

LA Wetland Education Coalition Wetland News, #22, March 4, 2005



1. Bucket Buddies Registration Open
2. "Save America's WETLAND" Bracelets Debut to Rave Reviews, National Media Coverage
3. New edition *LA Coastlines* available
4. Technical Help for JASON Project Available
5. Audubon Zoo Teacher Open House at the Louisiana Swamp Exhibit
6. Navigational hazards documented; first time since 1930s
7. LAWEC-L listserv information

1. Bucket Buddies Registration Open

Dates: March 15 - June 5, 2005

Purpose: Do you have leeches in your pond water? What about water fleas or bristle worms? Project participants will identify organisms in a local pond water sample and try to answer the question, "Are pond water animals the same all over the country and the world?"

Subjects: Science, Language Arts

Grade Level: Grades 1-6

Summary: Participants will identify organisms in a local pond water sample and then share their findings with other classes. Students will look for similarities and differences in the data collected by all project participants. This project provides students with practice in the science process skills, as well as in writing to convey information and explain ideas.

Registration Information: Registration is now open. There is NO FEE required to join this project. All that we ask is that you review the project requirements and join only if you can meet them all. To view the project requirements and learn how to register, visit <http://www.k12science.org/curriculum/bucketproj/>.

Contact: Carol Shields, Project Leader, Email: <cshields@stevens.edu>

2. "Save America's WETLAND" Bracelets Debut to Rave Reviews, National Media Coverage

On January 27, revelers at "Louisiana Alive," the opening night event at this year's Washington Mardi Gras celebration, were the first members of the general public to get their hands on the campaign's newest promotional item. The "Save America's WETLAND" bracelets are white wristbands similar to the yellow "Livestrong" bracelets popularized by Lance Armstrong and are embossed with the

slogan "Save America's WETLAND." That night, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco officially premiered the bracelets, which could also be seen on the wrists of such other Louisiana notables as Senator Mary Landrieu, Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans mayor, Ray Nagin, and Baton Rouge mayor, Kip Holden, among others.

Campaign spokesperson MR. BILL of Saturday Night Live fame and America's WETLAND action hero Captain Eddy the Eagle were also on hand to help distribute bracelets and take photos with party goers, as well as to pose for a news crew from PBS and a photographer from the Associated Press. To see Mr. Bill, Capt. Eddy and Governor Blanco in their new bracelets, go to <http://www.americaswetland.com/article.cfm?id=190&cateid=4&pageid=3&cid=6>. The bracelets are available on the Americas' WETLAND campaign website, <http://www.americaswetland.com>. Any individual that donates \$10 to the America's WETLAND Restoration Fund will receive five of the popular wristbands.

3. New edition *LA Coastlines* available

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, under the direction of Dave Frugé has recently published its winter 2004-2005 edition of "Louisiana Coastlines". This season's issue includes information on recent surveys related to Louisiana wetlands restoration efforts, the Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Restoration Project, PACE, outreach and education, information on LCA and other related activities.

To become an E-subscriber, send an email addressed to info@dnr.state.la.us. In the message box, type your full name and telephone number. For additional information contact Charity Glaser (<charityg@dnr.state.la.us>, (225) 342-0556) or

Cynthia Poland (<cynthiap@dnr.state.la.us>, (225) 342-0557

4. Technical Help for JASON Project Available

JASON teachers who have technical difficulties can either contact the JASON helpdesk or e-mail <help@jason.org> for technical support.

5. Audubon Zoo Teacher Open House at the Louisiana Swamp Exhibit

When? Saturday, April 9, 8:30 A.M. –9:30 A.M.*

Where? Audubon Zoo's Louisiana Swamp Exhibit

*First Swamp Train leaves the Tea Room Gate at 8:15

Why?

- ☛ Enjoy breakfast snacks.
- ☛ Prepare yourself for National Wetlands Month (May).
- ☛ Meditate upon alligators & examine swamp microfauna.
- ☛ Engage in a teacher's look at our prize-winning exhibit.
- ☛ Pick up teaching ideas for your class.

And then ...enjoy a day in the Zoo!

Free to teachers and a friend, but space is limited.

To reserve, call 212-5381 or e-mail <zooschool@auduboninstitute.org>.



6. Navigational hazards documented; first time since 1930s

Several dangers to navigation have been identified in the lower reaches of the Atchafalaya River during the first month of surveying performed there by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The hydro surveying and updating of the NOAA charts in the Atchafalaya is moving into the second month of work, according to Tim Osborn, NOAA's manager of regional programs.

Among the dangers identified in the surveying work are an uncharted platform, an uncharted wellhead

pipe that is 6 to 7 feet above the water, a submerged uncharted wreck of a 75-foot vessel and others.

More recently, a crane toppled off a barge after striking the La. 182 bridge. Salvage efforts were undertaken this week to raise the crane off the river's bottom.

The current surveying effort done last month was the first in the waterway since the 1930s, Osborn pointed out.

A 175-foot research vessel, the R/V Davidson, was used to survey the outer bay and offshore areas of the Atchafalaya River.

Smaller, 30-foot research vessels will be employed to complement the work in the coming months.

In addition, significant shoaling of the main navigation channel has been observed and has been reported to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Osborn said shoaling of the outer bay area is being investigated and has been found to be "very significant in size and growth," a finding that comes as no surprise to those here who make their living on the river.

Information gleaned from the surveys indicated that the 12-foot depth contour has been moved outward more than 9,000 meters compared to earlier NOAA surveys of the area.

Also, the 18-foot contour has been moved outward more than three miles, according to the NOAA survey vessel, due to additional sedimentation in the waterway.

Increased shoaling will continue to be investigated as the survey effort continues, Osborn said.

Osborn said the updated survey information will be made available on NOAA's Web site - www.noaa.gov - and on printed charts, complete with aerial views of the impacted areas.

From NOAA DAILY REVIEW, 22 February 2005



7. 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!

