



Landmarks

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FAMILY ADVENTURES IN WETLAND SCIENCE

Families in the Lafayette area spent Saturday, March 10 exploring their community and trying a range of activities as part of Family Adventure Day in support of Healing House and the local non-profit's work with grieving children. Outreach staff from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act collaborated with members of US Fish & Wildlife, NOAA, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Acadiana Nature Station, and other groups to provide information and fun for the families who stopped by the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center. Participants could hold juvenile alligators, make buttons and magnets, learn about local pollinators, and take part in other activities.



Gabriel Griffard helps families match animals to the wetland habitats they use.



Sinéad Borchert gets ready to talk to families about CWPPRA.

CWPPRA staff helped children think about the importance of different types of wetlands while matching native species to the correct habitat. Families could also get Henri Heron Activity Books and Protect Our Coast posters. A general theme of the activities offered at the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center was citizen science, and participants learned how to use binoculars, identify birds and bird calls, and about a variety of on-line and app resources for identifying and recording what they see in their own backyards. These data can then be used by scientists to look at where certain species are, how those populations are doing, and when seasonal events like migration occur. Hopefully finding more ways to interact with the species and habitats outside will lead to more family adventures demonstration projects.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16	CPRA Board Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
May 24	CWPPRA Task Force Meeting	Lafayette LA
May 30 - June 1	State of the Coast Conference	New Orleans, LA
June 9 Apr. 29	Ocean Fest at the Audubon Zoo	New Orleans, LA
June 11-15	GOMA All Hands Meeting	St., Petersburg, FL
June 20	CPRA Board Meeting	Lafitte, LA

Find out more details about these events and other events at:
www.lacoast.gov/calendar



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries brought a young alligator to the event.

EARTH FEST AT THE AUDUBON ZOO

Environmental awareness is an important factor in protecting the earth, and the Audubon Institute understands that. With the help of Entergy, the Audubon Zoo has hosted Earth Fest for over twenty years to date, celebrating conservation and environment-friendly practices.

This past Saturday, March 24, CWPRA was one of many organizations to be represented at Earth Fest along with Wetland Watchers, EnergySmart, Sea Grant, and many more. Each of these organizations brought educational activities to be enjoyed by children and adults alike, such as demonstrations of energy-saving appliances, composting, and beekeeping strategies. Participants could paint with produce from a local farmer's market, learn about the similarities in bone structures between humans and manatees, and get their faces painted. When they were not busy visiting the zoo enclosures or talking to organizations, guests could enjoy a number of local food vendors or live performers at the pavilion, including Grammy-winning Lost Bayou Ramblers from south Louisiana.

CWPRA Public Outreach spent the day handing out informational booklets about restoration projects, posters from the Protect Our Coast series, and activity books, as well as playing our popular "Wetland Jeopardy" game with any and all who were interested. Many eager and interested visitors participated in the Earth Fest Earth Quest, a game that led them to ask questions to appropriate organizations in exchange for a stamp. 10 stamps earned them a prize of a young plant to take home and care for. Earth Fest had a wide range of attractions that hopefully inspired all visitors to be more conscious of environmental issues and to help in the efforts to live for a healthier tomorrow.



Gabe Griffard hosts Wetland Jeopardy for a group.



BAYOU TECHE BLACK BEAR FESTIVAL 2018

The Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival took place on Friday April 20th and Saturday April 21, 2018 (10:30 AM – 5:30 PM) in Franklin, Louisiana.

Making its first debut in 2004 with its mission to “be the development of an eco-friendly environment for the endangered black bear population that resides in St. Mary Parish” [1].

The goals of the Festival Included [1]:

- Raising awareness by educating residents of the Louisiana black bear population and its environment in St. Mary Parish
- Assisting with the development of recreational opportunities at the Bayou Teche Wildlife Refuge
- Developing and cultivating an appreciation and respect for the environment
- Providing another opportunity for economic development in St. Mary Parish

Residents from all around the parish including natives of Louisiana and out of state visitors enjoyed the beautiful weather along the Bayou Teche.



CWPRA’s public outreach team, arrived on the morning of April 21st in the Historic District of Franklin. Community events included, a color run, jambalaya cook-off, wooden boat show, live and digital music, along with multiple food and service vendors for the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival.

Residents were able to park downtown, then walk to which ever event or vendor they preferred. Families of all shapes and sizes were offered fresh food, hand crafted items, educational literature, and free music.

CWPRA was fortunate enough to table next to the USFWS’ Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, which



Brian Pember, Assistant Refuge Manager for the USFWS, shows off a corn snake.

brought educational animals, such as a corn snake, soft shell turtle, small American alligator, and other fresh water turtles like the red-eared slider.

CWPRA made an impact talking with the public about their experiences with wetland restoration and flooding. We met residents from places like Golden Meadow, LA — Wisconsin, and many local residents of Franklin.

Materials Included:

- Protect our coast posters
- Henri Heron’s Activity Book
- Watermarks Magazines
- Understanding CWPRA
- CWPRA’s Partners in Restoration Booklet
- Coastal Wetland Restoration: Resident’s Guide

CWPRA would like to thank the Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival for hosting the event this year, and to the residents who participated in the Festival.



Mirka Zapletal and Sinéad Borchert at the CWPRA booth.

Reference:

[1] Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival, 24 April 2018, <http://www.bayoutechebearfest.org/index.html>.

UL-LAFAYETTE'S FÊTE DE LA TERRE

What better way to spend a Friday afternoon than with jambalaya, Cajun music, and conservation? That is how the CWPPRA outreach team and many other organizations spent last Friday, April 20th, at the UL-Lafayette Fête de la Terre Expo. The expo showcased many wonderful local groups including, but not limited to, the Citizens' Climate Lobby, the TECHE Project, and the Bayou Vermilion District, all hosted by the ULL Office of Sustainability.

Students visiting the expo could learn about how long it takes for different types of litter to decompose naturally, how solar panels are used to generate power, and whether or not to recycle different waste products. During their visit, they could grab free jambalaya, listen to the Cajun jam session, or decorate their very own reusable grocery bag. There are so many resources that help our community celebrate conservation, and the expo was a beautiful day for getting ULL students and faculty involved, interested, and informed.



At the portable solar panel unit, visitors could observe the panels actively powering four light bulbs.



COASTAL WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION ACT

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