

LA Wetland Education Coalition

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



1. Wild Plants of the Wetlands
2. New SPIRIT OF THE ESTUARY Curriculum is Available from BTNEP
3. Help Needed on Survey About Educating Students About Estuaries
4. Greenbacks for Green Schools
5. National Wildlife Federation® Educator E-Newsletter
6. The Great Warming
7. EPA Announces New Climate Change Kit for High School Students
8. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

1. Wild Plants of the Wetlands

This is a K-4 science curriculum designed to introduce teachers and students to wetland environments with experiments and activities that can be coordinated with field trips to the National Park: Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve <http://www.nps.gov/jela/>. All material is aligned with Louisiana GLEs.

2. New SPIRIT OF THE ESTUARY Curriculum is Available from BTNEP

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is pleased to present the "Spirit of the Estuary: Using Art to Understand Ecology" curriculum. This is a multi-disciplinary series that addresses wetland environmental issues through the integration of fine art, language art, science, and social studies.

Research indicates that students retain thinking skills, processes and attitudes about subjects, studies and themselves when they are actively engaged in learning. This enjoyable estuary-learning curriculum provides teachers and students with dynamic lessons that emphasize personal connection and commitment to protect and preserve the delicate Louisiana estuary.

The ultimate goal of the "Spirit of the Estuary" is to create personal stewardship among citizens. In the wise words of Peter Scott founder chairman of the World Wildlife Federation: "The conservationist's most important task, if we are to save the earth, is to educate." This curriculum is designed to educate middle school and high school art, science, language arts and social studies students. It is also being used by gifted and talented students. The curriculum is aligned with Louisiana GLEs.

The Spirit of the Estuary can be accessed online at <http://educators.btnep.org/default.asp?id=76>.

BTNEP is currently offering to host free teacher workshops to schools or districts.

"Spirit of the Estuary -Using Art to Understand Ecology" was developed by: Mary M. Banbury, Ph.D., Anne B. Rheams, Sue Ellen Lyons. The graphic designer and layout artist for the project was Marian Martinez. Special thanks to the following contributors: Sandra Helmuth, Dinah Maygarden, Cindy Ybos, Wendy Foy, Virginia Henry, Christina Melancon, Traci Vedros, Nann Galloway, Brenda Montalbano, Semaj Allen, Terrill Salter, Robyn Kennedy, Cally Chauvin and a host of wonderful Louisiana artisans.

To find out more, contact Susan Bergeron at BTNEP, at 1-800-259-0869.

3. Help Needed on Survey About Educating Students About Estuaries

The Education Coordinators are working very closely with a non-profit educational research and development organization, TERC, to determine how often teachers educate their students about estuaries and what barriers prevent them from teaching about estuaries more frequently. As part of this effort, we have contracted with TERC to develop a needs assessment. They have chosen, as one of their assessment tools, to distribute a survey to teachers all over the country. We hope to use the information to build highly effective curriculum that will allow students to learn basic science concepts by studying estuaries and using real research from our Reserves.

You can access the survey at (English):
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=359273229697>; (en Español): <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=344613252368>.

4. Greenbacks for Green Schools

This compilation by the Green Schools Initiative catalogues funding sources for eliminating toxins, using resources sustainably, creating green, healthy spaces, and teaching stewardship.
<http://www.greenschools.net/news/index.html>.

5. National Wildlife Federation® Educator E-Newsletter

This monthly e-newsletter is designed to provide educators with hands-on activities, new ideas, resources, and strategies for getting kids outside to learn about the wonders of the natural world. Each newsletter also includes a link to download the latest Ranger Rick® Educator Guide. Visit <http://www.nwf.org/kidzone/>.

6. The Great Warming

This new climate change film on DVD is a visually-stunning look at the science and impacts of climate change. *The Great Warming* also examines solutions adopted by communities, individuals, and schools. The DVD is suitable for ages 11 up. The film's Web site offers free copies (in class

quantities) of *Our Changing Climate*, an illustrated 24-page booklet about climate change developed by NOAA, with chapters about Earth's dynamic climate system, how and why climate changes, the greenhouse effect, how climate models work, and what the future holds. Visit <http://www.thegreatwarming.com>.

7. EPA Announces New Climate Change Kit for High School Students

Climate CHECK is a free, Excel-based kit that teaches high school students about the science, drivers, and impacts of climate change and provides them with knowledge, tools, and resources to increase climate-change awareness and to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions at their school. Using Climate CHECK, students will estimate greenhouse gas emissions using built-in calculators and school-specific "activity data" and develop and implement a mitigation action plan. To download Climate CHECK, go to <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/school.html> and click on the link under "2. High school students check your school's climate impact." Instructions are included in the tool. Further questions should be directed to [<ClimateCHECK@icfi.com>](mailto:ClimateCHECK@icfi.com).

8. 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!