

LA Wetland Education Coalition

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<http://www.lacoast.gov/education/lawec/>



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1. Students & Teachers as Educational Partners in Science

The LUMCON Marine Education Program would like to inform everyone that we will again be holding our STEPS Workshop (Students & Teachers as Educational Partners in Science) for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006. We encourage everyone to apply, including those teachers who have attended prior workshops. However, those who have participated in STEPS in previous years cannot be selected to attend the same session (Fall or Spring).

The fall STEPS will be held at the DeFelice Marine Center in Cocodrie, LA from October 21-23, 2005. First preference will be given to those applications received by September 30, 2005. This workshop will focus on estuarine processes and habitats with emphasis placed on priority problems within the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, especially wetland loss and changes in living resources. Activities will include marsh inquiry in the field, coastal land loss activities through WETMAAP, as well as a cruise into Terrebonne Bay aboard the R/V Acadiana. Each teacher will select 2 students to attend the workshop and will work closely with them in a variety of field and classroom exercises.

Spring STEPS focuses on water quality sampling and analysis through our BayouSide Classroom curriculum. Here, teachers and students will gather data relevant to salinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen within the Barataria Terrebonne watershed, and learn what role these parameters play in the overall health of the



estuary. This session will be held **February 17-19, 2006** with applications being accepted as early as *December 1, 2005*. Preference for this workshop is given to teachers within the Barataria Terrebonne Basin if applications are received early enough.

Keep in mind, we do not usually fill up with teachers from within the basin, so please submit your application whether you live in the BT watershed or not. These are the parishes which lie within the Barataria Terrebonne watershed: Point Coupee, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, St. Martin, Assumption, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. James, St. Charles, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist, Ascension.

Housing and meals will be provided for those attending the workshops, and teachers will also be given the necessary educational materials and field equipment for use with their students.

Notes for Both STEPS Workshops

- Each teacher brings 1-2 students. Application should include student info.
- Teachers receive at least \$200 worth of educational materials and field equipment, with hands-on instruction in their use. Students receive an abbreviated set of gear.
- All receive room, board and a weekend of interaction with a variety of motivated scientist-educators. Students room with students. Teachers room with teachers.
- First preference will be given to teachers who live or teach within the estuarine basin, but additional space is anticipated, so please don't let residency keep you from applying.

For registration information, please contact Dr. Jessie Kastler (<jkastler@lumcon.edu>, 985-851-2848).

2. NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Launches Online Marine Life Field Guide

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program has unveiled a new, online resource that highlights the diverse marine life of America's ocean and Great Lakes treasures. The Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries is available online and is part of a continuing NOAA effort to enhance public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the marine environment.

This online field guide provides photos, streaming video and important biological information for over 100 marine species from each of the national marine sanctuaries in the United States, ranging from spiny lobster to killer whales and white-tipped reef sharks to sea turtles. This is a fantastic resource for formal and informal educators, students of all ages, zoos and aquaria, science centers, and natural history museums.

Visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>, to explore this exciting online field guide.

3. Educational Wetland Fieldtrips for Students in Grades 4-12!

Once again this school year, The Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences is offering educational wetland field trips to students in grades 4-12. These field trips are a great way to launch new and interesting science and social studies learning while meeting GLE's.

The trips take students and their teachers to wetland areas near their homes to learn about the values of our coastal wetlands as well as some of the issues affecting them. Students have the opportunity to collect data such as salinity and dissolved oxygen and relate the information to the environment. They also observe and collect samples of fauna and flora.

The field trips can be either land-based or canoe outings and can be tailored to your group's needs. Each trip takes most of a school day. You arrange for the bus transportation and meet us at the field trip site.

We provide background learning materials and maps prior to the trip. We ask the teachers to prepare their students for the trip and to have follow-up learning activities that will enhance the students' learning experience.

Please consider scheduling a field trip for the fall or the spring. We fill up fast, so don't delay.

You can schedule using one of two methods: (1) Reply to Dinah Maygarden by email <dmaygard@uno.edu> and provide the following information: Name, School, Parish, Grade level, Subjects taught, Special needs of students (gifted, special ed, etc.), and Timeframe and possible dates for field trip.

3. Go to www.outreach.uno.edu to find an on-line form to complete. You can fax this form to 504-280-4022.

For more information call Dinah Maygarden, Education and Outreach Manager, Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of New Orleans, at 504-280-6718.

4. Audubon Zoo Fall 2005 Teacher Workshops



Audubon Zoo
A Facility of Audubon Nature Institute

Come on in ...
A Teacher Open House
Saturday, September 10,
2005 (8:30 am-9:30 am)

- ⇒ Explore resources and activities for the classroom
- ⇒ Learn how to maximize your class' fieldtrip learning experience
- ⇒ Enjoy breakfast snacks
- ⇒ Meet an educational animal
- ⇒ And thenenjoy a day in the Zoo!

Free to teachers and a friend, but space is limited. To reserve, email zooschool@auduboninstitute.org or call (504)212-5381!

Write Here, Write Now - Saturday, September 24th, 2005 (8:30 am -12:30 pm)

Writing and science—or any subject—go hand in hand at the Zoo. We'll utilize strategies from graphic organizers and modeled writing to drawing and hands-on manipulation that help teachers and students make the connection between writing and the rest of the curriculum. FOR TEACHERS GRADES preK-4, \$20.00

MathZOOMatics - Saturday, October 8th, 2005 (8:30 am -12:30 pm)

From counting leopards to estimating their spots, math at the Zoo can be wild! Come learn why the Zoo is a fun, exciting place to practice math skills. FOR TEACHERS GRADES K-4, \$20.00

ZOOcial Studies - Saturday, November 5th, 2005 (8:30 am -12:30 pm)

Come to the Zoo to discover how to connect social studies to the world beyond the classroom. Activities in geography, civics, economics, and history explore the interdependence between people and their environment and encourage students to develop a sense of historical perspective and insight into responsible decision-making. FOR TEACHERS GRADES K-4, \$20.00

WET, WILD, and Up a Tree - Saturday, December 10th, 2005 (8 am-4 pm) Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree are among the nation's top environmental curricula, featuring thought-provoking, fun lessons that impart a firm understanding of science concepts and encourage critical thinking. Facilitators of all 3 programs will teach this triple-header. FOR TEACHERS GRADES K-12, \$5.00

Registration Form: Starting August 15th, register online at <http://www.auduboneducation.org>

5. Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station announces TWO fall workshops!

6. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserv:** A listserv 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 listserv. As a participant, you are welcome to send messages to educators subscribing to the LA Wetland Education Coalition listserv. We ask that participants focus their emails on educational opportunities and materials *directly related to wetland education*.
- **To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserv:** 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 listserv along with information on other listserv 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!

TO ALL TEACHERS NEEDING CLUs IN SCIENCE (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science)!!!! *All food, lodging, and supplies will be provided.* VERY limited space, so contact us soon!

The workshops will be held on the weekends of September 23-25 and September 30 – October 2, 2005. Both workshops will begin on Friday evening and conclude around noon on Sunday. Topics included will be an introduction to wetland ecosystems with an emphasis on the Lake Pontchartrain estuary, its environmental problems and (potential) solutions. Participants will be provided with a wide variety of materials to take back to their classrooms, including water quality test kits, curriculum guides, lesson plans, and a bunch of great memories!

For registration information, visit <http://www.selu.edu/turtlecove> or contact Michael Greene, Biologist on Staff, Education and Outreach, Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station, Southeastern Louisiana University [985.549.3600 (office), <mgreene@SELU.EDU>].