



Landmarks

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MEDIA DAY AT WEST BAY

This past fall, members of the CWPPRA Outreach Staff, Federal Project managers from the U.S. Army Corps, State Project managers, Plaquemines Parish coastal zone managers, navigation representatives, and multiple news media outlets, visited the West Bay Sediment Diversion project site (MR-03).

After nearly 6 months of pumping, three new islands have been created in what was open water at the beginning of 2013. Near the mouth of the Mississippi River in the West Bay Sediment Diversion receiving area, the effects of the beneficial use of dredged material efforts, in conjunction with the sediment diversion, show that new land is growing in Louisiana.

The project, West Bay Sediment Diversion (MR-03), was constructed in 2003 as part of Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts. Under the direction of a federal and state partnership called the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), scientists and *(Continues on Page 2)*



Dredge sediment from the Mississippi River is pumped into West Bay creating new land in open water.

MOVING FORWARD

Over the past couple of years, the CWPPRA Public Outreach Committee has been at work creating new tools for the public to use in an effort to connect people with the on going activities of coastal restoration in Louisiana.

Released in early 2012, the CWPPRA Facebook page continues to grow and develop into a hub of all things digital. Following the CWPPRA Facebook page connects users with a vast amount of resources in tandem with CWPPRA's partnering agencies. One of the new resources connected with the Facebook page is the new Landmarks eNewsletter hosted on the WordPress blog site.

The new Landmarks eNewsletter will serve to complement our Watermarks publication which comes out twice a year. *(Continues on Page 2)*

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DATES TO REMEMBER...

January 16	Task Force Meeting	New Orleans, LA
January 28	RPT Meeting, Region IV	Abbeville, LA
January 29	RPT Meeting, Region III	Morgan City, LA
January 30	RPT Meeting, Regions I & II	New Orleans, LA
February 21-22	Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium	Shreveport, LA

MORE ABOUT SEDIMENT DIVERSIONS

Water is the essence of life, and the Mississippi River is the lifeblood of Louisiana's wetlands. Over thousands of years, the unconfined Mississippi changed course and created seven historical deltas that built most of Louisiana's coast. Annual flooding events caused sediment-laden, nutrient-rich water to overflow riverbanks and deposit into low-lying areas that over time became emergent wetlands. The present location of the river has been confined by levees constructed in response to the devastating flood of 1927. Although necessary for protecting life and property, the levees prevent the natural processes of delta building and sediment deposition that are vital for sustaining wetlands. Without this renourishment, the wetlands will eventually succumb to subsidence, storms, and anthropogenic impacts.

The CWPPRA program has been finding solutions to optimize river resources and help

rebuild wetlands with minimal impact to other stakeholders. Controlled diversions route river water through strategic locations in the levees to feed starving marshes. Crevasses, or cuts, are constructed through levees to allow passive creation of smaller deltas. Siphons suction fresh river water and direct flow into wetlands suffering from saltwater intrusion. Water-control structures and channel maintenance help distribute river water diverted from large-scale structures constructed under other authorities.

The river presents the greatest opportunity for rebuilding land but also the greatest challenges, as competing needs are inevitable. The human and natural environments must be able to coexist because they are inextricably connected. Together with stakeholders, CWPPRA projects are helping to reverse land loss on an ecosystem scale and support the economy on which coastal Louisiana has come to depend. ■



THINGS WE ARE THANKFUL FOR



Jonathan Foret, Executive Director of the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, shares a few stories with Darcey Wilkins from the LSU T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History.

HOUMA, La. – On Thursday November 14, 2013, the CWPPRA Public Outreach team held an Oral History day event at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum. In addition to featuring the “I Remember...” art show, the Outreach Team along with staff members from the LSU T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History interviewed 11 individuals connected with coastal Louisiana. The oral historians shared their experiences living

and working in Louisiana’s vanishing wetlands. The interviews were officially documented and will be posted on the LaCoast website as well as archived at the LSU T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History. According to Jonathan Foret, Executive Director of the South Louisiana Wetlands Discover Center, “We have a responsibility to communicate the challenges we face as a coastal community in as many ways as possible. Partnering with the CWPPRA Task Force to co-host this art show at the Waterlife Museum helps us to fulfill that responsibility.” The show was on display from November 6, 2013 thru January 6, 2014.

REACHING THE PUBLIC

The CWPPRA Public Outreach Team continues to engage in legislative education and public outreach. A crucial part of the process is ensuring we are meeting the needs and interests of our audiences. If you would like to provide feedback on some of our new outreach tools, please contact us online through any of our social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Email, etc.). We look forward to developing our social media presence with you in mind.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

RESTORING COASTAL LOUISIANA SINCE 1990

USGS/ NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER
700 CAJUNDOME BOULEVARD LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70506
OFFICE PHONE: (337) 266-8623 OR (337) 266-8542

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