

# LA Wetland Education Coalition

## Wetland News for August 27, 2004



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### 1. **Migratory Waterfowl Workshop Planned for LA Teachers: October 22-24, 2004**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will host a migratory waterfowl workshop for teachers, non-formal educators, and pre-service teachers on October 22-24 at Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area (WMA), situated at the southern tip of LaSalle Parish.

Located in the Mississippi Flyway, Louisiana contains some of the nation's prime waterfowl habitat and Dewey Wills WMA and Catahoula Lake are two of the best examples of such areas, specifically wood duck habitat. Sound management, resulting in a healthy waterfowl population, is a major goal of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Teachers will learn about waterfowl, their habitat, conservation measures already in place, and the types of research being done to improve these habitats and waterfowl populations.

"Instilling in our children an appreciation of Louisiana's natural resources and pride in our unique situation in providing varied habitats for a wide range of wildlife species is a positive and attainable educational goal," said LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau.

The workshop will cost \$25, which includes meals and housing. Attendees should be prepared to go outside in bad weather with warm clothing and rain gear. The participants will receive educational materials to assist in bringing this topic into the classroom and a certificate crediting approximately 16 hours of CLUs (Continuing Learning Units). This workshop is also correlated to Louisiana Benchmarks. Anyone interested in attending or would like more information should contact Cheryl Fischer, LDWF Wildlife Educator at (985) 882-9601, or by fax at (985) 882-9320, or e-mail at [cfischer@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:cfischer@wlf.louisiana.gov).

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### 2. **Baton Rouge Advocate Commentary on Elmer's Island**

[http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/082204/out\\_wildside001.shtml](http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/082204/out_wildside001.shtml)

From Deborah Schultz, BTNEP.

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### **3. NAAEE 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, November 6-10, Biloxi, MS**

Online registration has begun for NAAEE's 33rd Annual Conference, Casting a Wider Net for Environmental Education, November 6-10, 2004 in Biloxi, Mississippi, at [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) where information is available on nine pre-conference workshops and a total of 19 field trips led by knowledgeable local guides.

NAAEE is also pleased to announce this year's exceptional line-up of keynote speakers:

- David Orr, author of *The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture, and Human Intention*
- Kevin Coyle, author of "The NEETF Guide: Understanding Environmental Literacy in America (Draft Report)"
- Charles Hopkins, Chair of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO) at York University in Toronto, Canada;
- Boyce Williams, Vice President for Institutional Relations, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and
- Laura Dunn, Producer of eco-social documentaries including *GREEN*, a film documenting the pollution along the Mississippi River Petrochemical Corridor

Register soon to take advantage of Early Bird registration rates, valid through September 30. More information is available at [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org).

From the North American Association of Environmental Educators August 2004 newsletter.

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### **4. RESPECT THE BEACH**

Respect the Beach (RTB) is an exciting coastal educational program that includes field trips, classroom lectures, handouts, video, and hands-on projects designed to coastal watershed processes, shoreline ecology and coastal areas stewardship to K-12 students and community groups. <http://www.surfrider.org/programs/respectthebeach.asp>

From the North American Association of Environmental Educators August 2004 newsletter.

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### **5. Lt. Governor Landrieu Advocates for America's WETLAND in Letter to the New York Times**

The 1.1 million readers who turned to the Op-Ed Pages of the New York Times on July 22, 2004 saw a letter from Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu in response to an earlier column about the importance of restoring Florida's Everglades. While acknowledging the problems faced by Louisiana's Gulf neighbor, Lt. Gov. Landrieu countered that, "The \$1.9 billion plan currently proposed to fund Louisiana's restoration efforts, is a fraction of what experts say is necessary for effective restoration programs. As we work with insufficient funding, our coast and our future wash away." This is the campaign's third appearance on the New York Times' editorial pages in the last 14 months. This is just another example of how the America's WETLAND campaign, with the help of Louisiana's top government officials, is making people across the nation aware of coastal Louisiana's economic and ecological significance. To read Lt. Gov. Landrieu's letter in its entirety, visit:

<http://www.americaswetland.com/article.cfm?id=149&cateid=3&pageid=3&cid=18>

From the America's Wetland August 2004 Newsletter. For more information on the America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana, please visit: <http://www.americaswetland.com>.

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## **6. BTNEP Offers 150 Estuary Teachers a Chance to Participate in JASON Expedition: Disappearing Wetlands**

The good news is that the JASON Foundation for Education is leading an expedition to Louisiana! The great news is that BTNEP is sponsoring 10 teachers from each of the fifteen estuary parishes to have free access to the JASON curriculum, video, plentiful gated website activities, and live broadcast from Louisiana's Disappearing Wetlands. If you are from Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or West Baton Rouge – then ask your curriculum supervisor if you can sign up to participate.

JASON was founded by Dr. Bob Ballard, who is the man who discovered the wreckage of the Titanic. Because children were so interested in Mr. Ballard's work, the JASON Foundation now leads an expedition to an ecosystem of importance each year that reaches 2 million people. Last school year, the focus was the rainforests of Panama. The year before, the coastal ecosystem of the Catalina Islands off the coast of California, was featured. The story of Louisiana's *Disappearing Wetlands* (the title of this year's expedition) will be told in the context of the value of wetlands and through the work of six of our Louisiana scientists. Dr. Earl Melancon, from Nicholls State University, is one of the featured researchers on the live 6-day expedition broadcast from January 31 through February 6, 2005.

BTNEP feels so strongly about the value of this international program focused on Louisiana that we have paid for 150 estuary teachers to take advantage of it. This package would normally cost Louisiana teachers \$199 (\$339 outside Louisiana). We will also be providing teacher training in the use of the JASON Curriculum at a nominal cost per teacher of \$35. At the workshop, teachers will receive training in the use of the Jason materials and will get online to register their license to access the gated portion of the Jason website.

### **Teachers will walk away from the workshop with:**

- The JASON teacher pack Louisiana standards-based curriculum
- One student activities book
- JASON Introductory video: *Disappearing Wetlands*
- A password to access JASON Online
- Plenty of free videos, posters, maps and more from BTNEP

Four workshops are scheduled in the coming months. You can attend the workshop that best fits your schedule and location: September 18 (in Point Coupee Parish), September 25 (in St. John Parish), October 9 (in Jefferson Parish). We are working to schedule two additional workshops (in Assumption Parish and Terrebonne Parish). Dates for these two additional workshops will be announced on the BTNEP Education website ([educators.btneep.org](http://educators.btneep.org)) and through this listserve.

Two Texas Instrument workshops incorporating the use of TI Graphing Calculators are also in the process of being scheduled: September 30 and December 9. Information regarding these workshops will also be posted on the BTNEP Education website ([educators.btneep.org](http://educators.btneep.org)) and through this listserve.

Your parish curriculum supervisor has the registration forms to sign up for the BTNEP-JASON workshops. Questions can be directed to Deborah Schultz (deborah@btnep.org).

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### 7. Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) website

Many new math and science resources have recently been added to the Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) website. FREE ([www.ed.gov/free](http://www.ed.gov/free)) makes it easy for teachers, parents, students, and others to find teaching and learning resources from more than 40 federal organizations. An example:

*\* "Hands on the Land Teaching Materials" ([www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org)) provides lessons for learning about the Everglades ecosystem, bat habitats, rock classification, eagles, invasive species, migrating birds, water quality in the wilderness, the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map vegetation, and more. (Bureau of Land Management)*

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### 8. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

**Description of this listserve:** A listserve serving educators interested in LA wetlands.

**To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserve:** email [LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU) and enclose the following single line in the body of the email

unsubscribe LAWEC-L

***Please do not reply to the entire list unless you want everyone to read your message!***

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