWPPRA Outreach team. Jennifer served as Assistant Director at the UL Lafayette Center for Louisiana Studies, overseeing the Programming and Special Projects Division. Jennifer specializes in community building and has taught several courses at UL Lafayette. She was also instrumental in the creation of the nationally recognized Bayou Teche Paddle Trail and responsible for a grant-funded project to install floating docks along Bayou Teche.

Kacie Wright, CWPPRA's new Community Outreach & Media Specialist previously worked along Louisiana's coast as the Habitat Restoration Coordinator for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. In this position, she facilitated the planting of over 9,000 trees, 90,000 plugs of marsh grass, and shared the importance of Louisiana's wetlands with over 750 volunteers.

Although Jennifer, Kacie, and the rest of the CWPPRA Outreach Program are located in Lafayette, LA, we are bringing new outreach strategies to share with the entire coast of Louisiana. The Outreach Program is in the process of developing a podcast, a Virtual Reality Video Series, and an educational stream table. We hope to see you along our coast soon!



New CWPPRA Outreach team members Jennifer Ritter Guidry (left) and Kacie Wright (right).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9	CWPPRA Task Force Meeting	Lafayette, LA
May 15	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
May 19-21	CNREP Conference	New Orleans, LA
June 8	Audubon Party for the Planet: World's Ocean Day	New Orleans, LA
June 10-13	GOMA All Hands Meeting	Gulf Shores, AL
June 19	CPRA Board Meeting	Houma, LA
June 19	Houma Coastal Day	Houma, LA

Find out more details about these events and other events at:
www.LAcoast.gov/calendar



Vermilionville visitor smiles with Jolie, the resident donkey.



Vermilionville visitor channels inspiration from a wetland inhabitant when designing her own reusable shopping bag.

CWPPRA CELEBRATES EARTH DAY AT VERMILIONVILLE!

On Sunday, April 14, 2019, CWPPRA was one of many organizations represented at Vermilionville's Earth Day Celebration. This family-oriented event brought in visitors from around the world who enjoyed learning about the value of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and CWPPRA's restoration efforts. We spoke with visitors from Italy, France, Wisconsin, and Ohio on the importance of Louisiana's wetlands to the world as well as locals from Louisiana on what's at stake without CWPPRA restoration and protection program.

Our younger visitors learned about Louisiana's different wetland habitats and the animals that live in these unique environments while playing CWPPRA's Habitat Toss game. They were also excited to read about Henri the Heron and his wetland friends in our activity book. As always, our wetland posters and stickers were a hit with the crowd, reminding them of the beauty of our coastal wetlands and all their inhabitants.



Kacie Wright hosts CWPPRA's Habitat Toss Game with young children eager to learn about the wetlands.



Vermilionville Earth Day visitors enjoying local wetlands in a canoe.

In addition to our CWPPRA Outreach activities, the Earth Day Celebration included tree give-aways, canoeing, yoga classes, a clothing Fix-it Cafe, and music by Nouveau String Band and Horace Trahan & the Ossun Express. Visitors also got to decorate their own reusable shopping bag and attend cooking demonstrations. The historic Vermilion Village was open for visitors to explore the history of Acadian, Creole, and Native American cultures. These cultures are tied to the wetlands and preserving these cultures also means preserving our coastal wetlands.



One of the historic homes of the Vermilionville Historic Village.

CWPPRA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The CWPPRA Technical Committee had a productive meeting in Baton Rouge on April 11, 2019. The Tech Committee narrowed down the list of 22 candidate projects for the 29th Priority Project List to just 11. The committee, made up of representatives from each of the federal managing agencies and the State of Louisiana, voted for 9 projects with two projects whose votes were tied. Both of the tied projects will go forward to the next round of voting.

Projects voted to the next round include:

- Bay Raccourci Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration
- Fifi Island Marsh Creation
- North Delacroix Marsh Creation and Terracing
- Northeast Turtle Bay Marsh Creation Extension
- East Catfish Lake Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection
- St. Catherine's Pass Marsh Creation and Shoreline Protection
- West Louisiana Hwy 1 Marsh Creation
- Southeast Pecan Island Restoration
- Phoenix Marsh Creation
- Mermentau Basin Wetland Inundation Relief
- Mud Lake South Marsh Creation



One of the areas where dredged material from the Gulf of Mexico will be pumped in to create and nourish the Back Barrier Marsh behind the Caminada beach.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority requested to combine the BA-171/BA-193 Caminada Headland Back Barrier - Increments 1 and 2. There was significant public support, from landowners to bird conservationists, who supported combining these projects. The Technical Committee approved this request as it will save the CWPPRA program a considerable amount of time and money. An electronic vote was held and approved by the Task Force on April 17, 2019, so that the project can continue construction.



The invasive nutria rat which consumes wetland vegetation and contributes to coastal wetland loss.

The Technical Committee also voted to approve an increase to the incentive payment from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per tail in the Coastwide Nutria Control Program (LA-03b). In the past, a sharp increase in nutria harvest and a decrease in nutria related damages have been reported after incentive payment increases. Nutria rats, semi-aquatic rodents native to Brazil, eat entire wetland plants from the leaves to the roots. The dense root systems of wetland plants hold Louisiana's soil in place, helping combat erosion. Nutria have impacted over 100,000 acres of coastal wetlands in Louisiana.

The Coastwide Nutria Control Program was approved and implemented in 2002. Over the first eight years of the program, the nutria harvest averaged over 300,000 per year. Acreage damaged by herbivory has decreased from about 100,000 acres to about 8,500 acres since the start of the program.



EPA, NOAA, and Army Corp of Engineers representatives at the CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting.

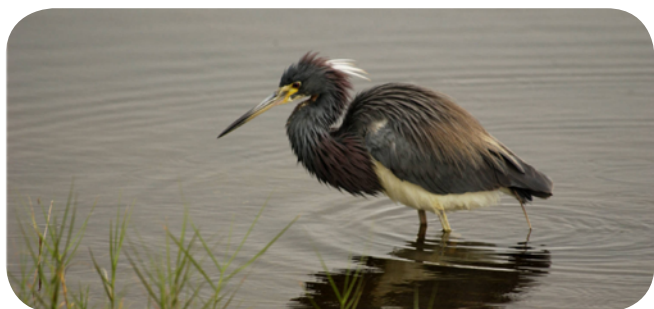
The Tech Committee approved final deauthorization of the LA-28 Shoreline Protection, Preservation, and Restoration Panel Demonstration Project. The cost of this project was projected to increase by 59%. The remaining funds will be returned to the CWPPRA program for other use. In addition to the approval of the deauthorization of LA-28, the CWPPRA Public Outreach Budget and the Planning Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020 was approved by the Technical Committee.

GRAND ISLE MIGRATORY BIRD CELEBRATION

The CWPPRA Outreach team enjoyed talking with birders from across the nation at the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration on April 13, 2019. Grand Isle is a first stop for birds during their Spring migration north from Latin America. In previous years, over 160 different species of birds were identified during the three-day celebration.

Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide vital habitat for these migrating birds as well as those species who live in Louisiana year-round. CWPPRA projects, like Barrier Island Restorations and Marsh Creations, work to restore our coastal wetlands for both birds and people alike.

Throughout the day, we quizzed birders on their wetland knowledge with CWPPRA's Wetland Jeopardy game and explored different wetland habitats and the creatures that live in them. Visitors also learned about Louisiana's coastal wetlands through our project posters, informational booklets, and children's activity book.



Tricolored Heron found in Louisiana's coastal wetlands.



A Summer Tanager taking a rest in Grand Isle after its long journey from Latin America.

In addition to the CWPPRA outreach activities, visitors to the festival met with organizations such as Audubon Louisiana and the Nature Conservancy as well as local artists sharing the beauty of our coast through photographs, carved bowls, and hand drawn postcards.

Throughout the weekend, visitors looked for shorebirds and waders on the beach, songbirds in oak-hackberry woods, and hawks and various other birds within our coastal marshes. The Celebration also had bird-banding, photography tours, kayaking, and a boating tour for visitors.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

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