



# Land Marks

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## CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN COASTAL RESTORATION

The Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Task Force celebrated 100 Louisiana's coastal wetlands restoration projects completed today during its 2014 dedication event. The ceremony was held on April 30, 2014 at ConocoPhillips, in Houma, LA and included participants from the five federal managing agencies, the State, local landowners, local governments, citizens, and dignitaries.

The ceremony marked the community and government partnership of over 23 years of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), and highlighted 18 projects in the Southeast region. Attendants participating in the ceremony were able to tour the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne Parish (TE-43). Community partners such as *(continues on Page 2)*



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District Commander and CWPPRA Task Force Chair Col. Richard Hansen addresses the audience at the CWPPRA Dedication Ceremony.

## WHY SAVE COASTAL LOUISIANA

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana held its bi-annual State of the Coast Conference in March at the Morial Convention *(Continues on Page 3)*



The CWPPRA Outreach Booth along with the "I Remember..." Oral History art display, at the 2014 State of the Coast Conference.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER...

May 6	Coastal Day at the Capitol	Baton Rouge, LA
May 13	Louisiana Environmental Education Commission Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
May 22	Task Force Meeting	Lafayette, LA
Mar. 31 - Aug. 30	"I Remember..." Art Show at LSU Hill Memorial Library	Baton Rouge, LA



*(Celebrating Success in Coastal Restoration continued from page 1)* ConocoPhillips and Ducks Unlimited were recognized for their dedication and commitment coastal restoration and to the CWPPRA program over the past 20 years.

"Since CWPPRA's inception, the program has inspired a vision for the future potential of Louisiana's coast," said Buck Sutter, Director of NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation. "Together we will continue to provide leadership on the development of innovative, on-the-ground projects that provide valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat and help to protect Louisiana's coastline."

CWPPRA was enacted in 1990 under former U.S. Senators John Breaux and J. Bennett Johnston. Since its inception, the federal Act has approved 148 restoration projects, benefitting over 112,000 acres of land. CWPPRA represents a collaborative effort, and is managed by a Task Force comprised of the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Dedication Ceremony highlighted recently completed projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. Among the highlighted projects were:

- Dedicated Dredging at the Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-36)
- Barataria Barrier Island Complex Project: Pelican Island and Pass La Mer to Chalant Pass Restoration (BA-38)
- Riverine Sand Mining/Scofield Island Restoration (BA-40)
- South Shore of the Pen Shoreline Protection and Marsh Creation (BA-41)
- Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42)
- Bayou Dupont Ridge Creation and Marsh Restoration (BA-48)
- Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)
- Coastwide Vegetative Plantings (LA-39)
- North Lake Boudreaux (TE-32a)
- Penchant Basin Natural Resources Plan, Increment 1 (TE-34)
- GIWW Bank Restoration of Critical Areas in Terrebonne (TE-43)
- North Lake Mechant (TE-44)
- Terrebonne Bay Shore Protection Demo (TE-45)
- West Lake Boudreaux (TE-46)
- Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50)
- West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52)
- Enhancement of Barrier Island Vegetation Demo (TE-53)
- Lost Lake Marsh Creation (TE-72)

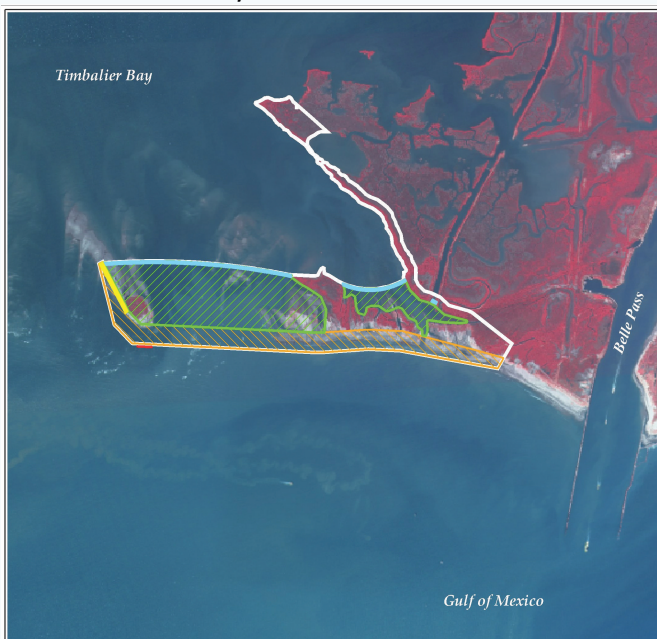




## MORE ABOUT BARRIER ISLANDS

Within a vast expanse of open water a string of land emerges—a bastion for recreation, a last refuge for migratory birds, and a first line of defense for coastal Louisiana. Barrier islands represent the remnants of what was once a thriving delta. As a delta forms, sediments are reworked via wave energy and longshore drift to form elongated shorelines. As a delta degrades, the land sinks and separates from the coarser grained shoreline to form barrier islands. These islands are a unique composite of beach, dune, marsh, and sand flats that host a tremendous variety of fisheries, wildlife, and endangered species. Once a nearly continuous chain spanning from Terrebonne Bay to Barataria Bay and up through Chandeleur Sound, these islands have critically deteriorated, mainly as a result of storms and disrupted sediment drift. As levees, jetties, and deep navigation channels have been constructed, sediments that were once carried by currents and deposited onto islands are largely trapped or redirected offshore. Without this renourishment, an island's longevity is threatened by subsidence, sea level rise, and each passing storm.

To breathe new life into this rich habitat, CWPPRA is rebuilding the barrier island chain one island at a time. Island restoration is a complex and expensive undertaking compared to other restoration techniques. This is due to the extensive hydrodynamic modeling, design, and search for adequate offshore or rivers and necessary to rebuild an island.



CWPPRA's 100th completed project: West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52)

Determining the correct dimensions for dune height, beach width, and backbarrier marsh elevation that can withstand major storms is a major consideration during project design. Once design is complete, sediment is dredged and pumped to the project site, which is then vegetated with native dune and marsh plants. CWPPRA is designing or has constructed projects within nearly every barrier island or headland within the State.

Responsible for the majority of barrier island restoration to date, CWPPRA has led the charge in barrier island restoration because it recognizes the ecological importance of barrier islands and their critical role in the defense of coastal Louisiana. ■

## WHY SAVE COASTAL LOUISIANA

(CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 1) Center in New Orleans.

In addition to setting up the "I Remember..." Oral History exhibit, the CWPPRA Outreach Team created a photo booth for conference attendees to tell everyone why saving coastal Louisiana is important to them. The photo booth project was inspired by the recent "*Saving Paradise*" book. The book was created in partnership with Bayou Grace Community Services. Below are a few of the reasons people feel it is important to save coastal Louisiana.



## FÊTE DE LA TERRE 2014

LAFAYETTE, La. – In April, CWPPRA Public Outreach Media Specialist, Cole Ruckstuhl and Intern Josh Coen, visited the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus to participate in the annual Fête de la Terre Earth Day celebration. Students from a variety of backgrounds had the opportunity to learn more about the coastal issues Louisiana is facing and what CWPPRA is doing to help restore and protect Louisiana against future land loss. In addition to informing students about CWPPRA's coastal restoration effort, the Outreach team explained the opportunities available in coastal restoration for students majoring in anything from arts and business to engineering and statistics.

Since the CWPPRA program is made of five federal agencies and the State of Louisiana, students have many opportunities to seek jobs, in their field of study, with many of these agencies. Many students understand the importance of protecting Louisiana's wetlands for the sustainability of life and culture.

Fête de la Terre is hosted by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Office of Sustainability in



CWPPRA Public Outreach Intern Josh Coen assists at UL-Lafayette's Fête de la Terre.



The CWPPRA Public Outreach Committee produces a variety of materials to educate students, faculty, and staff about CWPPRA's coastal restoration effort.

partnership with the University's Environmental Science Department.



## COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT

RESTORING COASTAL LOUISIANA SINCE 1990

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