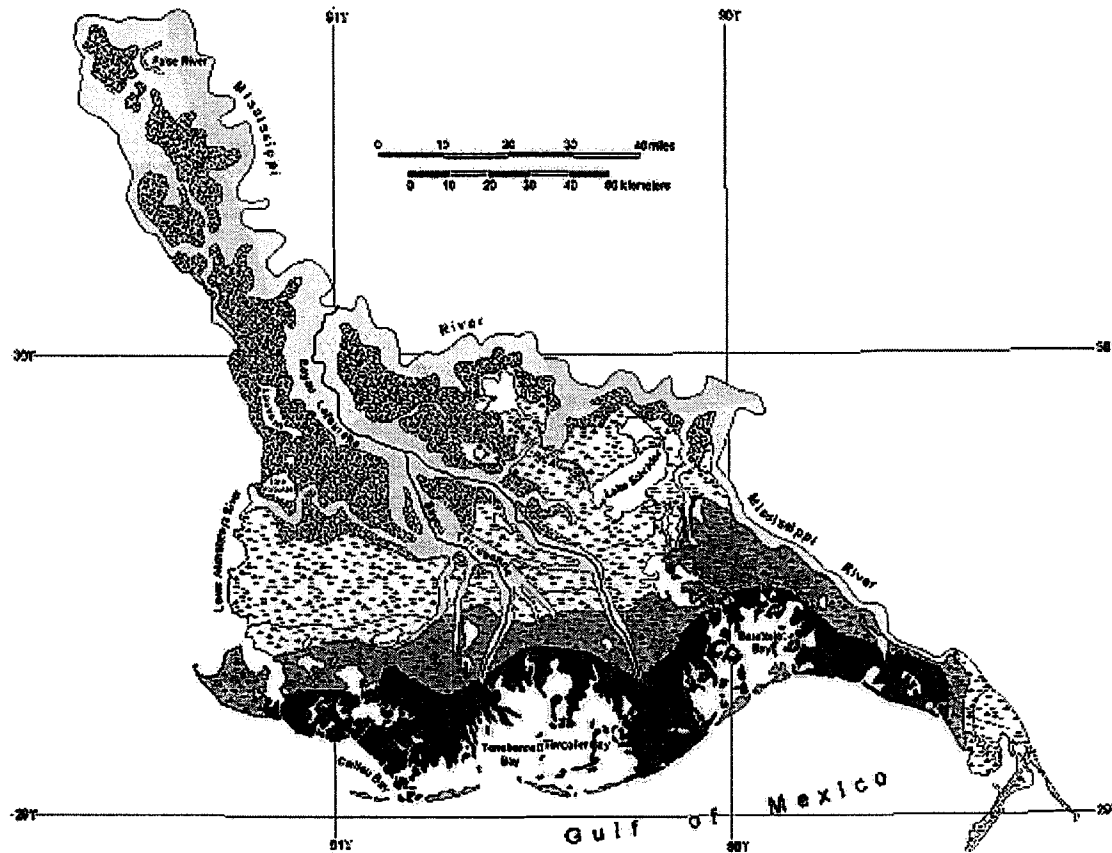


Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program



Implementation Review Report 2001 – 2003

Submitted to U.S. EPA, April 2004



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List of Acronyms

ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
APT(s)	Action Plan Team(s)
BMP	Best Management Practice
BTEF	Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation
BTES	Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System
BTNEP	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CIAP	Coastal Impact Assistance Program
COSEE	Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence
CRCL	Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
CRD	Coastal Resources Division
CP	Coordinated Planning
CWPPRA	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
DIMS	Data Information Management System
EG	Economic Growth
EM	Ecological Management
GLPC	Greater Lafourche Port Commission
GOMF	Gulf of Mexico Foundation
GOMP	Gulf of Mexico Program
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
LA	Louisiana
LCA	Louisiana Coastal Area
LDAF	Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDHH	Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LOSCO	Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
LSU	Louisiana State University
LUMCON	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
NEP	National Estuary Program
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSU	Nicholls State University
SR	Sustained Recognition
STEPS	Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
UNO	University of New Orleans
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS-NWRC	United States Geologic Survey-National Wetlands Research Center
WRDA	Water Resource Development Act



I. Implementation Review – Executive Summary

A. NEP Achievements

From January 2001 through December 2003, BTNEP made significant progress on implementation of its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). A summary of the BTNEP Program Office's more notable accomplishments during this period follows, organized according to the four major sections of the CCMP; more detailed information on these activities can be found within the Implementation Tracking System section of this report (and in Appendix D). Although many of these accomplishments can be listed under multiple sections, they are included only under the most relevant section to avoid duplication.

Coordinated Planning and Implementation

- The BTNEP Management Conference held 12 meetings during the review period.
- BTNEP has significantly increased stakeholder participation through numerous meetings of various Action Plan Teams during the review period.
- A Permit Information and Training Center was established in Jefferson Parish, LA.
- BTNEP has coordinated the response to the brown marsh phenomenon, via the Program's Scientific Technical Committee.
- BTNEP serves as a member of the Davis Pond Interagency Advisory Committee.
- BTNEP has established an Invasive Species Coordinator position.
- BTNEP re-structured the Outreach Program, creating a Formal Education Coordinator position and a Community Relations Coordinator position.
- The Program Office continues to coordinate with other programs and partners, including:
 - The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force and Outreach Committee;
 - The Gulf of Mexico Program;
 - Other National Estuary Programs;
 - The National Park Service;
 - The National Resources Conservation Service;
 - The Nature Conservancy;
 - Americorps on the Bayou;
 - Restore or Retreat;
 - Local parish governments.

Ecological Management

- The Program Office sponsored or co-sponsored workshops during the review period, including:
 - The Environmental Indicators Workshop in June 2001;
 - The Bayou Lafourche Symposium in Fall 2002.
- The Program Office supported numerous restoration projects and initiated numerous scientific projects during the review period, including:
 - The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project;
 - The Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration project;



- The Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration, and Enhancement of Neotropical Bird Habitat project;
- Completion of the 1st year's data collections under the Shellfish Challenge Redirection of Storm Water Pump Discharge project;
- Completion of the booklet *Spill Prevention: Invest Now or Pay Later*;
- Initiation of the contract and completion of fall sampling for the Habitat Importance of *Vallisneria* Beds project;
- The Vegetative Model For Restoration, Conservation, and Habitat Enhancement on Beneficial-Use Dredge Sediments project;
- The Influence of Chopper-Harvested Green Cane Residue Blankets on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff project;
- Numerous vegetative planting projects.
- The BTNEP website (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the Program, and to allow easier updating of site information.
- The Program Office continued development and implementation of the Data Information and Management System to archive and disseminate information about the BTES.

Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement

- The Program Office oversaw development and distribution of several public outreach documents and educational materials (see Appendix A for a complete list of educational materials available for distribution), including:
 - The report *Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities...Environmental Indicators in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System, 2002*;
 - Tidal Graph Calendars for 2002 and 2003;
 - The educational product *Salt Marsh Habitats of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary*;
 - The booklet *Spill Prevention: Invest Now or Pay Later*;
 - A migratory and resident bird video.
- BTNEP staff conducted numerous presentations and interviews to further understanding of BTNEP activities and critical issues in the BTES (see Appendix B for a complete listing of staff presentations and participation in community events).
- BTNEP has worked closely with several national educational efforts (e.g., projects with the Jason Foundation for Education and America's Wetlands).
- The BTNEP email newsletter *Crablines* was re-instituted.
- The Program Office hired a full-time Community Relations Coordinator position.
- The Program Office hosted or co-hosted a number of camps and public outreach and education events during the review period, including:
 - La Fête d'Écologie festivals in September 2001, 2002, and 2003;
 - Back to the Bayou five-day paddling trips on Bayou Lafourche in November 2001, 2002, and 2003;
 - A tour of Bayou Lafourche for the American Trial Lawyers Association;
 - A tour of Terrebonne Parish, following the proposed lines for the "Morganza to the Gulf" restoration feasibility study, for Management Conference members and legislators;
 - A program entitled "The Barataria Basins and the Opportunity for a Third Delta: A Technical Review";
 - One of the State of Louisiana's LCA public meetings;



- Coastal Roots Educator Workshops in 2002 and 2003;
- Project STEPS (Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science) Workshops in 2001, 2002, and twice in 2003;
- A Citizen Monitoring Workshop (in conjunction with EPA and the Center for Marine Conservation);
- The Marsh Maneuvers camp in July 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Economic Growth

- The Program Office began coordination of the development of a Louisiana Coastal Birding Trail and a Mississippi River Birding Trail, via provision of initial seed money to develop trails and educational kiosks.
- BTNEP co-hosted the 1st Annual Wings over the Wetlands festival in October 2003.
- BTNEP co-hosted Migratory Bird Day celebrations in April 2001, 2002, and 2003.
- BTNEP continued efforts on the Marsh Upwelling Wastewater Treatment System.

B. Previously Identified Challenges

Following the 2001 Implementation Review, USEPA determined that two main areas required additional emphasis by BTNEP: priority setting and securing additional funds. Currently, 21 of the 51 Action Plans remain as implementation priorities; these priority Action Plans allow BTNEP to focus implementation efforts on the most critical and most opportune Action Plans. It is important to note that while the Management Conference has highlighted the 21 priority Action Plans (Table ES-1), implementation progress on all 51 Action Plans is actively encouraged, and significant progress has been made on many Action Plans not designated as priorities. The Management Conference also has consistently encouraged, and supported whenever feasible, adjunct actions that fulfill the “intent” of an Action Plan, even if the actions do not match the specific objectives and/or steps described in the CCMP.

BTNEP has made progress on identifying and procuring additional funding sources, outside of Section 320 funds (Table ES-2). Over the past three fiscal years, BTNEP has obtained more than \$1 million in state general funds through BTNEP’s administrative organizations (LDEQ in 2001, LUMCON in 2002 and 2003). In addition, BTNEP has obtained funding from other federal programs such as the Gulf of Mexico Program, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, as well as additional state funding through the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Department of Natural Resources. BTNEP will continue to identify other potential funding sources, and work towards increasing the amount of additional funding the NEP receives.

TABLE ES-1. Priority Action Plans

- PI-1/2/3: Continue the Management Conference; establish points-of-contact throughout the state for CCMP implementation; maintain the program office and critical staff.
- CP-1: Use of participatory decision-making processes at Management Conference meetings; conflict resolution.
- CP-3: Provide education and planning assistance to local officials and planners to ensure sustainable economic development within the estuary.
- CP-5: Establish a periodic evaluation process to assess implementation of the wetlands permitting process and regulations.
- EM-1: Restore the natural hydrology of areas receiving freshwater inflows.
- EM-2: Divert freshwater and sediment to decrease salinities and maintain/create marsh.
- EM-4: Use of dredged material to create, maintain, and restore marshes.
- EM-6: Stabilize shorelines and induce sediment deposition to create, maintain, and restore marshes.
- EM-8: Quantitatively estimate sources and loads of nutrient, bacteria, and toxic contaminants within the estuary.
- EM-10: Reduce human sewage discharges to the estuary from treatment plants, rural homes, unsewered communities, commercial and residential vessels, and waterfront camps.
- EM-18: Create an accessible, centralized data management system.
- SR-1: Develop a network of community leaders and teams to support and implement CCMP Action Plans.
- SR-2: Regularly conduct meetings to involve the public in decisions on estuary issues.
- SR-3: Provide citizen involvement opportunities for protecting and managing the estuary.
- SR-8: Generate legislator support for estuary issues.
- SR-9: Use the media for information dissemination.
- SR-11: Provide educational materials on estuary issues for identified target audiences.
- SR-15: Provide continuing environmental education programs.
- EG-2: Encourage nature-based tourism and recreation.
- EG-6: Identify existing, develop new, and encourage the use of more environmentally sensitive technologies and business practices.
- EG-7: Identify, promote, and provide financial/tax incentives for environmentally sustainable economic development.

TABLE ES-2. Sources of funds (Section 320 and leveraged) for fiscal years 2001-2003.

FY	Source of Funds	Amount	Type of Award
2001	USEPA	\$330,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	LDEQ	\$293,033	State General Fund
	NRCS	\$36,300	In-kind Contribution
	NFWF	\$38,900	Shell Grant Fund
	Delta Service Corporation	\$12,000	In-kind Contribution
	TOTAL	\$710,233	(46% USEPA funds, 54% leveraged funds)
2002	USEPA	\$340,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	LUMCON	\$305,243	State General Fund
	LA Board of Regents	\$30,000	State Funds
	NFWF	\$4,757	Shell Grant Fund
	NOAA	\$75,000	Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration Grant
	LDNR	\$100,000	CIAP Grant
	GOMP	\$101,700	Pointe aux Chien Stormwater Redirection Grant
	GOMP	\$54,000	Non-Indigenous Invasive Species Grant
	GOMP	\$3,250	Vegetative Model for Restoration Year 1 Grant
	TOTAL	\$1,083,950	(31% USEPA funds, 69% leveraged funds)
2003	USEPA	\$310,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	USEPA	\$200,000	Congressional Earmark
	LUMCON	\$310,411	State General Fund
	GOMP	\$101,000	GOMP Grant
	LA Board of Regents	\$30,000	State Funds
	GOMP	\$101,700	Maritime Forest Ridge Grant
	LDNR	\$205,000	Bayou Lafourche Public Outreach Strategy Grant
	GOMF	\$90,000	Maritime Forest Ridge Grant
	GLPC	\$500,000	State Funds
	UNO	\$40,000	Barrier Shoreline Report Grant
	TOTAL	\$1,888,111	(27% USEPA funds, 73% leveraged funds)



C. New or Emerging Challenges

One of the challenges constantly posed by working in dynamic estuarine ecosystems is that issues of concern are fluid – new environmental priorities frequently come to the fore, and require immediate attention. Currently, the overarching environmental issue facing the Barataria-Terrebonne region, and thus BTNEP, is the issue of coastal land loss. Recent analyses indicate that the BTES is disappearing at the rate of 15.4 square miles per year, as wetlands are converted to open water and barrier islands erode. Since the state of Louisiana has become a more active player in Louisiana's coastal land loss issue, and expensive solutions to this tremendous threat to the estuary are closer at hand, BTNEP will continue to focus more time on this issue (e.g., via attendance and CCMP-based input at a number of meetings being held on this issue). This growing focus of staff time on the coastal land loss issue will necessarily reduce the amount of time BTNEP can devote to other activities.

In the previous implementation review, two events were drawing the majority of BTNEP's "implementation energy": Bayou Lafourche Initiative and the brown marsh phenomenon. BTNEP continues to focus on a wide range of implementation efforts in Bayou Lafourche, a particularly critical area of the BTES. The Bayou Lafourche Initiative was established to raise awareness among community members that this heavily impacted area is an ecologically important part of the estuary. Many public outreach activities have focused on the Bayou Lafourche region (e.g., multiple-day paddling trips through the region); given the progress of federal agencies in the design and engineering of a marsh restoration project involving freshwater flow reintroduction into the bayou, the program will continue to stress education and outreach in this region.

The brown marsh issue remained a key issue in the BTES during this review period. The rapid die-off of approximately 20,000 acres of *Spartina alterniflora* – the normally lush and abundant marsh grass found in the BTES – began in 2000; current reports indicate that approximately 260,000 acres of marsh have been moderately or severely impacted. BTNEP assumed a lead role in coordinating the response of multiple groups to this phenomenon (e.g., by convening the BTNEP Scientific Technical Advisory Committee).

In recent years, BTNEP has begun to focus more energy on restoration projects. In consideration of the enormous cost of individual coastal restoration projects, BTNEP will concentrate on areas in which the program can distinguish itself and make a difference. Rather than expend limited funds toward major, million-dollar projects, the Management Conference has elected to channel funding towards projects that will effect positive change in the approaches and success of restoration in the estuary. A key aspect of BTNEP's involvement in restoration issues is demonstration of the NEP's inclusive process of stakeholder involvement. BTNEP is involved in conducting applied science programs to examine restoration techniques using different plant species, as well as more traditional restoration programs at a number of sites. The Program is also taking on responsibilities with some of the larger restoration efforts now underway (e.g., by serving on the Davis Pond Advisory Board and via involvement with the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Diversion Project).

BTNEP is involved in the State of Louisiana's efforts to obtain \$10-15 billion dollars through WRDA 2004, to finance the restoration of Louisiana's coast as part of the LA Coastal Area Study process. BTNEP has become an active proponent of restoration methods that meet the intent of the CCMP (such as Pipeline Slurry Delivery of Sediments).

D. Role of Key Stakeholders in CCMP Implementation

One of the key contributions of BTNEP to the Barataria-Terrebonne region and its residents is the provision of a coordinating body for multi-stakeholder involvement. Through BTNEP, a broad-based group of stakeholders in the BTES collectively identified seven priority ecological problems confronting their estuary (Table ES-3) and developed a vision and goals to address these problems. To meet the Program's goals, four equally important "pathways" were identified to address these priority problems: coordinated environmental planning, ecological resources management, public education and involvement, and sustainable economic growth. Tables ES-4 and ES-5 present the Program's goals and the organizational structure of the CCMP, which contains 51 individual Action Plans.

BTNEP allows for an inclusive process to operate in resource management decision making. Due to the comprehensive nature of the CCMP, and in order to maintain a regional and consensus-based approach to implementation, the BTNEP Management Conference was maintained after CCMP completion. The Management Conference, which advises on all aspects of implementation, consists of representatives of federal, state, and local natural resource agencies, the research community, local governments, citizens, and other stakeholders. These participants (see Appendix C for a complete list of current Management Conference members) meet quarterly every year to discuss relevant issues.

TABLE ES-3. Priority problems in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System

- **Hydrologic modification** – human changes to water flows in the estuary.
- **Reduced sediment flows** – reductions in the amount of sediment inputs to the estuary.
- **Habitat loss** – land loss and marsh deterioration.
- **Changes in living resources** – population reductions in important species and introductions of non-native species.
- **Eutrophication** – too many nutrients in the estuary's waters.
- **Pathogen contamination** – untreated sewage and stormwater discharged to the estuary.
- **Toxic substances** – heavy metals and pesticides in runoff, and oil spills, to the estuary.

To maintain multi-stakeholder involvement in the discussion and implementation of CCMP Action Plans, BTNEP utilizes the Action Plan Team (APT) concept; this concept is described in greater detail in Section F of this report. In addition, BTNEP has fostered strong partnerships among the numerous entities working within the BTES. This is evident when one considers the variety of organizations involved in CCMP implementation (see Appendix D for a complete accounting during this review period), including federal agencies (e.g., NOAA, NRCS, GOMP), state agencies (e.g., LDEQ, LDHH), local parish governments, academic institutions (e.g., LSU, Nicholls State University), and non-governmental organizations (e.g., BTEF).

TABLE ES-4. BTNEP goals

- Forge common ground solutions to estuarine problems.
- Maintain multi-level, long-term, comprehensive watershed planning.
- Create clear, fair, practical, and enforceable regulations.
- Preserve and restore wetlands and barrier islands.
- Develop and meet water quality standards that adequately protect estuarine resources and human health.
- Realistically support diverse natural biological communities.
- Create an accessible, comprehensive database with interpreted information for the public.
- Formulate indicators of estuarine health and balanced usage.
- Implement comprehensive education and awareness programs that enhance public involvement and maintain cultural heritage.
- Create national recognition and support for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary.
- Be compatible with natural processes.
- Promote environmentally responsible economic activities that sustain estuarine resources.

TABLE ES-5. Organization of the CCMP (sections, sub-sections, and Action Plans)

- Coordinated Planning and Implementation
 - Program Implementation Structure – Action Plans PI-1 through PI-3
 - Coordinated Planning – Action Plans CP-1 through CP-5
- Ecological Management
 - Habitat Management – Action Plans EM-1 through EM-7
 - Water Quality – Action Plans EM-8 through EM-14
 - Living Resources – Action Plans EM-15 and EM-16
 - Accessible and Compatible Data Sets – Action Plan EM-18
- Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement
 - Citizen Involvement and Participation – Action Plans SR-1 through SR-7
 - Public Information and Education – Action Plans SR-8 through SR-13
 - K-16 Curriculum – Action Plans SR-14 through SR-17
- Economic Growth
 - Economic Development – Action Plans EG-1 through EG-3
 - Technology Transfer – Action Plans EG-4 through EG-6
 - Cooperative Incentives – Action Plans EG-7 and EG-8

E. Barriers to CCMP Implementation

The geographic size (4.2 million acres) and complexity of the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary remain major challenges in implementing CCMP Action Plans. It is difficult for a small staff to maintain a handle on the ever-evolving issues inherent to such a large and dynamic ecosystem, and demands on the Program staff's available time can be overwhelming. This is especially true as new issues demand attention, as with the problem of coastal land loss. The Program still does not have adequate personnel resources to address all the issues requiring attention, although BTNEP now employs seven full-time staff members versus four during the last review period. This problem has been compounded by the departure of BTNEP's Invasive Species Coordinator, although it is anticipated that this vacancy will be filled in early 2004. In addition, Kerry St. Pé was appointed interim director of LUMCON, BTNEP's administrative agency, in 2002. While this appointment has been beneficial in that it has promoted increased interaction and understanding between the two organizations, it has also increased Mr. St. Pé's responsibilities and resulted in his absence from the Program Office one day per week. While the addition of Leslie McVeigh in the full-time Community Relations Coordinator position has greatly improved the ability of the program to facilitate interactions and increase education and outreach with the public, there is still more work to be done than can be accomplished by BTNEP staff.

BTNEP also has faced some administrative difficulties during the review period. BTNEP changed administrative agencies from LDEQ to LUMCON in July 2001; this switch, while beneficial for the long-term implementation of BTNEP's programs, posed some short-term logistic challenges as email and computer systems were transferred. In addition, the BTNEP Program Office suffered an enormous setback after a hurricane-related flood in June 2001. Computers, documents, and records were damaged or destroyed, and other equipment, furniture, and educational materials were destroyed. Program operations were disrupted for many months, and staff experienced prolonged computer and network difficulties. As of mid-2002, recovery from this flood was mostly complete.

F. Facilitation of Community-Based Decision Making

To maintain multi-stakeholder involvement in the discussion and implementation of CCMP Action Plans (as discussed in Section D above), BTNEP utilizes the Action Plan Team (APT) concept developed in 1998. This concept (agreed upon by the Management Conference) was developed to further community-based decision making, by allowing for continued increases in the number and diversity of people involved with CCMP implementation. These APTs serve several purposes:

- To guide and facilitate implementation of each Action Plan;
- To serve as a mechanism for citizen involvement and ownership in Action Plan implementation;
- To foster partnerships by providing an issue-specific resource for other agencies or groups seeking expertise and public interest;
- To assess and recommend to the Management Conference future projects and funding needs;
- To ensure the formation of interdisciplinary teams to guide Action Plan implementation.

APT's consist of stakeholders with multi-disciplinary interests, each of whom has equal voice. APT's vary in membership size; however, each team includes lead and co-lead support implementers,



issue experts, and interested residents. These teams meet on an as-needed basis, and all decisions and recommendations are made through consensus. APT member responsibilities are as follows:

- To guide the development of Requests for Proposals and the selection of contractors;
- To provide direction and review deliverables for projects;
- To steer program resources through recommendations for the development of annual workplans;
- To assist with tracking implementation progress on the Action Plans.

In summary, members of an APT serve as a resource pool from which BTNEP can draw to help generate, guide, and review implementation projects related to that Action Plan. APTs provide targeted opportunities for all stakeholders, including the general public, to be officially involved in the Barataria-Terrebonne partnership, and to be directly involved in restoring and protecting the BTES.

G. Summary of Education/Outreach Program

Since its inception, one of the most important aspects of the BTNEP program has been educational initiatives, stressing the ecological, economic, and cultural importance of the Barataria-Terrebonne region. In fact, each of the 51 Action Plans comprising the CCMP requires some aspect of education and outreach. This focus on education has been one of BTNEP's strongest niches, and one that has not been filled adequately by other means or programs.

BTNEP will continue to place a high level of importance on education projects, including further development and improvement of the Program's website. Because the internet has become such an important tool for education and outreach, BTNEP's website provides a crucial link to the public. As a result, BTNEP will continue the complete overhaul of the website. The new website, when complete, will provide information on each of the Program's focus areas, including habitat enhancement, water quality, invasive species, and formal and non-formal education and outreach. These efforts will aid in demonstrating BTNEP's activities to a wider audience.

A major step forward for BTNEP's education program during this review period was the hiring of Leslie McVeigh as BTNEP's Community Relations Coordinator. This greatly increased the ability of the program to facilitate interaction with estuary residents in both formal and informal education and outreach activities.

H. Summary of Finance Plan

BTNEP will continue to obtain funding through business and industry sources as well as from local, state, and federal sources (Table ES-2). It is hoped that the non-profit citizens' arm of BTNEP, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, will serve as a source of funding for CCMP implementation activities. BTNEP will also make efforts to seek future support from NOAA, USEPA (non-Section 320 funds), the Gulf of Mexico Program, foundation grants, and Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Council. The Program will seek an increase in the Louisiana general fund appropriation for administration and implementation. The Program also will increase efforts to secure private partnership funding through business and industry.

Following BTNEP's successful effort to change its administrative agency from LDEQ to LUMCON, the Program was able to secure a significant increase in state general funds. Under this



university setting the Program has much more flexibility to seek additional funding for implementing CCMP actions.

TABLE ES-6. Project budgets for fiscal years 2001-2003.

FY	Project Name	Budget
2001	Supplemental Funding	\$20,000
	Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials	\$44,000
	Cooperative Incentives	\$38,000
	Reduction of Impact From Exotic Vegetation	\$20,000
	Woody Plant Species Selection	\$78,000
	Grand Isle Bird Day Festival	\$10,000
	Influence of Cane Trash Residue on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff	\$42,500
	Habitat Importance of <i>Vallisneria</i> Beds	\$45,000
	Educators Guide	\$10,000
	Great LA Coastal Birding Trail	\$5,000
	Citizen Education Programs	\$2,500
	Barataria-Terrebonne Calendar	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$320,000
2002	Supplemental Funding	\$30,000
	Estuary Festival FY 2002	\$40,000
	Continued Development & Implementation of DIMS	\$60,000
	Assumption Parish Bayou Camps	\$8,000
	Marsh Maneuvers Youth Camps	\$8,000
	Coastal Wetlands Workshops	\$7,000
	Project STEPS	\$6,000
	Sugar Cane Residue	\$38,325
	Woody Species	\$73,400
	Coastal Roots	\$15,000
	Bird Celebration Day	\$10,000
	Curriculum Consolidation & Flyway Poster	\$12,500
	Re-Survey of Wading Bird and Seabird Nesting Colonies in the BT Basins	\$8,000
	3 rd North American Ornithological Conference	\$3,775
	Self-Guided Field Trips in the BT Estuary	\$10,000
	TOTAL	\$330,000
2003	BTNEP Personnel	\$81,600
	Indirect Charges	\$33,364
	Travel Funds	\$10,000
	Administrative Funding	\$50,000
	7 th Annual "La Fête d'Écologie"	\$40,000
	Continued Development of DIMS	\$35,000
	Continuation of BTNEP Website	\$37,000
	New Land Loss Map	\$5,000
	Grand Isle Bird Day Celebration	\$10,000
	Program Informational Materials	\$42,336
	Prevention Manual	\$15,000
	Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Fringe	\$23,700
	Nonpoint Source Project	\$30,000
	Woodlands Trail and Park	\$30,000
	Revitalize Haunted Waters Teacher Guide	\$15,000
	Close Captioning Videos	\$5,000
	Birding Sites of BT	\$20,000
	Project STEPS	\$15,000
	Marsh Maneuvers	\$4,000
	Summer Camps	\$8,000
	TOTAL	\$510,000

I. Use of Post-CCMP Funding

USEPA has provided a total of \$1,180,000 in post-CCMP funding during fiscal years 2001 through 2003 (Table ES-2). These funds, combined with the State's matching funds and additional funds (outside of Section 320 funds) have been used to support the Program Office, compensate staff, and implement Action Plans in the CCMP through demonstration and implementation projects. See Table ES-6 for post-CCMP fund allocations to CCMP project budgets in fiscal years 2001 through 2003.

II. Annual Funding Guidance Reporting Requirements

A. Annual Workplans

BTNEP's Annual Workplans (2001 through 2004) are summarized in the following sections of this report; the original workplans are included in Attachment A.

Goals and Accomplishments

From January 2001 through December 2003, BTNEP made significant progress on implementation of its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and associated goals (Table 1). A summary of the BTNEP Program Office's more notable accomplishments during this period follows, organized according to the four major sections of the CCMP; more detailed information on these activities can be found within the Implementation Tracking System section of this report (and in Appendix D). Although many of these accomplishments can be listed under multiple sections, they are included only under the most relevant section to avoid duplication.

TABLE 1. BTNEP Goals

- Forge common ground solutions to estuarine problems.
- Maintain multi-level, long-term, comprehensive watershed planning.
- Create clear, fair, practical, and enforceable regulations.
- Preserve and restore wetlands and barrier islands.
- Develop and meet water quality standards that adequately protect estuarine resources and human health.
- Realistically support diverse natural biological communities.
- Create an accessible, comprehensive database with interpreted information for the public.
- Formulate indicators of estuarine health and balanced usage.
- Implement comprehensive education and awareness programs that enhance public involvement and maintain cultural heritage.
- Create national recognition and support for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary.
- Be compatible with natural processes.
- Promote environmentally responsible economic activities that sustain estuarine resources.

Coordinated Planning and Implementation

- The BTNEP Management Conference held 12 meetings during the review period.
- BTNEP has significantly increased stakeholder participation through numerous meetings of various Action Plan Teams during the review period.
- A Permit Information and Training Center was established in Jefferson Parish, LA.
- BTNEP has coordinated the response to the brown marsh phenomenon, via the program's Scientific Technical Committee.



- BTNEP serves as a member of the Davis Pond Interagency Advisory Committee.
- BTNEP has established an Invasive Species Coordinator position.
- BTNEP re-structured the Outreach Program, creating a Formal Education Coordinator position and a Community Relations Coordinator position.
- The Program Office continues to coordinate with other programs and partners, including:
 - The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force and Outreach Committee;
 - The Gulf of Mexico Program;
 - Other National Estuary Programs;
 - The National Park Service;
 - The National Resources Conservation Service;
 - The Nature Conservancy;
 - Americorps on the Bayou;
 - Restore or Retreat;
 - Local parish governments.

Ecological Management

- The Program Office sponsored or co-sponsored workshops during the review period, including:
 - The Environmental Indicators Workshop in June 2001;
 - The Bayou Lafourche Symposium in Fall 2002.
- The Program Office supported numerous restoration projects and initiated numerous scientific projects during the review period, including:
 - The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project;
 - The Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration project;
 - The Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration, and Enhancement of Neotropical Bird Habitat project;
 - Completion of the 1st year's data collections under the Shellfish Challenge Redirection of Storm Water Pump Discharge project;
 - Completion of the booklet *Spill Prevention: Invest Now or Pay Later*;
 - Initiation of the contract and completion of fall sampling for the Habitat Importance of *Vallisneria* Beds project;
 - The Vegetative Model For Restoration, Conservation, and Habitat Enhancement on Beneficial-Use Dredge Sediments project;
 - The Influence of Chopper-Harvested Green Cane Residue Blankets on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff project;
 - Numerous vegetative planting projects.
- The BTNEP website (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the Program, and to allow easier updating of site information.
- The Program Office continued development and implementation of the Data Information and Management System to archive and disseminate information about the BTES.



Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement

- The Program Office oversaw development and distribution of several public outreach documents and educational materials (see Appendix A for a complete list of educational materials available for distribution), including:
 - The report *Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities...Environmental Indicators in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System*, 2002;
 - Tidal Graph Calendars for 2002 and 2003;
 - The educational product *Salt Marsh Habitats of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary*;
 - The booklet *Spill Prevention: Invest Now or Pay Later*;
 - A migratory and resident bird video.
- BTNEP staff conducted numerous presentations and interviews to further understanding of BTNEP activities and critical issues in the BTES (see Appendix B for a complete listing of staff presentations and participation in community events).
- BTNEP has worked closely with several national educational efforts (e.g., projects with the Jason Foundation for Education and America's Wetlands).
- The BTNEP email newsletter *Crablines* was re-instituted.
- The Program Office hired a full-time Community Relations Coordinator position.
- The Program Office hosted or co-hosted a number of camps and public outreach and education events during the review period, including:
 - La Fête d'Écologie festivals in September 2001, 2002, and 2003;
 - Back to the Bayou five-day paddling trips on Bayou Lafourche in November 2001, 2002, and 2003;
 - A tour of Bayou Lafourche for the American Trial Lawyers Association;
 - A tour of Terrebonne Parish, following the proposed lines for the "Morganza to the Gulf" restoration feasibility study, for Management Conference members and legislators;
 - A program entitled "The Barataria Basins and the Opportunity for a Third Delta: A Technical Review";
 - One of the State of Louisiana's LCA public meetings;
 - Coastal Roots Educator Workshops in 2002 and 2003;
 - Project STEPS (Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science) Workshops in 2001, 2002, and twice in 2003;
 - A Citizen Monitoring Workshop (in conjunction with EPA and the Center for Marine Conservation);
 - The Marsh Maneuvers camp in July 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Economic Growth

- The Program Office began coordination of the development of a Louisiana Coastal Birding Trail and a Mississippi River Birding Trail, via provision of initial seed money to develop trails and educational kiosks.
- BTNEP co-hosted the 1st Annual Wings over the Wetlands festival in October 2003.
- BTNEP co-hosted the Migratory Bird Day celebrations in April 2001, 2002, and 2003.
- BTNEP continued efforts on the Marsh Upwelling Wastewater Treatment System.

Status of Ongoing Projects – Initiated and New

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of ongoing projects (both initiated and new) for fiscal years 1998 – 2004.

TABLE 2. Initiated projects, fiscal years 1998 – 2004.

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
1998	PI-1	Administrative Costs (FY 2002)	98-01	Varies depending on product/service needed	\$58,034	10/98 – 9/03
	SR-14, SR-15	Coastal Roots Program	98-05	LSU Sea Grant	\$21,969	3/01 – 11/02
	SR-3	Additional Community Programs	98-13	COSEE	\$1,273	Completion by 7/03
		Design and Production of Estuary Compact	98-15	LSU, LA Geologic Society	\$2,216	7/03 – 8/03
1999		Clean Water Initiative	99-01	LSU	\$36,500	9/01 – 8/02
	SR-14	Estuarine Curriculum Workshops	99-04	St. Charles Parish	\$35,000	3/01 – 6/03
	EM-15	Educator Workshops (2 separate contracts)	99-07	Jean May Brett Environmental Concern	\$5,040 \$1,500	1/04 – 4/04 2/04 – 5/04
	EM-15, EG-2	Migratory Bird Video	99-08	Cote Blanche Production, Inc.	\$45,000	5/00 – 8/01
		Marine Fisheries Museum	99-13	LA Marine Fisheries Museum Foundation	\$9,960	12/00 – 12/01
	CP-2	Jefferson Parish Local Permit Information and Training Center	99-18	Jefferson Parish Dept. of Environmental Affairs	\$54,202 (and \$5,798 from 96-3)	11/01 – 4/03
2000	CP-1, EM-10, SR-2, SR-3, SR-5, EG-2	Implementation of Four Projects of the Bayou Lafourche Initiative	00-01	Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	\$30,000	4/02 – 3/03
	EM-18	Continued Development and Implementation of DIMS	00-02	USGS, NRCS	\$60,000	3/01 – 3/02
		Wet Map (FY 2001)	00-03	Chadron State College	\$28,000	3/01 – 3/02
		Estuary Festival	00-04	BTEF	\$40,000	4/01 – 12/01
	SR-15	Assumption Parish Bayou Camps (FY 2001)	00-05	Bayou Camp Foundation	\$8,000	6/01 – 9/01
	SR-14, SR-15	Marsh Maneuvers Youth Camps (FY 2001)	00-06	LSU	\$8,000	7/01 – 3/02
		Coastal Wetlands Workshops (FY 2001)	00-07	CRCL	\$7,000	4/00 – 3/02

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
2000	SR-14, SR-15	Project STEPS (FY 2001)	00-09	LUMCON	\$6,000	1/02 – 2/02
	SR-10, SR-11	Program Information Materials (FY 2001)	00-10	Varies depending on product/service needed	\$10,000	Completion by 8/01
	PI-1, PI-2	CCMP Implementation Support	00-12	Battelle	\$12,977	2/01 – 5/01
	SR-9, SR-10, SR-11	Public Awareness Program	00-13	Propaganda, Inc.	\$15,000	Completion by 12/01
		Public Outreach Coordinator	00-15	BTNEP	\$25,000	Completion by 2002
	SR-6, EM-12, EM-15, EM-16	Barataria-Terrebonne Resident's Guide	00-16	BTNEP	\$15,000	Completion by FY 2002
		Interactive Print Media Forum	00-17	BTEF	\$10,200	6/01 – 12/01
	SR-9, SR-10, SR-11	BTNEP Portable Education Display	00-18	Lucas Exhibits and Graphics	\$8,000	Completion by 12/01
	SR-11	Environmental Indicators	00-19	Battelle	\$2,500	12/02 – 6/03
	PI-1, PI-2	2004 USEPA Implementation Review	00-20	Ecological Partnerships	\$11,250	1/04 – 6/04
2001		Supplemental Funding – Environmental Indicators	01-01	Battelle	\$19,786	5/01 – 6/03
	EM-15	An Accelerated Program of Woody Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration, and Enhancement of Neotropical Bird Habitat	01-05	USDA, NRCS	\$39,100 (and \$73,400 from 02-09)	8/01 – 12/02
	SR-3, EM-15	Grand Isle Bird Day Festival	01-06	BTEF	\$10,000	2/01 – 5/01
	EM-11	Influence of Chopper-Harvested Green Cane Residue Blankets on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff	01-07	USDA, Agriculture Research Service	\$42,500 (and \$38,325 from 02-08)	9/01 – 4/04
	EM-2	Habitat Importance of <i>Vallisneria</i> Beds	01-08	NOAA, NMFS	\$45,000	3/02 – 6/03
	EM-15, SR-3, EG-2, SR-11	Permitting for Boardwalk on Orleans Audubon Property, Terrebonne Parish, LA	01-10	T. Baker Smith and Son	\$5,000 (and \$20,000 from 03-17)	12/03 – 2/04
	SR-3, SR-11, SR-12	BTNEP Calendar	01-12	LSU	\$2,927	6/01 – 12/01
	PI-1	Administrative Costs (FY 2002)	01-13	Varies depending on product/service needed	\$23,990	6/04
	EM-18	Continuation of the BTNEP Website	01-14	Wyndston Services	\$7,500	5/02 – 4/03
	SR-3	Marsh Maneuvers (FY 2003)	01-15	LSU Agriculture Center	\$4,000 (and \$4,000 from 03-19)	6/03 – 5/04

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
2001	SR-3	BTNEP 2004 Calendar	01-17	LSU Louisiana Geologic Survey	\$5,252	5/03 – 11/03
2002		Estuary Festival (FY 2002)	02-02	BTEF	\$40,000	2/02 – 12/02
	EM-18	Continued Development & Implementation of DIMS	02-03	USGS-NWRC	\$29,084	5/02 – 4/03
	SR-15	Marsh Maneuvers Youth Camps (FY 2002)	02-05	LSU Sea Grant	\$7,500	7/02 – 3/03
		Sugar Cane Residue	02-08	USDA, Agriculture Research Service	\$38,325	9/02 – 4/04
	EM-15, SR-3	Bird Celebration Day	02-11	BTEF	\$10,000	1/02 – 5/02
	SR-14	Migratory Bird Curriculum	02-12	St. Charles Parish Schools	\$10,000	Completion by 6/02
		Re-Survey of Wading Bird and Seabird Nesting Colonies in the B-T Basins	02-13	USGS-NWRC	\$2,898	3/01 – 3/02
	SR-2, EM-15	3 rd North American Ornithological Conference	02-14		\$1,000	
	SR-14	Self-Guided Field Trips in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary	02-15	Portier-Gorman, Inc.	\$10,000	2/04 – 12/04
	EM-18	Continued Development & Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site	02-16	Wyndston Services	\$25,000 (and \$7,500 from 01-14)	5/02 – 4/03
	Multiple	Development of Artwork Products to be Used in Conjunction with BTNEP Educational Efforts	02-17	Diane Baker Design	\$2,500 (and \$13,725 from 03-21)	1/03 – 3/04
	EM-18	Continued Development of DIMS	02-19	USGS-NWRC	\$5,916	
2003	PI-3	BTNEP Personnel	03-01		\$81,600	
		Indirect Charges (LUMCON)	03-02		\$33,364	
		Travel Funds	03-03		\$10,000	
	PI-1	Administrative Costs (FY 2003)	03-04	Varies depending on product/service needed	\$50,000	Completion by 6/03
	SR-3	7 th Annual La Fête d'Écologie (2003 festival)	03-05	Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	\$36,000	5/03 – 12/03
	EM-18	Continued Development & Implementation of DIMS	03-06	USGS-NWRC	\$35,000	9/03 – 9/04
	EM-18	Continued Development & Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site	03-07	Wyndston Services	\$24,025	5/03 – 4/04
	EM-15	6 th Annual Migratory Bird Day Celebration (2003 festival)	03-09	BTEF	\$10,000	1/03 – 5/03

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
2003	EM-15, EG-2, SR-5, SR-6, SR-15	Woodlands Trail and Park in Plaquemines Parish	03-14	Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc.	\$30,000	7/03 – 6/04
	EM-15, EG-2, SR-3, SR-11	Boardwalk on Orleans Audubon Property, Terrebonne Parish	03-17	Orleans Audubon Society	\$20,000 (and \$5,000 from 01-10)	2/04 – 12/04
	SR-14, SR-15	Project STEPS	03-18	LUMCON	\$15,000	10/03 – 2/04
	SR-14, SR-15	Marsh Maneuvers (FY 2003)	03-19	LSU Cooperative Extension Service	\$4,000 (and \$4,000 from 01-15)	6/03 – 5/04
	SR-15	NPS Wetland Camps	03-20		\$7,325	
	Multiple	Development of Artwork Products to be Used in Conjunction with BTNEP Educational Efforts	03-21	Diane Baker Design	\$13,725 (and \$2,500 from 02-17)	1/03 – 3/04
	SR-3	7 th Annual “La Fete d’Ecologie” (2003 festival) – Promotions	03-22	Randolph Publishing	\$4,000	6/03 – 10/03
2004	EM-15	7 th Annual Grand Isle Migratory Bird Day Celebration (2004 festival)	04-13	Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation	\$7,500	11/03 – 5/04
	EM-15	Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival	04-15	Jean Lafitte Tourist Commission	\$3,724	7/03 – 11/03
	EM-15, SR-11, SR-12	Revised Brochure on the Importance of Chenier Woods	04-21	Bill Fontenot	\$7,000	11/03 – 5/04
	EM-15, EG-2, SR-3, SR-4	LUMCON Boardwalk	04-23	LUMCON	\$8,000	11/03 – 5/04
	EM-16, EM-17, EG-3	Support for the Development of Louisiana Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan	04-25	To be determined	\$20,000	Completion by Sp 2004
	SR-11, SR-14	Vanishing Wetlands, Two Views (Marsh Mission Project)	04-26	C.C. Lockwood	\$10,000	1/04 – 12/04
	SR-4	Arts Curriculum (Spirit of the Estuary)	04-27	Mary Banbury, Anne Rheams, Sue Ellen Lyons	\$10,000	2/04 – 1/05

TABLE 3. New projects, fiscal years 1998 – 2004.

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
1999	EM-15, SR-2, SR-11, SR-12, EG-2	Bird Symposium	99-05	To be determined	\$10,000	Completion by Sp 2005
	SR-1, SR-10	Leadership Council Training Program	99-09	To be determined	\$25,000	Completion by 6,
2000	SR-3	Citizen Education Program	00-08	To be determined	\$5,000	Completion by 10
	SR-9, SR-10, SR-11	Education Project Initiative	00-14	To be determined	\$20,000	Completion by 12
2001	CP-3	Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials	01-02	To be determined	\$44,000	Completion by 6,
	EG-7	Cooperative Incentives	01-03	To be determined	\$8,758	Completion by 20
	EM-16	Reduction of Impacts from Exotic Vegetation	01-04	To be determined	\$20,000	Completion by 20
	SR-3, SR-14, SR-15	Graphics for Guide for Educators	01-09	To be determined	\$10,000	Completion by 12
	SR-3	Citizen Education Programs	01-11	To be determined	\$2,500	Unknown
	EM-15, SR-3	Bird Characterization Report	01-16	LSU, Louisiana Geologic Survey	\$2,073 (and \$2,775 from 02-18)	Completion by Sp 2004
	EM-15	Dynamics of Wading Bird Colonies in Coastal LA	01-18	To be determined	\$27,400 (and \$42,600 from FY 2004)	Completion by F
2002	EM-16	Supplemental Funding (Invasive Species Project)	02-01	BTNEP	\$30,000	Completion in 20
	SR-15	Summer Camps	02-04	Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve	\$8,000	Completion by 12
	SR-3	Coastal Wetlands Workshops (FY 2002)	02-06	To be determined	\$7,000	Completion by 12
	SR-15	Project STEPS (FY 2002)	02-07		\$6,000	

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
2002	EM-15	An Accelerated Program of Woody Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration, and Neotropical Habitat Enhancement	02-09	USDA, NRCS	\$73,400 (and \$39,100 from 01-05)	11/03 – 11/05
	SR-3, SR-14, SR-15	Coastal Roots	02-10	LSU Sea Grant	\$15,000	Completion by 12/03
	EM-15, SR-3	Bird Characterization Report	02-18	LSU, Louisiana Geologic Survey	\$7,877 (and \$2,073 from 01-16)	Completion by 12/03
2003	SR-11, SR-14	New Land Loss Map	03-08	To be determined	\$5,000	Completion by 12/03
	SR-10, SR-11	Program Information Materials	03-10	Varies depending on product/service needed	\$41,586	11/02 – 5/03
	EM-9	Prevention Manual for the Most Common Causes of Oil and Produced Water Spills	03-11	ES&H	\$15,000	8/03 – 4/04
	EM-4, EM-15, SR-3, SR-15, EG-2	Re-establishment of a Natural Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Fringe North of Port Fourchon, LA	03-12	Greater Lafourche Port Commission	\$23,700	Completion by 12/03
	EM-8, EM-10, EM-11	Upper Barataria Basin (St. James Canal) Nonpoint Source Project	03-13	LSU Wetland Biogeochemistry	\$30,000	Unknown
	SR-14, SR-15	Revitalize Teacher Guide to Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands	03-15	Educator Group	\$15,000	Completion by 12/03
	SR-14, SR-15, SR-3	Close Captioning Videos for the Hearing Impaired	03-16	To be determined	\$5,000	Unknown
2004	SR-10, SR-11	Program Information Materials	04-03	To be determined	\$30,811	Unknown
	SR-3	8 th Annual La Fête d'Écologie	04-04	To be determined	\$40,000	Completion by 11/04
	EM-18	Continuation of the BTNEP Web Site	04-05	Wyndston Services	\$30,000	Completion by Spring 2005
	SR-3	Marsh Maneuvers Youth Camp	04-06	To be determined	\$4,000	Summer – Fall 2004
	SR-14	Activity Book	04-07	LSU Sea Grant	\$10,217	Completion by Spring 2005
	SR-12, SR-14	Educator Workshops	04-08	To be determined	\$20,000	Completion by Spring 2005

FY	AP	Project Name	EPA #	Contractor	Funding	Contract Period
2004	SR-5, SR-14	Support for Oral History Project	04-09	To be determined	\$2,500	Completion by Summer 2005
	EM-2	Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Beds Using <i>Vallisneria americana</i> (Eel Grass) in the Barataria Terrebonne Region	04-10	To be determined	\$50,000	6/04 – 5/06
	EM-4, EM-6, EM-15, SR-3, SR-11, EG-5, EG-6	A Vegetative Model for Restoration, Conservation, and Habitat Enhancement on Beneficial-Use Dredge Sediments	04-11	LSU Agricultural Center / NRCS	\$31,685	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-15	Re-Survey of Wading Bird and Seabird Nesting Colonies in the Barataria-Terrebonne Basins	04-12	To be determined	\$35,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-15	Dynamics of Wading Bird Colonies in Coastal LA	04-14	To be determined	\$42,600 (and \$27,400 from FY 2001)	Completion by Fall 2005
	SR-5, SR-11, SR-12	Development and Placement of 2 Kiosks Featuring the "Exploring Coastal LA with Boudreaux" CD-ROM and the "Knee Deep in LA Wetlands" CD-ROM	04-16	To be determined	\$7,500	Completion by Fall 2005
	SR-11, SR-12	Revision of "Portrait of an Estuary" and Production of Estuary Brochure	04-17	To be determined	\$10,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	SR-11, SR-12	Recipe Cards Featuring Estuarine Resources, Including Facts About the Estuary and the Featured Resource	04-18	To be determined	\$10,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-16, EM-17, EG-3	Exotic Invasive Species Educational Video	04-19	To be determined	\$45,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-1, EM-6	Selective Spraying of Bayou Ridges to Promote Water Quality, Bayou Bank Stabilization, and Healthy Riparian Areas	04-20	To be determined	\$10,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-15	Mandalay Nature Trail	04-21	USFWS	\$8,000	Completion by Fall 2005
	EM-15, SR-2, SR-11, SR-12, EG-2	Bird Symposium	04-24	To be determined	\$10,000 (and \$10,000 from 99-05)	Completion by Summer 2005

Administrative and Financial Information

Staff

Kerry St. Pé, Program Director – Responsible for the orderly, efficient, and effective administration and operation of the Program Office, including all personnel.

Deborah Schultz, Formal Education Coordinator – Responsible for formal education of the Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement Action Plans of the CCMP.

Leslie McVeigh, Community Relations Coordinator – Responsible for community relations and public involvement for the Program.

Richard DeMay, Senior Scientist – Responsible for scientific and technical aspects of Ecological Management Action Plans of the CCMP.

Sandra Helmuth, Office Coordinator – Responsible for document distribution, administrative functions, database maintenance, and meeting coordination for the Program.

Andrew Barron, Nonpoint Source Pollution Program Coordinator – Responsible for nonpoint source issues for the program.

Dean Blanchard, Habitat Enhancement Coordinator – Responsible for habitat enhancement issues of the Ecological Management Action Plans of the CCMP.

Student workers – Responsible for mailings, updating databases, screening telephone calls, and reviewing newspaper clippings.

Financial Information – Budgets and Funding Information

BTNEP's financial information for fiscal years 2001 through 2003 is summarized in the following tables:

- Table 4 – provides funding sources (Section 320 funds and leveraged funds);
- Table 5 – provides BTNEP's project budgets.

TABLE 4. Sources of funds (Section 320 and leveraged) for fiscal years 2001-2003.

FY	Source of Funds	Amount	Type of Award
2001	USEPA	\$330,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	LDEQ	\$293,033	State General Fund
	NRCS	\$36,300	In-kind Contribution
	NFWF	\$38,900	Shell Grant Fund
	Delta Service Corporation	\$12,000	In-kind Contribution
	TOTAL	\$710,233	(46% USEPA funds, 54% leveraged funds)
2002	USEPA	\$340,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	LUMCON	\$305,243	State General Fund
	LA Board of Regents	\$30,000	State Funds
	NFWF	\$4,757	Shell Grant Fund
	NOAA	\$75,000	Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration Grant
	LDNR	\$100,000	CIAP Grant
	GOMP	\$101,700	Pointe aux Chien Stormwater Redirection Grant
	GOMP	\$54,000	Non-Indigenous Invasive Species Grant
	GOMP	\$73,250	Vegetative Model for Restoration Year 1 Grant
	TOTAL	\$1,083,950	(31% USEPA funds, 69% leveraged funds)
2003	USEPA	\$310,000	Clean Water Act Sec. 320 (NEP)
	USEPA	\$200,000	Congressional Earmark
	LUMCON	\$310,411	State General Fund
	GOMP	\$101,000	GOMP Grant
	LA Board of Regents	\$30,000	State Funds
	GOMP	\$101,700	Maritime Forest Ridge Grant
	LDNR	\$205,000	Bayou Lafourche Public Outreach Strategy Grant
	GOMF	\$90,000	Maritime Forest Ridge Grant
	GLPC	\$500,000	State Funds
	UNO	\$40,000	Barrier Shoreline Report Grant
	TOTAL	\$1,888,111	(27% USEPA funds, 73% leveraged funds)



TABLE 5. Project budgets for fiscal years 2001-2003.

FY	Project Name	Budget
2001	Supplemental Funding	\$20,000
	Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials	\$44,000
	Cooperative Incentives	\$38,000
	Reduction of Impact From Exotic Vegetation	\$20,000
	Woody Plant Species Selection	\$78,000
	Grand Isle Bird Day Festival	\$10,000
	Influence of Cane Trash Residue on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff	\$42,500
	Habitat Importance of <i>Vallisneria</i> Beds	\$45,000
	Educators Guide	\$10,000
	Great LA Coastal Birding Trail	\$5,000
	Citizen Education Programs	\$2,500
	Barataria-Terrebonne Calendar	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$320,000
2002	Supplemental Funding	\$30,000
	Estuary Festival FY 2002	\$40,000
	Continued Development & Implementation of DIMS	\$60,000
	Assumption Parish Bayou Camps	\$8,000
	Marsh Maneuvers Youth Camps	\$8,000
	Coastal Wetlands Workshops	\$7,000
	Project STEPS	\$6,000
	Sugar Cane Residue	\$38,325
	Woody Species	\$73,400
	Coastal Roots	\$15,000
	Bird Celebration Day	\$10,000
	Curriculum Consolidation & Flyway Poster	\$12,500
	Re-Survey of Wading Bird and Seabird Nesting Colonies in the BT Basins	\$8,000
	3 rd North American Ornithological Conference	\$3,775
	Self-Guided Field Trips in the BT Estuary (Update)	\$10,000
	TOTAL	\$330,000
2003	BTNEP Personnel	\$81,600
	Indirect Charges	\$33,364
	Travel Funds	\$10,000
	Administrative Funding	\$50,000
	7 th Annual "La Fête d'Écologie"	\$40,000
	Continued Development of DIMS	\$35,000
	Continuation of BTNEP Website	\$37,000
	New Land Loss Map	\$5,000
	Grand Isle Bird Day Celebration	\$10,000
	Program Informational Materials	\$42,336
	Prevention Manual	\$15,000
	Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Fringe	\$23,700
	Nonpoint Source Project	\$30,000
	Woodlands Trail and Park	\$30,000
	Revitalize Haunted Waters Teacher Guide	\$15,000
	Close Captioning Videos	\$5,000
	Birding Sites of BT	\$20,000
	Project STEPS	\$15,000
	Marsh Maneuvers	\$4,000
	Summer Camps	\$8,000
	TOTAL	\$510,000

Travel Documentation

TABLE 6. Travel documentation for fiscal years 2001-2003.

FY	Travel Category	Purpose of Trip	Destination	Cost
2001	EPA Coordination	EPA/NEP Directors Meeting	Portland, ME	\$ 1,126.20
		EPA/NEP Directors Meeting	Washington, DC	\$ 2,879.10
		TOTAL – EPA Coordination		\$ 4,005.30
	Watershed Partnering	Workshop on Environmental Opportunities	Mobile, AL	\$ 115.00
		FEMA/NEP Workshop	Thibodaux, LA	\$ 150.00
		TOTAL – Watershed Partnering		\$ 265.00
	Outreach & Technical Assistance	Wetlands, Migratory Bird & Ecotourism Workshop	Newburyport, MA	\$ 1,036.14
		Louisiana Science Teachers Association Conference	Lafayette, LA	\$ 171.30
		Project Learning Tree	New Orleans, LA	\$ 30.00
		Coastal Dieback Conference	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 210.54
		Environmental Educators Symposium	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 215.40
		Grand Isle Migratory Bird Day Celebration	Grand Isle, LA	\$ 220.00
		CWPPRA Outreach Committee Retreat	Galva, LA	\$ 44.00
		Sustainability Indicators Workshop	Gonzales, LA	\$ 194.00
		Coastal & Estuarine Wetland Restoration Into the New Millenium	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 570.00
		NEP Education & Outreach Coordinator Workshop	Philadelphia, PA	\$ 848.64
		TOTAL – Outreach & Technical Assistance		\$ 3,540.02
	TOTAL NEP TRAVEL FUNDS USED			\$ 7,810.32
2002	EPA Coordination	EPA/NEP Directors Meeting	Tampa, FL	\$ 1,722.74
		EPA Region VI Meeting	Dallas, TX	\$ 469.11
		EPA/NEP Directors Meeting	Washington, DC	\$ 2,896.45
		TOTAL – EPA Coordination		\$ 5,088.30
	Watershed Partnering	State/USEPA Non-Point Source Partnership Forum	New Orleans, LA	\$ 195.52
		The Coastal Society 2002 Conference	Galveston, TX	\$ 1,190.00
		Basics of the Basin Research Symposium	New Orleans, LA	\$ 45.00
		Gulf of Mexico Program Comprehensive Meeting	New Orleans, LA	\$ 300.00
		TOTAL – Watershed Partnering		\$ 1,730.52
	Outreach & Technical Assistance	Environmental Technology Verification Stakeholders Meeting	Coeur d'Alene, ID	\$ 291.36
		WETMAAP Workshop	Chauvin, LA	\$ 30.00
		Clean Gulf 2001	Mobile, AL	\$ 474.42
		Environmental State of the State 6 th Annual Conference	Thibodaux, LA	\$ 100.00
		Louisiana Science Teacher's Association Conference	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 320.00
		Community, Culture, & the Environment Workshop	Chauvin, LA	\$ 30.00
		Environmental Educators Symposium	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 245.00
		GIS Workshop	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 185.80
		Grand Isle Migratory Bird Day Celebration	Grand Isle, LA	\$ 115.00
		Build-a-Pivot Workshop	Charleston, SC	\$ 875.00
		Introduction of Wetland Forest Trees Workshop	Lafayette, LA	\$ 150.00
		Tarpon Rodeo	Grand Isle, LA	\$ 160.00
		Southern Legislators Conference	New Orleans, LA	\$ 200.00
		North American Ornithological Conference	New Orleans, LA	\$ 250.00
		TOTAL – Outreach & Technical Assistance		\$ 3,426.58
	TOTAL NEP TRAVEL FUNDS USED			\$10,245.40

FY	Travel Category	Purpose of Trip	Destination	Cost
2003	EPA Coordination	ANEP/NEP Fall Meeting	Ocean City, MD	\$ 2,166.28
		EPA Technology Transfer	Cocoa Beach, FL	\$ 1,652.10
		ANEP/NEP Spring Meeting	Washington, DC	\$ 3,554.95
		TOTAL - EPA Coordination		\$ 7,373.33
	Watershed Partnering	USACOE Partnering Meeting	New Orleans, LA	\$ 259.07
		Gulf of Mexico Program State Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 50.53
		TOTAL - Watershed Partnering		\$ 309.60
	Outreach & Technical Assistance	Hypoxia Conference	St. Louis, MO	\$ 634.33
		Louisiana Science Teachers Association Conference	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 163.36
		Louisiana Environmental Educator's Symposium	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 179.80
		River Resources Management in the 21 st Century	New Orleans, LA	\$ 43.23
		Invasive Species Workshop	Alexandria, LA	\$ 256.85
		Grand Isle Migratory Bird Day Celebration	Grand Isle, LA	\$ 44.00
		Native Plant Society Conference	Fort Meyers, FL	\$ 1,732.12
		Plant Identification Course	Houston, TX	\$ 986.40
		Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce Day at the Legislature	Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 300.00
		TOTAL - Outreach & Technical Assistance		\$ 4,340.09
	TOTAL NEP TRAVEL FUNDS USED			\$12,023.02

B. GPRA Reports – Habitat Protected and Restored, 2001-2003

TABLE 7. A summary of habitat protection and restoration projects for fiscal years 2001 through 2003. Complete information on these projects can be found in the original GPRA reports for these years. NA indicates that project cost is not available, because individual activity is part of a larger project.

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (l)
2001	EM-6	Barataria Waterway Shore Protection (East) – Bank protection project, via construction in tidal marsh habitat	NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish, SWCD	\$3,500,000	No direct cash contribution	217 ac
	EM-6, EM-7	Jonathan Davis Wetland (CU2) – Hydrologic restoration and shore protection project, via construction in tidal marsh habitat	NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish, SWCD	\$680,000	No direct cash contribution	50 ac
	EM-6	Barataria Land Bridge Shoreline Protection, Phases 1 & 2 (CU1) – Shore protection project, via construction in tidal marsh habitat	NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish, Lafourche Parish, SWCD	\$1,400,000	No direct cash contribution	120 ac
	EG-6	Brown Marsh Accessions, Bayou Lafourche (Sites 1, 2 & 3) – Testing accession collection of dieback <i>S. alterniflora</i> in a replicated field trials at brown marsh dieback sites in salt marsh habitat.	NRCS, LDNR-CRD	NA	In-kind contribution	5.0 ac
	EM-5	Brown Marsh Accessions, East Grand Terre and Queen Bess Island (Sites 1, 2 & 3) – Testing accession collection of dieback <i>S. alterniflora</i> in a replicated field trials at brown marsh dieback sites in barrier island salt marsh habitat.	NRCS, LDNR-CRD	NA	In-kind contribution	5.0
	EM-5, EM-6	Grand Terre Marsh Creation – Vegetative planting of <i>S. patens</i> and <i>S. spartinae</i> for barrier island salt marsh creation and stabilization.	NRCS, LSU Ag. Center	NA	No direct cash contribution	4.0
	EG-6	Brown Marsh Seeding, Lake Felicity Site – Aerial seeding of selected brown marsh sites to develop technique and seedling survival data.	NRCS, LDNR-CRD, LAES	NA	In-kind contribution	3.0
	EM-6	Shoreline stabilization, Giant Bulrush Evaluation – Evaluation of giant bulrush assembly for shoreline stabilization in brackish marsh habitat.	NRCS	NA	No direct cash contribution	2.0
	EM-6, SR-3	Barataria Waterway Marsh Creation – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps	\$7,500	No direct cash contribution	1.46 lm
	EM-6, SR-3	Barataria Waterway – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for intermediate marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps	\$9,000	No direct cash contribution	0.95 lm

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (l)
2001	EM-5, SR-3	Grand Isle – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for barrier island dune creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps, UNO Env. Camp	\$9,400	No direct cash contribution	1.89 lm
	EM-6, SR-3	Deer Range Canal – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps	\$16,000	No direct cash contribution	2.99 lm
	EM-6, SR-3	Myrtle Grove – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for intermediate marsh shoreline protection.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps	\$3,100	No direct cash contribution	0.38 lm
	EM-6	East Golden Meadow – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF	\$16,048	No direct cash contribution	1.89 lm
	EM-6	Small Bayou LaPointe – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for intermediate marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF	\$14,000	No direct cash contribution	1.70 lm
	EM-6	Lake Cheniere Interior Marsh Demonstration – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF	\$23,100	No direct cash contribution	0.85 lm
	EM-6	Kings Ridge Interior Marsh Demonstration – Rehabilitation project using vegetative planting for intermediate marsh creation and shoreline protection.	NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF	\$16,394	No direct cash contribution	0.87 lm
	EM-11	Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Wildlife habitat management project, via protection of bottomland hardwood habitat.	NRCS, SWCD	NA	No direct cash contribution	206 ac
	EM-11	Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Upland habitat management project, via protection of upland forested habitat.	NRCS, SWCD	NA	No direct cash contribution	170 ac
	EM-11	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program – Upland habitat management project, via protection of upland agricultural habitat.	NRCS, SWCD	NA	No direct cash contribution	9 ac
		Lake Mechant Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	2,000 ac
		Lake Tambour Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	433 ac
		Lake Felicity Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	1,054 ac

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (
2001		Lake Chien Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	476 ac
		Deep Lake Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	239 ac
		Barataria Bay Public Seed Grounds – Creation and designation by rule (LAC Title 76) of additional public oyster seed grounds.	LDWF	No direct cost	No direct cash contribution	1,042 ac
2002	EM-6	Grand Bayou Revegetation Project – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of California bulrush in brackish bayou bank habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$7,464	No direct cash contribution	0.95 lm
	EM-7	Falgout Canal Demonstration Project – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of California bulrush and giant cutgrass in fresh-brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$28,666	No direct cash contribution	0.87 lm
	EM-7	Lake Boudreaux Revegetation Project – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$6,964	No direct cash contribution	0.95 lm
	EM-7	Bayou Colyell Revegetation Project – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in saline marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$5,592	No direct cash contribution	0.57 lm
	EM-6	Bayou Folse – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in fresh bayou bank habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$7,284	No direct cash contribution	0.95 lm
	EM-7	Rachael Canal – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$16,048	No direct cash contribution	1.9 lm
	EM-5	Grand Isle '02 – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of bitter panicum in barrier island beach dune habitat.	Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$4,200	No direct cash contribution	0.56 lm
	EM-7, SR-3	Queen Bess '02 – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh spoil habitat.	Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$6,200	No direct cash contribution	0.94 lm
	EM-7, SR-3	Simoneaux '02 – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in fresh marsh habitat.	Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$9,300	No direct cash contribution	0.14 lm

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (l)
2002	EM-7, SR-3	Jonathan Davis – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of California bulrush in intermediate-brackish marsh habitat.	Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$10,400	No direct cash contribution	0.94 lm
	EM-7, SR-3	Barataria Landbridge – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish spoil habitat.	Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$3,700	No direct cash contribution	0.47 lm
	EM-2, EM-7	Naomi Outfall Management – Re-establishment project involving siphon outfall management in intermediate marsh habitat.	Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR, CWPPRA	\$500,000	No direct cash contribution	581 ac
	EM-1, EM-2	Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion – Freshwater diversion project for re-establishment of fresh marsh habitat.	Federal / WRDA	\$106,000	No direct cash contribution	30,000 ac
2003	EM-4, EM-15	Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection, Barataria Waterway – Re-establishment project involving planting of tress and shrubs in channel spoilbank habitat.	NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP	\$27,850	\$9,775	2 ac
	EM-4, EM-5, EM-15	Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection, Grand Isle – Re-establishment project involving planting of tress and shrubs in salt marsh habitat.	NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP	\$27,850	\$9,775	2 ac
	EM-4, EM-5, EM-15	Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection, Grand Isle – Re-establishment project involving planting of tress and shrubs in salt marsh habitat.	NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP	\$27,850	\$9,775	2 ac
	EM-4, EM-15	Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection, Port Fourchon – Re-establishment project involving planting of tress and shrubs in brackish marsh habitat.	NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP	\$27,850	\$9,775	5 ac
	EM-6	Barataria Landbridge Shoreline – Rehabilitation project involving placement of rock for brackish marsh shoreline protection.	CWPPRA, NRCS, DNR, Crescent SWCD	\$3,493,017	No direct cash contribution	1.2 lm
	EM-6	BBWW West Revegetation – Re-establishment project involving planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish marsh habitat.	Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF	\$8,325	No direct cash contribution	0.8 lm
	EM-6	Brady Canal II – Re-establishment project involving planting of giant cutgrass in brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$6,980	No direct cash contribution	1.0 lm
	EM-7	Brown Marsh Plantings – Re-establishment project involving vegetative plantings in salt marsh habitat.	NOAA	\$132,048	No direct cash contribution	11 ac

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (l)
2003	EM-4	Brown Marsh Small Dredge – Re-establishment project involving placement of beneficial dredge material for salt marsh creation.	NOAA	\$341,317	No direct cash contribution	56 ac
	EM-6	Castex Water Management – Re-establishment project involving planting of California bulrush in fresh marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$11,580	No direct cash contribution	2 ac
	EM-4, EM-6, EM-7	Discovery Project – Re-establishment project involving planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh habitat.	BTNEP, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., T-Beb's Wetland Nursery	\$5,600	\$5,000	3 ac
	EM-4	Flexible Dustpan Demonstration – Re-establishment project involving placement of beneficial dredge material for salt marsh creation.	CWPPRA/ACOE	\$1,903,303	No direct cash contribution	40 ac
	EM-6	Goose Bayou Revegetation – Re-establishment project involving planting of California bulrush in intermediate marsh habitat.	Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF	\$4,904	No direct cash contribution	0.7 lm
	EM-6	Jonathan Davis Wetland Construction, Unit 3 – Rehabilitation project involving placement of rock for shoreline protection in intermediate marsh habitat.	CWPPRA, NRCS, DNR, Crescent SWCD	\$3,177,337	No direct cash contribution	2.6 lm
	EM-5, EM-1, EM-6, SR-3	Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – Re-establishment project involving creation of brackish marsh habitat.	Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS	\$325,000	No direct cash contribution	45 ac
	EM-5, EM-1, EM-6, SR-3	Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – Re-establishment project involving placement of rock for shoreline protection of eroding canal, removal of artificial levee impounding > 1,850 ac of fish habitat.	Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS	\$333,650	\$12,600	1,953 ac

FY	AP	Project Name and Description	Partners	Project Cost	NEP Cost	Acreage (ac) or Linear Miles (l)
2003	EM-5, EM-1, EM-6, SR-3	Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – Re-establishment project involving beach protection via sand fencing and mangrove planting in barrier island/salt marsh habitat.	Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS	\$36,000	No direct cash contribution	1.5 lm
	EM-6	North Little Lake, South Bayou – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of cordgrass in brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$14,236	No direct cash contribution	1 lm
	EM-6	NW Pen Revegetation – Re-establishment project involving planting of California bulrush in intermediate marsh habitat.	Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF	\$6,282	No direct cash contribution	0.7 lm
	EM-5	Pelican Island Revegetation – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of bitter panicum and sea oaks in barrier island habitat.	Plaquemines SWCD, NRCS, LDAF	\$4,970	No direct cash contribution	0.6 lm
	EM-6	Shell Island Bay Revegetation – Re-establishment project involving planting of black mangrove in salt marsh habitat.	Plaquemines SWCD, NRCS, LDAF	\$5,962	No direct cash contribution	1.5 lm
	EM-6	South Lake Decade – Re-establishment project involving vegetative planting of California bulrush in brackish marsh habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$10,156	No direct cash contribution	1.9 lm
	EM-5	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> Evaluation – Re-establishment project involving planting of <i>S. alterniflora</i> in salt marsh habitat.	NRCS, LSU Ag. Center	NA	No direct cash contribution	1 ac
	EM-15	Wildlife Enhancement – Re-establishment project involving tree planting in bottomland hardwood habitat.	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR	\$7,650	No direct cash contribution	10.9 lm



C. Implementation Tracking System

Concurrent with the Program's first Implementation Review in 1998, BTNEP developed and implemented the CCMP Implementation Progress Tracking System. This system provides BTNEP with standard mechanisms to track, assess, and report implementation progress on individual Action Plans. The tracking system depends on stakeholders from both the Management Conference and the Action Plan Teams to provide implementation success stories related to each individual Action Plan.





In the 2001 Implementation Review Report (IRR), BTNEP showed notable progress on most of the CCMP's 51 Action Plans: 62% of the 21 priority Action Plans, and 39% of all 51 Action Plans, were either fully or substantially implemented (defined as $\geq 50\%$ implementation in a qualitative assessment). Continued progress on most of the Action Plans was made during the current review period, from January 2001 to December 2003: 62% of the 21 Priority Action Plans again were either fully or substantially implemented, as were 45% of all 51 Action Plans. Several individual Action Plans demonstrated increased implementation progress relative to the 2001 IRR (e.g., EG-2, SR-1, CP-2, EM-2, EM-10, EM-15). Table 8 provides a more detailed consideration of CCMP implementation progress, via examination of each individual Action Plan. This table indicates that BTNEP has shown a considerable level of progress on individual Action Plans and CCMP implementation. Because of the strategic nature of CCMP development, progress in implementing the CCMP constitutes progress in meeting the Program's goals and addressing the estuary's seven priority problems (Table 9).





Information on the specific projects addressed during this review period, for each individual Action Plan, can be found in the Implementation Tracking System Matrix (Appendix D).

TABLE 9. Priority problems in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System

- **Hydrologic modification** – human changes to water flows in the estuary.
- **Reduced sediment flows** – reductions in the amount of sediment inputs to the estuary.
- **Habitat loss** – land loss and marsh deterioration.
- **Changes in living resources** – population reductions in important species and introductions of non-native species.
- **Eutrophication** – too many nutrients in the estuary's waters.
- **Pathogen contamination** – untreated sewage and stormwater discharged to the estuary.
- **Toxic substances** – heavy metals and pesticides in runoff, and oil spills, to the estuary.

TABLE 8. CCMP Action Plan implementation progress

CCMP Sub-Sections	Some 	Moderate 	Substantial 	Full 
Program Implementation Structure				PI-1: BT Management Conference PI-2: Establish Points of Contact for State of Louisiana PI-3: Barataria-Terrebonne Program Office
Coordinated Planning	CP-3: Sustainable Development Training for Public Officials CP-4: Public Involvement in the Development of State Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines CP-5: Agency Performance Review of the Wetlands Permitting Process		CP-1: Common Ground Solutions and Decision-Making CP-2: Wetlands Permitting Information Centers	
Habitat Management	EM-7: Marsh Management	EM-1: Hydrologic Restoration EM-2: Freshwater and Sediment Diversion EM-6: Shoreline Stabilization and Induced Deposition	EM-3: Evaluate the Effectiveness of Reactivation of Bayou Lafourche as a Distributary Channel of the Mississippi River EM-4: Beneficial Use of Dredged and Non-Indigenous Material EM-5: Preservation and Restoration of Barrier Islands	
Water Quality	EM-8: Nutrient, Bacteria, and Toxic Contaminant Load Evaluation EM-13: Contaminated Sediments Database EM-14: Assessment of Toxic and Noxious Phytoplankton Blooms	EM-9: Oil and Produced Water Spill Prevention and Early Detection EM-11: Reduction of Agricultural Pollution EM-12: Storm Water Management	EM-10: Reduction of Sewage Pollution	
Living Resources	EM-17: Zebra Mussel Monitoring and Control	EM-16: Reduction of Impacts from Exotic Vegetation	EM-15: Protection of Habitat for Migratory and Resident Birds	
Accessible and Compatible Data Sets		EM-18: Centralized Data Sets		
Citizen Involvement and Participation	SR-4: Citizen Monitoring Program SR-6: Urban Green Spaces	SR-7: Storm Drain Stenciling	SR-1: Community Sectors and Leader Teams SR-2: Participatory Meetings and Forums SR-3: Citizen Involvement Programs and Activities SR-5: Cultural Heritage	

CCMP Sub-Sections	Some 	Moderate 	Substantial 	Full 
Public Information and Education		SR-10: Speakers Bureau	SR-8: Legislative Education SR-9: Media Support SR-11: Written, Audio, and Visual Materials SR-12: Distribution of Informational Materials	SR-13: 1-800 Number
K-16 Curriculum	SR-16: Financial Support for Educational Initiatives SR-17: Educational Resources Network		SR-14: Estuarine Curriculum and Development SR-15: Continuing and Informal Education Programs	
Economic Development	EG-1: Funding Sources for New Businesses	EG-3: Nutria Market Development	EG-2: Nature-Based Tourism and Recreation	
Technology Transfer	EG-4: Technology Exposition EG-5: Export of Resources, Products, and Technology		EG-6: New Technology Research and Development	
Cooperative Incentives	EG-7: Cooperative Incentives EG-8: Education about Regulatory Intent			
TOTAL – PRIORITY ACTION PLANS	19% (4 of 21)	19% (4 of 21)	57% (12 of 21)	5% (1 of 21) * PI-1, PI-2, and PI-3 are considered one Priority Action Plan
TOTAL – ALL ACTION PLANS	33% (17 of 51)	22% (11 of 51)	37% (19 of 51)	8% (4 of 51)

Bold indicates Priority Action Plan.

Rating Descriptions

Full	100-75%	Full implementation completed or on the horizon
Substantial	75-50%	Major progress
Moderate	50-25%	Moderate progress
Some	0-25%	Minimal progress or significant peripheral progress

The ratings given to each Action Plan in this Tracking Table represent an overall, qualitative assessment of progress made on a particular Action Plan – at the time of assessment – by the Management Conference. Ratings are assigned by reviewing progress made on implementing each Action Plan, as reported in the Implementation Tracking System Matrix (Appendix D), and comparing these accomplishments to the Action Plan Objective(s) as stated in the CCMP. Note that a “Full” rating does not necessarily mean that efforts related to that Action Plan have terminated.



D. Environmental Progress Report / Environmental Indicators

In June 2002, BTNEP published the public outreach document *Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities...Environmental Indicators in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System* (Appendix E). This attractive, newspaper-style report, targeted toward estuary residents and elected officials, presents an introduction to the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System (BTES), the environmental problems currently facing the region, and key measures of the estuary's environmental health. The document is organized via a suite of 10 focus questions, reflecting the Ecological Management, the Economic Growth, and, to a lesser extent, the Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement Action Plans of BTNEP's CCMP. Thirty-four environmental indicators are used to address these focus questions (Table 10), and historic and current data on each indicator are presented narratively and in easy-to-read graphs.

The report includes basic ecological information crucial to understanding complex environmental dynamics within the BTES; for example, there are narrative sections explaining land loss in the BTES, hypoxia, and the factors influencing oyster populations. BTNEP educational activities, such as the Grand Isle Bird Day Celebration, are highlighted, and the report concludes with BTNEP contact information and suggestions for how the general public can get involved in restoring and enhancing the BTES.

There is also an accompanying technical manual to the report (Attachment C), which provides more detailed background information for each environmental indicator: indicator description and relevance, current and future data availability, indicator assessment and presentation, and the data contact and retrieval mechanism. This manual provides a roadmap to acquiring and presenting all the information required to generate a BTNEP indicators report – a process which will occur as the 2002 indicators report is updated, currently planned for every five years.

The *Healthy Estuary...* report and the accompanying technical manual fulfill the requirements for the Environmental Progress Report and the Environmental Indicators sections of the Implementation Review. The report itself provides a public-friendly outreach document addressing the health of the estuary, and incorporates many of the suggested "Environmental Report Card" requirements, including:

- Map of study area;
- Statement of priority problems (Table 9);
- Environmental indicators and monitoring systems to determine progress (associated monitoring systems and data availability are described in the technical manual);
- Status and trends data for each environmental indicator.

We anticipate that the current suite of indicators will be reassessed for future versions of the *Healthy Estuary...* report, to take advantage of new data availability and evolving environmental concerns and priorities. In addition, we will more explicitly link specific CCMP Action Plans to the indicators that they influence.

TABLE 10. Focus Questions and Associated Environmental Indicators

- **FQ 1: Are we losing land in the BTES, and if so, where?**
 - 1. Land versus open water in the BTES
 - 2. Location of land loss in the BTES
- **FQ 2: Are fish and wildlife habitats being protected and restored?**
 - 3. Acres of habitat restored in the BTES
- **FQ 3: Are fish and wildlife populations stable?**
 - 4. White and brown shrimp abundance in the BTES
 - 5. Blue crab abundance in the BTES
 - 6. Oyster density on BTES public seed grounds
 - 7. Bay anchovy abundance in the BTES
 - 8. Atlantic croaker abundance in the BTES
 - 9. Red drum abundance in the BTES
 - 10. Spotted seatrout abundance in the BTES
 - 11. Largemouth bass abundance in two BTES lakes
 - 12. Freshwater catfish abundance in two BTES lakes
 - 13. Alligator nest density in the BTES
 - 14. Mottled duck abundance in southeast Louisiana
- **FQ 4: How are threatened and endangered species faring?**
 - 15. Bald eagle nesting success in the BTES
 - 16. Brown pelican nest abundance in the BTES
- **FQ 5: Are non-native species a problem?**
 - 17. Acres of marsh damaged by nutria in the BTES
 - 18. Zebra mussels in the Mississippi River watershed
- **FQ 6: Are concentrations of toxic substances increasing or decreasing?**
 - 19. Atrazine concentrations in northern BTES surface waters
 - 20. Number of petroleum and chemical spill reports in the BTES
- **FQ 7: Are seafoods safe to eat?**
 - 21. Number of active fish consumption advisories in the BTES
 - 22. Bacteriological water quality of oyster harvesting waters in the BTES
 - 23. Number of boat sewage pumpout facilities in the BTES
- **FQ 8: How are natural resource-based business patterns changing?**
 - 24. Revenues and jobs generated by tourism in the BTES
 - 25. Value of sugarcane and cattle agriculture in the BTES
 - 26. Value of crude oil and natural gas production in the BTES
 - 27. Value of commercial fishing landings in the BTES
 - 28. Number of commercial fishing licenses in the BTES
 - 29. Number of recreational fishing licenses in the BTES
 - 30. Estimated economic impact of recreational fishing in the BTES
- **FQ 9: How are environmental changes affecting our quality of life?**
 - 31. Number and duration of high-chloride events in source water to the Clotilda Drinking Water Plant
 - 32. Number and value of flood insurance claims in the BTES
 - 33. Area of hypoxia, or dead zone, off the Louisiana coast
- **FQ 10: How strong is public support for a healthy estuary?**
 - 33. Number of educational materials distributed by BTNEP

APPENDIX A

BTNEP Educational Materials for Distribution

Brochures:

- NEP: Bringing Our Estuaries to Life (brochure/poster)
- Dilution is Not the Solution (pamphlet/brochure)
- Domestic Waste Treatment and Your Camp (LDHH brochure)
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Construction Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Forestry Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Urban Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Septic Tank Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Agriculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (LDEQ brochure)
- Storm Drain Stenciling brochure

Magazines/Booklets:

- BTNEP Characterization Report Estuary Compact *Saving Our Good Earth: A Call to Action*
- *Saving Our Good Earth: The Estuary Partnership Takes Action*
- *Portrait of an Estuary: Functions and Values of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary*
- *Act Now or Pay Later: Oil Spill Prevention Handbook*
- Clean Marine Guide
- 2004 Tidal Graph Calendar

Other Programs' Magazines/Booklets:

- Willful Winds: Hurricane Andrew and Louisiana's Coast
- Restless River of Sand: Atlantic & Gulf Coastal Barriers
- Recognizing Wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico Region
- The Fragile Fringe: Coastal Wetlands of the Continental U.S.
- LSU/LCES Wetlands Functions and Values pamphlet
- No Time to Lose

Stickers:

- BTNEP Fish Ruler Stickers

Other Materials:

- BTNEP Publications & Informational Materials Order Form
- Specific (individual) CCMP Action Plans

Videos and Accompanying Materials:

- *Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands – Oh, What Tales to Tell!* (15 minute version)
- *Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands – Oh, What Tales to Tell!* (60 minute version)
 - Accompaniment: Teachers Guide to Video
- *Rescuing the Treasure*
 - Accompaniment: BTNEP Characterization Report, *Saving Our Good Earth: A Call to Action*
 - Accompaniment: Domestic Waste Treatment and Your Camp brochure
- *Vanishing Wetlands, Vanishing Future* (60 minute version)
 - Accompaniment: Priority Problems poster
- *America's Vanishing Treasure*
 - Accompaniment: No Time to Lose (Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana)
- *Wings Over the Wetlands*

- Accompaniment: The Importance of Barataria-Terrebonne to Resident and Migratory Birds poster
- Estuary Live video

Posters:

- Priority Problems poster series (7)
- Thematic Mapper poster
- The Habitats of Barataria-Terrebonne – Their Importance to Migratory and Resident Birds
- Estuaries: Scenes of Transition
- Clawdette's For True or What
- NEP: Bringing Our Estuaries to Life

CCMP Development Report:

- The First Step in Working Today for Our Tomorrow: Results of the Management Conference Workshop
- Building the Draft CCMP Framework
- Comprehensive Conservation Action Plan:
 - Part 1 - Executive Summary
 - Part 2 - Estuary Compact
 - Part 3 - Technical Supplement
 - Part 4 - Appendix: CCMP Federal Consistency Survey; Funding Source Inventory for Implementation of the CCMP; CCMP Action Plan Costing; CCMP Financing Plan

Project Reports:

- An Information Management Strategy to Ensure Compatibility and Accessibility of Data Generated in Conjunction with the BTNEP
- Conversion of Abandoned, Dead-End Canals to Marshland APDP Project Report
- Volunteer Vegetative Plantings Project Summary Reports (1996, 1997)
- Teacher Workshops Project Summary Report(s) FY 92; 93/94; 96
- Field Demonstration of Cover Crops and Cultural Practices on Fallow Sugarcane Land APDP Report
- Reduction of BOD in Seafood Processing Wastewater: A New "Dendritic" Form of Chitosan ... APDP Report
- Environmental Technology & Business Expo Completion Report
- Alternative Dredging Action Plan Demonstration Project Report
- FEMA Modeling Report
- CELSS Modeling Report
- Analysis of Freshwater Drinking Resources in Barataria and Terrebonne Basins
- Estuary Monitoring Report
- Louisiana Water Quality Agency Contact Directory
- A Survey of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

Teachers' Materials (in addition to other materials listed above, teachers receive these materials specifically produced for them):

- Self-Guided Tours of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary for Classroom and Citizen Groups
- Teacher's Guide for *Haunted Waters...* video
- Knee Deep in Wetlands CD Rom

- Exploring Coastal Louisiana with Boudreaux CD ROM
- Salt Marsh Habitats of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary
- GOMP *Gulf Literacy – A Teacher's Guide*
- Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Curriculum Resource Unit

Report Publication Series:

- BTNEP-1 Governor's Nomination for a Management Conference under the National Estuary Program
- BTNEP-2 Start-Up Workplan
- BTNEP-3 Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Management Conference Agreement
- BTNEP-4 Fiscal Year 1992 Annual Workplan
- BTNEP-5 Scientific/Technical Committee Data Inventory Workshop Proceedings
- BTNEP-6 Fiscal Year 1993 Annual Workplan
- BTNEP-7 Fiscal Year 1994 Annual Workplan
- BTNEP-8 Citizens Advisory Committee Comprehensive Public Participation Action Plan
- BTNEP-9 Public and User Group Members' Perceptions Survey Report
- BTNEP-10 Barataria-Terrebonne Basins Data Directory
- BTNEP-11 Fiscal Year 1995 Annual Workplan
- BTNEP-12 Inventory of Programs and Projects and Base Programs Action Plan
- BTNEP-13 Distribution of Nutrients and Suspended Sediments in the Western Terrebonne Marshes Associated with Winter Low Pressure Frontal Passage: Management Implications
- BTNEP-14 Storm Water Drainage Stations: Location, Mapping, and Recommendations for Evaluation
- BTNEP-15 The Oyster Resource Zones Within Louisiana's Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries
- BTNEP-17 An Information Retrieval Systems and Cost Analysis Program for Small-Flow Wastewater Treatment Technologies
- BTNEP-18 Fecal Coliform Monitoring, Identification, and Assessment within the B-T Estuarine Complex
- BTNEP-19 Fiscal Year 1996 Annual Workplan
- BTNEP-20 Status & Trends of Hydrologic Modification, Reduction in Sediment Availability, and Habitat Loss/Modification in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System
- BTNEP-21 Status, Trends, & Probable Causes of Change in Living Resources in the BTES
- BTNEP-22 Status & Trends of Eutrophication, Pathogen Contamination, and Toxic Substances in BTES
- BTNEP-23 Land Use & Socioeconomic Status and Trends in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System
- BTNEP-24 Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Public Workshop Series Project
- BTNEP-25 Elevational Data Gathering in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins
- BTNEP-26 Economic Value Assessment of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System
- BTNEP-27 Owner's Guide to Wetland Care: A Manual for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex

- BTNEP-28 Digitization of the Floating Marsh Maps in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, Louisiana
- BTNEP-29 Marsh Vegetation Types of Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries: 1968-Present
- BTNEP-30 Migratory Bird (Neotropical and Shorebirds) Management Plan for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins of Louisiana
- BTNEP-31 A Survey of Vegetative Damage Caused by Nutria Herbivory in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins

APPENDIX B

Presentations and Participation in Community Events and Programs,
2001-2003

Between 2001 and 2003, Program staff and Management Conference members gave numerous oral, slide, and video presentations to a wide of variety of organizations (e.g., school groups, technical conference participants, etc.). Program staff and MC members also participated in several community events and programs by distributing program information, setting up the Program's graphics display system, and one-on-one communication with members of the public.

2001

January 9 – presentation on brown marsh issue at the State Wetlands Authority meeting, Baton Rouge, LA (K. St. Pé)
January 25-26 – presentation at the Citizen Monitoring Workshop, NSU, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé)
January 31-February 1 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Louisiana Environmental Health Association conference, New Orleans, LA (E. Landrum)
February 9 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental Stewardship Meeting, Larose, LA (K. St. Pé and D. Schultz)
February 14 – interview for radio station regarding LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries (K. St. Pé)
February 20 – presentation at the Stewardship of LA Community Waters, Larose, LA (K. St. Pé)
March 9-10 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Louisiana Environmental Educator Association Symposium at LSU, Baton Rouge, LA (S. Helmuth and R. Somers)
March 14 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Thibodaux, LA (D. Blanchard)
March 21-22 – presentation at the Environmental Opportunities for the Mobile Bay Workshop, Mobile, AL (K. St. Pé)
March 26-27 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the DEQ Waste Conference, Lafayette, LA (E. Landrum)
March 27 – presentation on brown marsh issue at the DEQ Waste Conference, Lafayette, LA (K. St. Pé)
March 27 – presentation at Morgan City Junior High School, Morgan City, LA (R. Somers)
March 29 – presentation at the Jefferson Parish Award Ceremony (NPS poster contest), Jefferson, LA (D. Schultz)
April 20-22 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Grand Isle Bird Day Celebration, Grand Isle, LA (R. DeMay)
April 24 – interview by NSU regarding program budget cuts (K. St. Pé)
May 7 – interview by Gerry Martin, who is writing a book on human ecology (K. St. Pé)
May 10 – presentation on Bayou Lafourche to the Coastal America Group (K. St. Pé and D. Blanchard)
May 15 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at Leadership Terrebonne, Houma, LA (K. St. Pé)
May 21-23 – distribution of BTNEP materials at FEMA/NEP Workshop, Thibodaux, LA (S. Helmuth)
June 4 – presentation to Campfire Boys & Girls, Thibodaux, LA (R. Somers)
June 11 – presentation to Campfire Boys & Girls, Thibodaux, LA (R. Somers)
June 22 – presentation to Campfire Boys & Girls, Thibodaux, LA (R. Somers)
June 29 – presentation to Campfire Boys & Girls, Thibodaux, LA (R. Somers)
July 23-26 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at Marsh Maneuvers, Grand Terre, LA (D. Schultz and R. Somers)
July 25-29 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Tarpon Rodeo, Grand Isle, LA (D. Blanchard, R. DeMay, and E. Landrum)
August 12 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental Stewardship Retreat, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (D. Schultz and W. Curole)
August 24 – interview by Josh Collins for the LUMCON Newsletter, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé)
September 12 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to the Family & Consumer Education Association at the LUMCON facility, Chauvin, LA (D. Schultz)
September 21-23 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the WETMAAP Workshop, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (D. Schultz)
September 28 – interview for radio station KTIB Dialogue show about La Fête d'Écologie, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé and C. Curole)
September 29 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the 5th Annual La Fête d'Écologie, Pelier Park, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)
October 2 – interview on radio station KLRZ regarding La Fête d'Écologie (C. Curole)
October 6 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the BTNEP/CRCL Coastal Wetlands Workshop, Grand Isle, LA (D. Schultz)
October 7 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the 5th annual La Fête d'Écologie Festival at Pelier Park, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)

October 18 – interview by Elizabeth Stuart of the Houma Courier, regarding the Morganza to the Gulf hurricane protection project (K. St. Pé)

October 23-24 – participation in panel discussion on oil spill prevention at the Clean Gulf Conference, Mobile, AL (K. St. Pé)

October 24 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the LDNR Local Coastal Programs Workshop, Lafayette, LA (E. Landrum)

October 26 – presentations and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental State of the State Symposium, NSU Campus, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)

October 31 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to an NSU marine biology class, BTNEP Office, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé)

November 1 – interview on radio station KTIB to discuss BTNEP events (K. St. Pé)

November 2 – presentation at the kick-off rally for the Back to the Bayou pirogue trip, Donaldsonville, LA (K. St. Pé)

November 6 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Ducks Unlimited Banquet, Larose, LA (E. Landrum and D. Blanchard)

November 16 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the UNO National Outreach Strategy Meeting, New Orleans, LA (D. Schultz and S. Helmuth)

November 26 – Enviroscape presentation to Thibodaux Elementary School, Thibodaux, LA (D. Schultz)

November 26 – keynote speech at the EPA Non-Point Source Pollution Conference, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)

November 30 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Louisiana Science Teacher Association Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA (D. Schultz and S. Helmuth)

December 13 – Enviroscape presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to students and teachers at Elysian Field School, Houma, LA (D. Schultz)

December 19 – interview on radio station KLRZ regarding non-point source pollution issues, Larose, LA (A. Barron and L. McVeigh)

2002

January 3 – hosted a Bayou Lafourche bus tour and distributed BTNEP materials for the American Trial Lawyers Association (K. St. Pé and S. Helmuth)

January 18 – hosted a Bayou Lafourche tour and distributed BTNEP materials for KNOE-Monroe TV station (K. St. Pé, L. McVeigh, and D. Schultz)

February 1-2 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental Educators Symposium, Baton Rouge, LA (D. Schultz and S. Helmuth)

February 8 – presentation at the South Lafourche High School, Raceland, LA (K. St. Pé)

February 19 – presentation to retired Chevron employees, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)

March 7 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the LUMCON staff seminar (K. St. Pé, S. Helmuth, D. Blanchard, and E. Landrum)

March 8-9 – participation in and distribution of BTNEP materials at the WETMAAP Workshop, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (D. Schultz)

March 13 – presentation on migratory birds at Leadership Lafourche, Thibodaux, LA (R. DeMay)

March 15 – presentation on Enviroscape and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Raceland Middle School, Raceland, LA (D. Schultz)

March 20 – presentation on Enviroscape and distribution of BTNEP materials at Bayou Boeuf Elementary School, Chackbay, LA (D. Schultz)

March 23 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese Youth Rally, Raceland, LA (D. Schultz)

March 26 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Davis Pond Dedication Ceremony (K. St. Pé, L. McVeigh, D. Schultz, and E. Landrum)

April 1 – appearance on Houma TV's nightly show News Talk at 10 to discuss BTNEP, Houma, LA (K. St. Pé and R. DeMay)

April 4 – presentation of non-point source information, Jefferson Parish, LA (D. Schultz)

April 10 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at Leadership Lafourche, Thibodaux, LA (L. McVeigh)

April 11 – presentation on the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration and distribution of BTNEP materials to the Daughters of the American Revolution (L. McVeigh)

April 17 – interview for radio station KLRZ's "Dialogue", regarding Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration (L. McVeigh)

April 19-20 – participation in and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration Day, Grand Isle, LA (K. St. Pé, D. Schultz, L. McVeigh, and R. DeMay)

May 9 – presentation on seagrass to the Gulf of Mexico Program Management Conference, Stennis Space Center, MS (R. DeMay)

May 9 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Restore or Retreat Fundraiser, Bollinger Barn, Larose, LA (K. St. Pé, L. McVeigh, and S. Hellmuth)

May 12-13 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the American Water Resources Conference, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)

May 14 – presentation on Water quality at the American Water Resources Conference, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)

May 17 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to the American Chemical Society, NSU Campus, Thibodaux, LA (K. ST. Pé)

May 19-22 – presentation at the Coastal Society Organization Conference in Galveston, TX (K. St. Pé)

May 21 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at Leadership Terrebonne, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (L. McVeigh and D. Blanchard)

June 9 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to the Sierra Club, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)

June 11-14 – co-sponsorship Coastal Roots Workshop

June 14 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Coastal Wetlands Workshop, Marrero, LA (L. McVeigh)

June 18 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to LASIP teachers, NSU Campus, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé)

June 19 – presentation at the Jean Lafitte Center (NPS) History Camp, Thibodaux, LA (D. Schultz)

June 20 – co-sponsorship of the Wetshop Workshop

June 26 – interview for radio station KLRZ’s “Dialogue”, regarding BTNEP activities, Larose, LA (L. McVeigh)

June 26 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to Plaquemines Parish Chamber of Commerce, Port Sulphur, LA (K. St. Pé)

July 9-11 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the 2002 Marsh Maneuvers Camp, Grand Terre, LA (D. Schultz)

July 12 – presentation at the Americorps Workshop, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (K. St. Pé, D. Schultz, and A. Barron)

July 14 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the National Association of Counties Conference, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)

July 18 – interview for radio station KTIB’s “Dialogue” show regarding BTNEP activities, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé and L. McVeigh)

July 24 – presentation at Jean Lafitte Center (NPS) History Camp, Thibodaux, LA (D. Schultz)

July 24-27 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Grand Isle, LA (D. Blanchard and E. Landrum)

August 6-8 – hosting of a field trip to Elmer’s Island, as part of effort to get State of LA to purchase the property (BTNEP staff)

September 4 – hosting of meeting for the Restoration Action Plan Team, NSU Campus, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)

September 10 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental Resources for Educators Workshop, Baton Rouge, LA (D. Schultz)

September 16 – interview on radio station KTIB, as guest speaker regarding Estuary Live! (D. Schultz)

September 17 – co-sponsorship of workshop “The Barataria Basins & The Opportunity for A Third Delta: A Technical Review”, NSU Campus, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)

September 18 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to Bayou Haystackers Paddling Club, Hammond, LA (D. Schultz)

September 19 – presentation to Terrebonne Parish Teachers on non-point source pollution, LUMCON, Chauvin, LA (A. Barron)

September 20 – distribution of BTNEP materials at Rep. Damon Baldone’s Fishing Rodeo, Cocodrie, LA (L. McVeigh)

September 21 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials regarding the Migratory Bird Curriculum at a Tulane Teacher Workshop, New Orleans, LA (D. Schultz)

September 25 – interview on KLRZ and KTIB regarding postponement of La Fête d’Écologie and hurricane protection (L. McVeigh and C. Curole)

October 12 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at Atchafalaya Day, Lafayette, LA (R. DeMay and D. Blanchard)

October 24-26 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Louisiana Science Teachers Association Conference, Lafayette, LA (D. Schultz and S. Helmuth)

November 6 – interview for radio station KLRZ concerning La Fête d’Écologie, Larose, LA (L. McVeigh)

November 6 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to Dr. Shea Penland’s students at UNO, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)

November 8 – interview for radio station KTIB concerning La Fête d’Écologie, Thibodaux, LA (L. McVeigh)

November 10 – hosting of the 6th annual La Fête d’Écologie, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff and BTEF)

November 18 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP educational materials at Labadieville Middle School, Labadieville, LA (D. Schultz)
 November 20-22 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP educational materials at Monroe Schools, Monroe, LA (D. Schultz)
 December 17 – participation in a media trip to marsh planting in Fourchon, LA (L. McVeigh)

2003

January 14 – presentation on storm drain marking to the Thibodaux Civic Association, Thibodaux, LA (A. Barron)
 February 3 – interview for radio station KTIB concerning the LCA public hearings (L. McVeigh)
 February 5 – interview for radio station KLRZ concerning the LCA public hearings, Larose, LA (L. McVeigh)
 February 6 – hosting of the LCA public hearing, Larose, LA (K. St. Pé and L. McVeigh)
 February 18 – presentation at the Central Lafourche High School, Raceland, LA (K. St. Pé)
 February 18-19 – attendance at the Waterbird Research Meeting, Vicksburg, MS (R. DeMay)
 February 21-22 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Environmental Educator's Symposium, Baton Rouge, LA (D. Schultz and S. Helmuth)
 February 26 – presentation on CWPPRA projects to the Lafourche CZM, Raceland, LA (K. St. Pé)
 March 5-6 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the American Geographer Association Conference, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)
 March 10 – tour of the Forest Ridge Project, Fourchon, LA (K. St. Pé and R. DeMay)
 March 12 – tour of Bayou Lafourche with LSU journalism graduate students (K. St. Pé and L. McVeigh)
 March 19 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the NSU Jubilee, Thibodaux, LA (R. DeMay, A. Barron, and J. Meunier)
 April 2 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the 2003 Career Connection Expo, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)
 April 3 – presentation at Assumption High School, Napoleonville, LA (D. Schulz)
 April 3 – presentation to the NSU Biology Society, Thibodaux, LA (A. Barron)
 April 4 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at the LockFest, Plaquemine Parish, LA (D. Schulz)
 April 4 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Pierre Part festival, Pierre Part, LA (J. Meunier)
 April 7 – interview for radio station KLRZ about Migratory Bird Celebration Day (L. McVeigh and B. Maniscalco, Terrebonne Bird Club)
 April 8 – interview for radio station KTIB about Migratory Bird Celebration Day (L. McVeigh)
 April 9-11 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the National Association of Governmental Counties, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)
 April 11-12 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Migratory Bird Celebration Day, Grand Isle, LA (R. DeMay)
 April 12 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at LUMCON's open house, Chauvin, LA (K. St. Pé, L. McVeigh, and A. Barron)
 April 13 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Baton Rouge Earth Day, Baton Rouge, LA (D. Schultz and J. Meunier)
 April 23 – BTNEP presentation to the LUMCON Executive Committee, Alexandria, LA (K. St. Pé)
 May 6 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Bayou Region Day at the legislature, Baton Rouge, LA (L. McVeigh)
 May 14 – presentation to sewage treatment plant owner/operators of Lafourche Parish, Thibodaux, LA (A. Barron)
 May 20 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials at Leadership Terrebonne, LUMCON facility, Chauvin, LA (K. St. Pé)
 May 21 – presentation to sewage treatment plant owner/operators of Terrebonne Parish, Houma, LA (A. Barron)
 June 3 – field trip down Bayou Lafourche with NPR reporter (K. St. Pé and L. McVeigh)
 June 4 – presentation to the Family & Community Education Chapter of Lafourche Parish, Golden Meadow, LA (D. Schultz)
 June 11 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP educational materials at the STEPS workshop, Grand Terre, LA (D. Schultz)
 June 12 – presentation at the NPS History Camp, Thibodaux, LA (J. Meunier)
 July 2 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to a group in Gretna, LA (D. Schultz)
 July 8 – presentation to the Thibodaux Rotary Club, Thibodaux, LA (L. McVeigh)
 July 9 – presentation at Hahnville High, Hahnville, LA (D. Schultz)
 July 10 – presentation at Woodmere School (D. Schultz)
 July 21-25 – presentations at 2003 Marsh Maneuvers Camp, Grand Terre, LA (D. Schultz)

July 23-26 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, Grand Isle, LA (D. Blanchard and R. DeMay)
 August 11-12 – meeting with IMAX representatives at Raccoon Island and NRCS Plant Materials Center (K. St. Pé)
 August 16 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the RFRI Rodeo, Belle Chasse, LA (K. St. Pé and D. Blanchard)
 August 22 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Downtown Live event, Houma, LA (BTNEP staff)
 August 27 – presentation to Assumption/St. James Parish sewage treatment plant owners/operators, Thibodaux, LA (A. Barron)
 August 27-30 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the 2003 Shrimp and Petroleum Festival, Morgan City, LA (L. McVeigh)
 September 4 – presentation and distribution of BTNEP materials to the NSU graphic arts class, Thibodaux, LA (D. Schultz)
 September 19 – presentation to Dr. Earl Melancon's biology class, NSU, Thibodaux, LA (J. Meunier)
 September 23 – presentation to the LSU Ag Center Water Education Group, Baton Rouge, LA (A. Barron)
 September 25 – interview for radio station KTIB for La Fête d'Écologie, Thibodaux, LA (L. McVeigh)
 September 26 – interview for radio station KLRZ for La Fête d'Écologie, Thibodaux, LA (L. McVeigh)
 September 26 – live internet broadcast for Estuary Live!, Golden Meadow, LA (entire BTNEP staff)
 October 3 – presentation to the Thibodaux Women's Club, Thibodaux, LA (D. Schultz)
 October 3-4 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the 1st annual Wings Over the Wetlands Festival, Lafitte, LA (R. DeMay)
 October 6 – tour of Elmer's Island to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation staff members (R. DeMay)
 October 10 – presentation at the Mississippi River Basin Alliance Delta Exchange conference, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)
 October 11 – tour of Bayou Lafourche and seafood boil for Cambodian delegation that participated in the Mississippi River Basin Delta Exchange, Fourchon, LA (K. St. Pé, L. McVeigh, and S. Helmuth)
 October 12 – interview with Jason Project staff members (K. St. Pé)
 October 15 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the NSU A+ Scholar Fund Raiser, Thibodaux, LA (BTNEP staff)
 October 25 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the Atchafalaya Day, Lake Palourde Park (D. Blanchard and A. Barron)
 October 28 – presentation at Raceland Upper Elementary School, Raceland, LA (D. Schultz)
 November 3 – BTNEP presentation to Rod Emmer's students at LSU, Baton Rouge, LA (K. St. Pé)
 November 7-10 – participation in the 3rd annual Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip, hosted by BTNEP and BTEF (K. St. Pé, D. Schultz, and S. Helmuth)
 November 8 – participation in a wetland panel discussion at the 2nd annual Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, LA (K. St. Pé)
 November 8 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the 2nd annual Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, LA (S. Helmuth and L. McVeigh)
 November 8 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at Thibodauxville, LA (A. Barron, J. Meunier, and P. Cantin)
 November 17 – interview for the radio station KTIB show "Dialogue", regarding the Indicators Report, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé and D. Blanchard)
 November 18 – presentation to UNO students, New Orleans, LA (K. St. Pé)
 November 19 – distribution of BTNEP materials at the Clean Gulf Conference, New Orleans, LA (L. McVeigh)
 November 24 – interview for Bruce Richard's (of the Delaware Inland Bay Program) radio show (K. St. Pé)
 December 4-6 – exhibition and distribution of BTNEP materials at the LSTA Conference, New Orleans, LA (S. Helmuth and D. Schultz)
 December 15 – interview for the radio station KTIB show "Dialogue", regarding migratory birds, Thibodaux, LA (K. St. Pé and R. DeMay)

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APPENDIX D

Implementation Tracking System Matrix

APPENDIX D

Implementation Tracking System Matrix

CCMP Action Plans

Priority Action Plans are indicated in bold.

I. Coordinated Planning and Implementation

- Program Implementation Structure Action Plans
 - **PI-1** **Continue the Management Conference**
 - **PI-2** **Establish points-of-contact throughout the state for CCMP implementation**
 - **PI-3** **Maintain the program office and critical staff**
- Coordinated Planning Action Plans
 - **CP-1** **Use of participatory decision-making processes at Management Conference meetings; conflict resolution**
 - CP-2 Establish two Wetlands Permitting Information Centers in the estuary
 - **CP-3** **Provide education and planning assistance to local officials and planners to ensure sustainable economic development within the estuary**
 - CP-4 Develop and implement a set of recommended procedures for agencies to involve the public in the development of state rules, regulations, and guidelines
 - **CP-5** **Establish a periodic evaluation process to assess implementation of the wetlands permitting process and regulations**

II. Ecological Management

- Habitat Action Plans
 - **EM-1** **Restore the natural hydrology of areas receiving freshwater inflows**
 - **EM-2** **Divert freshwater and sediment to decrease salinities and maintain/create marsh**
 - EM-3 Evaluate the effectiveness of reactivating Bayou Lafourche as a distributary channel of the Mississippi River
 - **EM-4** **Use of dredged material to create, maintain, and restore marshes**
 - EM-5 Preserve and restore the estuary's barrier islands
 - **EM-6** **Stabilize shorelines and induce sediment deposition to create, maintain, and restore marshes**
 - EM-7 Evaluate marsh management/water control structures to stabilize water levels and salinity for marsh establishment and growth
- Water Quality Action Plans
 - **EM-8** **Quantitatively estimate sources and loads of nutrient, bacteria, and toxic contaminants within the estuary**
 - EM-9 Reduce the number, volume, and impact of petroleum/related fluid spills to the estuary
 - **EM-10** **Reduce human sewage discharges to the estuary from treatment plants, rural home, unsewered communities, commercial and residential vessels, and waterfront camps**
 - EM-11 Employ existing agricultural BMPs to reduce loadings of nutrient and toxic contaminants
 - EM-12 Reduce pollutant loadings associated with current stormwater discharge practices; enhance wetlands with stormwater
 - EM-13 Create a GIS-based database of sediment contamination for management purposes

- EM-14 Determine risk/threats of toxic and noxious phytoplankton blooms to human health and fisheries industries
- Living Resources Action Plans
 - EM-15 Encourage landowners to manage their land as habitat for migratory and resident birds
 - EM-16 Reduce adverse impacts of exotic plant species through regulation, education, management, and control
 - EM-17 Initiate a zebra mussel monitoring program in the estuary and develop and disseminate new information about control techniques
- Accessible and Compatible Data Sets Action Plan
 - **EM-18 Create an accessible, centralized data management system**

III. Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement

- Citizen Involvement and Participation Action Plans
 - **SR-1 Develop a network of community leaders and teams to support and implement CCMP Action Plans**
 - **SR-2 Regularly conduct meetings to involve the public in decisions on estuary issues**
 - **SR-3 Provide citizen involvement opportunities for protecting and managing the estuary**
 - SR-4 Develop citizen monitoring programs to produce data on water quality and living resources issues
 - SR-5 Conduct and support activities that highlight the cultural heritage of the estuary to develop environmental awareness and stewardship
 - SR-6 Assist and encourage communities to establish urban green spaces
 - SR-7 Continue LDEQ's storm drain stenciling throughout the estuary
- Public Information and Education Action Plans
 - **SR-8 Generate legislator support for estuary issues**
 - **SR-9 Use the media for information dissemination**
 - SR-10 Organize a group of volunteer speakers and presentations on estuary issues
 - **SR-11 Provide educational materials on estuary issues for identified target audiences**
 - SR-12 Develop a targeted distribution campaign for information about the estuary and the CCMP
 - SR-13 Create and promote the use of a 1-800 number for the program office
- K-16 Curriculum Action Plans
 - SR-14 Develop and disseminate curriculum materials to support estuarine education (K-16)
 - **SR-15 Provide continuing environmental education programs**
 - SR-16 Develop an awareness of the need to finance environmental education; identify funding strategies and sources
 - SR-17 Establish an estuarine educational resource network in the estuary

IV. Economic Growth

- Economic Development Action Plans
 - EG-1 Identify sources of funding for new environmentally sustainable businesses
 - **EG-2 Encourage nature-based tourism and recreation**

- EG-3 Develop a commercial market for nutria to reduce their impacts on wetlands
- Technology Transfer Action Plans
 - EG-4 Conduct an annual technology exposition to showcase environmentally-sustainable technologies
 - EG-5 Develop new and expand existing markets, encourage and provide training in the exportation of environmentally sustainable resources, products, and technology
 - EG-6 **Identify existing, develop new, and encourage the use of more environmentally sensitive technologies and business practices**
 - EG-7 **Identify, promote, and provide financial/tax incentives for environmentally sustainable economic development**
 - EG-8 Develop and implement an education program to explain the purpose of wetlands permitting to business and industry audiences

I. Coordinated Planning and Implementation

Program Implementation Structure Action Plans		
PI-1	<p>The BTNEP Management Conference has held 12 quarterly meetings between January 2001 and December 2003. The Management Conference oversees and coordinates CCMP implementation. Forty-six individuals, representing the interests of the major stakeholders in the estuary, serve on this conference. Major stakeholders are represented by industry and business organizations; federal, state, and local governments; academia; environmental organizations; and the general public. Groups added were the Louisiana Forestry Association, the National Park Service, and the Louisiana Nature Conservancy.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p> <p>Audience and media participation at Management Conference meetings has increased significantly.</p> <p>The development of Action Plan Teams has significantly increased participation in non-Management Conference and Management Conference meetings.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP staff represents the interests of the CCMP in policy-making venues by actively participating on 21 different boards, study panels, and committees for interagency and community-based natural resources management.</p>	Ongoing
PI-2	<p>The Louisiana Governor's Office was designated as Point -of-Contact for the State of Louisiana. In July 2001, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) took over the role as the State representative in matters related to fiscal and administrative support. LUMCON continues to provide the necessary Program Office support functions and will continue to receive any additional EPA grant funds.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Management Conference has empowered the Action Plan Teams to take on more administrative responsibilities.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The BTNEP staff represent the interests of the CCMP in policy-making venues by actively participating on various boards, study panels, and committees for interagency and community-based natural resources management. Currently, Program staff hold seats with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Interagency Committee • Louisiana Coastal Curriculum Committee • Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force, and Outreach Committee • Gulf of Mexico Program Focus Teams (Public Health, Non-Indigenous Species, Habitat) • Gulf of Mexico Program Shellfish Challenge Initiative • Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association • Association of National Estuary Programs, Public Outreach Committee • Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Advisory Board • Louisiana Sea Grant Exotic Species Board • Estuary Research Foundation • Restore or Retreat • America's Fisheries Society 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SeaGrant Director Search Committee • Louisiana Science Teachers Association • Environmental Educators Association • America's Wetlands Campaign • National Marine Educators Association • Louisiana Marine Educators Association • Native Plant Society • Ground Water Management Task Force • New Orleans Chamber of Commerce • Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce • Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce • Bayou Region Chamber of Commerce • Louisiana Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force 	
PI-3	<p>The Program Office will continue to be responsible for the development of memoranda of agreements, or MOAs, with various government agencies and others to implement CCMP actions and to assist the various responsible agencies with respect to implementation of specific Action Plans.</p> <p>The Program Office is also responsible for the development and execution of numerous projects to gather scientific information, to educate the public about various issues, and to foster support from stakeholders.</p> <p>The Program Office currently operates with 8 unclassified State positions, including Program Director, Office Coordinator, Senior Scientist, Formal Education Coordinator, Habitat Enhancement Coordinator, Non-Point Source Pollution Coordinator, Community Relations Coordinator and Invasive Species Coordinator.</p>	Ongoing
Coordinated Planning Action Plans		
CP-1	<p>Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure – The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding of the need to keep the BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (in November 2001, 2002, and 2003).</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>From May 1994 to December 2003, BTNEP was a co-sponsor of the Gulf of Mexico Program's Barataria-Terrebonne Shellfish Challenge Initiative, the goal of which is to "increase Gulf shellfish beds available for safe harvest by 10%." The Watershed Evaluation Team, an advisory committee made up of representatives from local and state agencies and the oyster industry, guided the process. Sixty-one candidate oyster growing water restoration projects in the estuary were identified through a series of broadly represented, consensus-based "stakeholder" meetings. The list was refined to four Priority Projects for immediate implementation. The BTNEP Management Conference volunteered to serve as the implementation coordinator for the Priority Projects.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$266,000.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>

	<p>The Barataria-Terrebonne Management Conference continues to use participatory decision-making methodologies (Technologies of Participation, or ToP) in all of its meetings and workshops to implement the CCMP. Other planning efforts such as Coast 2050 and the Davis Pond Advisory Board continue to use methods of decision-making to incorporate lessons learned from BTNEP.</p> <p>Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), Public Law 101-646, Title III, was authorized by Congress and signed into law by President George Bush in 1990. CWPPRA directly addresses wetlands loss nationally, with a primary focus on coastal Louisiana's serious wetlands loss challenges. The Act directed that a Task Force consisting of representatives of five federal agencies and the State of Louisiana develop a "comprehensive approach to restore and prevent the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana." The five federal agencies include the Department of the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Agriculture. The State of Louisiana is represented by the Governor's Office for Coastal Activities. BTNEP products as well as the BTNEP director and staff continue to play active roles in the CWPPRA processes.</p> <p>A feasibility study in the Barataria Basin (designed to address coastal restoration from a basin-wide scale and analyze all reasonable solutions to the problems) continues under the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) and State of Louisiana process. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> ACOE.</p> <p>Davis Pond, a major freshwater diversion project, began operation in March 2002. Dean Blanchard, Habitat Enhancement Coordinator, represents BTNEP as a voting member of the Davis Pond Interagency Advisory Committee. BTNEP is a member of the Technical Committee for Davis Pond. These committees will determine policies for project operation utilizing the BTNEP approach to conflict resolution and decision-making, and will have a major influence on the project results.</p> <p>Though no formal conflict-resolution procedure has been adopted, significant conflicts whose resolution is crucial to implementation of the CCMP have been addressed successfully as evidenced by the Oyster Lease Relocation Program.</p> <p>The Program's staff represent the interests of the CCMP in policy-making venues by actively participating on 21 different boards, study panels, and committees for interagency and community-based natural resources management, encouraging common ground and decision making in those groups.</p> <p>BTNEP was asked by multiple agencies to lead and coordinate the response to the Marsh Dieback. This phenomenon was classified as an Ecological Emergency.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
CP-2	<p>Jefferson Parish Local Permit Information and Training Center – A Permit Information and Training Center was established (housed at the Jefferson Parish Coastal Zone Management Office) to (1) assist the general public, small businesses, and others in applying for wetland permits, and (2) determine the need for Wetland Permitting Information Centers throughout the BTES. Approximately 150 people were helped at the information center from 2001-2003. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs, Lafourche CZM / <i>Cost:</i> \$60,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Complete
CP-3	<p>The Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee has reorganized and is more actively engaged in the selection of projects through the CWPPRA process.</p> <p>Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee has become more actively engaged in the selection of projects through the CWPPRA process and Lafourche Parish CZM also continues to be active.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	BTNEP has assumed a more active role in the CWPPRA project selection process, providing guidance and leadership to local governments during the process.	Ongoing
CP-4	BTNEP is coordinating an effort to gather information on the development of an onsite sewage treatment system (marsh up-welling system) that can be successfully used to treat sewage from camps and individual homes. Partners include LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality, Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept., Bayou Segnette Boater's Association and the Gulf of Mexico Program. This effort could potentially result in legislative approval of this new technology. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.	Ongoing
	BTNEP was instrumental in educating the public through its website and personal appearances and radio interviews, regarding the impact of three proposed constitutional amendments addressing providing revenue for coastal restoration.	Complete
CP-5	The LDNR-CMD has completed a review process for local coastal programs that included review of parish regulatory programs. The review covered the time period of 7/1/01 – 6/30/03. All local programs evaluated their ordinances' authority over mitigation, enforcement, and appeals. The Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan involves periodic review, by federal agencies participation in CWPPRA, of LDNR-CMD/local permit actions to ensure no net-loss of wetlands as a result of development activities. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDNR-CMD.	Complete

II. Ecological Management

Habitat Action Plans		
EM-1	<p>*Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion – This project involves freshwater diversion into marsh habitats, and was initiated in 6/2002. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Federal, WRDA / <i>Cost:</i> \$106,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves placement of rock for shoreline protection of an eroding canal and removal of an artificial levee that was impounding over 1,850 acres of fish habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc, BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$333,650 (BTNEP contribution \$12,600).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves beach protection via sand fencing and mangrove planting. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$36,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP authored and published several publications on wetlands issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp and Houseboat Sanitation in Louisiana • Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Re-Introductions • Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration • Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Environmental and Economic Considerations • Coastal Louisiana and South Florida: A Comparative Wetland Inventory • Stewardship Incentives for Louisiana's Coastal Landowners • Wetlands Functions & Values in Louisiana • Portrait of an Estuary 	Complete
	<p>Construction of a wing wall/barge structure to allow for the blockage of the Company Canal to prevent saltwater intrusion from reaching the water processing facility near Lockport, LA. The structure has a barge that is capable of being moved into place across the canal and then sunk, thus preventing the passage of the saltwater. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$2,000,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
	<p>Jefferson Parish utilizes non-indigenous materials such as Christmas trees to fill in abandoned oil and gas canals and restore natural hydrology. Since 1991, more than 450,000 trees have been recycled to construct shoreline and sediment fences and to fill in abandoned canals. This project continues and has begun in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Gulf of Mexico Program, NRCS, and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program are partnering on an effort to identify those pump station discharges that could be rerouted through wetland habitats as opposed to canals to benefit wetland plants and reduce the rate of wetland loss. The rerouting would protect the existing levees from future direct wave erosion and provide for habitat for wetland dependent species. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP, NRCS.</p>	Ongoing

EM-2	<p>*Naomi Outfall Management – This re-establishment involved siphon outfall management in intermediate marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR, CWPRA / <i>Cost:</i> \$500,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
	<p>*Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion – This project involves freshwater diversion into marsh habitats, and was initiated in 3/2002. Dean Blanchard, Habitat Enhancement Coordinator, represents BTNEP as a voting member of the Davis Pond Advisory Committee, and BTNEP is a member of the Technical Committee for Davis Pond; these committees will determine project operation utilizing the BTNEP approach to conflict resolution and decision-making and will have a major influence on the project results. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Federal, WRDA / <i>Cost:</i> \$106,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Optimum Utilization of Oyster Leases Influenced by the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion -- A set of commercial leases strategically located throughout the bay will be systematically sampled over a period of two years. It is predicted that salinity changes will modify the spatial and temporal character of the oyster populations in the Bay. There is a universal set of parameters used by researchers and resource managers to explain the distribution and abundance of oysters along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, many of which will be measured in this project. The data will be statistically analyzed and summarized in tabular, graphical and GIS format. The information also becomes a data set available for use by others in future research and management needs. The ultimate goal is to develop best management strategies for harvest of oyster leases in low-salinity waters. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Nicholls State University / <i>Cost:</i> \$325,912 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Shifts in Barataria Bay oyster populations due to the operation of the Davis Pond freshwater diversion were delineated. Monthly documenting and comparing the survival, reproduction, recruitment and meat condition of the natural subtidal oyster populations at five locations arranged in an up-estuary to a down-estuary pattern. This is correlated with salinity, temperature, and Davis Pond Diversion flow. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Nicholls State University / <i>Cost:</i> \$46,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The project documented 13-year fishing efforts of an oysterman showing how he (and his fishery) has to move-up estuary and down-estuary as Barataria Bay's salinity shifts between drought and wet year conditions. Relationship of salinity shifts and oyster harvest efforts in pre-diversion Barataria Bay and its implication in understanding Habitat modification. Lease production by site was compared to wet and dry years within the Barataria Estuary. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Nicholls State University / <i>Cost:</i> \$39,997 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The South Central Planning and Development Commission continued their K-12 and public nonpoint source pollution (NPS) education project. The objective of this project is to transfer information about urban NPS and home sewage systems. The effectiveness of construction best management practices (BMPs) will be demonstrated through the use of presentations, photographs, and videos that document successful examples. SCPDC served as an educational resource for elementary, middle and high schools by making presentations of "Desdemona's Splash," (EPA interactive computer game) and the EnviroScape® model (plastic watershed model). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> SCPDC, LDEQ / <i>Cost:</i> \$250,000 (\$150,000 from LDEQ; \$100,000 from SCPDC).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Authored and published several publications on wetlands issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp and Houseboat Sanitation in Louisiana • Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Re-Introductions • Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration • Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Environmental and Economic Considerations 	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Louisiana and South Florida: A Comparative Wetland Inventory • Stewardship Incentives for Louisiana's Coastal Landowners • Wetlands Functions & Values in Louisiana • Portrait of an Estuary <p>BTNEP has introduced the concept of delivering bedload sediments through a series of pipelines for the restoration of coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p> <p>The following CWPPRA projects are ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Bayou/Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) Freshwater Diversion • Lake Boudreaux Basin Freshwater Introduction and Hydrologic Management Project • Myrtle Grove Siphons Project • Naomi Siphon Outfall Management • West Bay Sediment Diversion Project • South Lake Decade Freshwater Introduction Project • Center and Eastern Terrebonne Basin Freshwater Delivery Project 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-3	<p>A post-certified Water Patrol Officer locates and issues notices of violations of BLFWD, parish, state, and federal pollution laws and regulations. This officer operates from boat to sight the problem areas, and then notifies the landowners of violations. Process has two 30 day clean-up periods, then final 15 day warning. Civil and criminal fines for refusal to clean property range to \$500. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD, USEPA / <i>Cost:</i> \$90,000 (\$50,000 for equipment; \$40,000 per year for personnel).</p> <p>An aquatic vegetation study was conducted to determine the range and amount of hydrilla and investigate any chemical control measures in Bayou Lafourche. Study was conducted by Dr. Alex Lasseigne of Nicholls State University. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$42,000.</p> <p>Construction of a wing wall/barge structure to allow for the blockage of the Company Canal to prevent saltwater intrusion from reaching the water processing facility near Lockport, LA. The structure has a barge that is capable of being moved into place across the canal and then sunk, thus preventing the passage of the saltwater. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$2,000,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>A pipeline survey was conducted to locate and identify the various pipelines crossing Bayou Lafourche from its headwaters in Donaldsonville, LA to the Gulf of Mexico. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Applied Oil Spill Research & Development Program / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,000 (BLFWD contribution).</p> <p>USGS monitoring gages were installed to allow the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District to monitor the water quality parameters (temp, salinity, stage, and specific conductance) along the major route of saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$42,000 (\$28,000 for equipment; \$14,000 annual USGS maintenance fees).</p> <p>Hydrilla on Bayou Lafourche was controlled using two mechanical harvesters on loan from the US Army Corp of Engineers. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$150,000 (\$50,000 for equipment; \$100,000 per year for personnel).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>USEPA and the State of Louisiana are continuing a Feasibility Study, currently in the Engineering & Design Phase. This study is currently evaluating a number of alternatives looking at introducing Mississippi River Water into Bayou Lafourche.</p> <p>Six meetings were conducted with officials to discuss the benefits of increased flow of Bayou Lafourche.</p> <p>As a result of Legislative amendment in July of 2002, BTNEP had entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Natural resources (LDNR) to implement specified outreach activities related to the Mississippi Freshwater Re-Introduction into Bayou Lafourche (the current project name.) BTNEP has developed a website dedicated to the project. The site, www.bayoulafourche.org, was launched November 5, 2003. Legislative briefings and field trips and peer group discussions are scheduled, and a display is in development. The 2003 Bayou Lafourche Paddle trip was funded through this agreement.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> Amount of agreement is \$205,000 from LDNR to BTNEP.</p> <p>BTNEP conducted several tours for elected officials, water plant operators and industry representatives during a period of elevated saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche. The tours were meant to educate the region about the need for constructing barriers to future saltwater intrusions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
EM-4	<p>*Accelerated Program for Woody species Selection (Barataria waterway) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of trees and shrubs in channel spoilbanks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p> <p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Grand Isle) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of trees and shrubs in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p> <p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Port Fourchon) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of a tree and shrub adaptation trial in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p> <p>*Brown Marsh Small Dredge – This project involved placement of beneficial dredge material for salt marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NOAA <i>Cost:</i> \$341,317 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Discovery Project – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., T-Beb's Wetland Nursery / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,600 (BTNEP contribution \$5,000).</p> <p>*Flexible Dustpan Demonstration – This project involved placement of beneficial dredge material for salt marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> CWPPRA, ACOE / <i>Cost:</i> \$1,903,303 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves creation of 45 acres of brackish marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$325,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>In September 2003, BTNEP sponsored, with US EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District, and the Dredger's Association, an Environmental Dredging Conference as part of a national conference, to discuss the building of marsh through the use of pipeline slurry.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>

	<p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p> <p>BTNEP has introduced the concept of delivering bedload sediments through a series of pipeline for the restoration of coastal eco-systems.</p> <p>BTNEP, in collaboration with Bayou Lafourche Port Commission and other entities, has initiated a project to restore 30 acres of maritime forest ridge and adjacent marsh habitat.</p> <p>*Lake Boudreaux Re-Vegetation Project – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,964 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>The following projects are ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barataria Bay Waterway Westbank Protection (PBA-12a) • North Lake Merchant Landbridge Protection Project 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-5	<p>*Brown Marsh Accessions (East Grand Terre and Queen Bess Island) – This project involved replicated field trials testing accession collection of <i>S. alterniflora</i> dieback. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR-CRD / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP support in-kind.</p> <p>*Grand Terre Marsh Creation – This project involved vegetative planting of <i>S. patens</i> and <i>S. spartinae</i> for marsh creation and stabilization. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LSU Ag Center / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP with no direct cash contribution.</p> <p>*Grand Isle Rehabilitation – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for the creation of dunes. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps, UNO Env. Camp / <i>Cost:</i> \$9,400 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Grand Isle '02 – This project involved vegetative planting of bitter panicum in beach-dune habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$4,200 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Grand Isle) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of trees and shrubs in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p> <p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves creation of 45 acres of brackish marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$325,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves placement of rock for shoreline protection of an eroding canal and removal of an artificial levee that was impounding over 1,850 acres of fish habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$333,650 (BTNEP contribution \$12,600).</p> <p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves beach protection via sand fencing and mangrove planting. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$36,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>*Pelican Island Revegetation – This project involved vegetative planting of bitter panicum and sea oats in barrier island habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Plaquemine SWCD, NRCS, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$4,970 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*<i>Spartina alterniflora</i> Evaluation – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LSU Ag Center / <i>Cost:</i> not available until full project completion (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>The BTNEP program was contacted by the UNO Foundation to help with development of a barrier shoreline report to be used in conjunction with the LCA effort led by the Corps of Engineers and LDNR. BTNEP's role was to provide sections addressing the importance of barrier islands and shorelines including some economic info on the resources of coastal LA. <i>Cost:</i> \$40,000.</p> <p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p> <p>The "Dune and Marsh Creation at New Cut" project is ongoing.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-6	<p>*Barataria Waterway Shore Protection – This project involved tidal marsh bank production and construction. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,500,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Jonathan Davis Wetland – This project involved hydrologic restoration and shore protection of a tidal marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> \$680,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Barataria Land Bridge Shoreline Protection, Phases 1 and 2 – This project involved tidal marsh bank production and construction. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish SWCD, Lafourche Parish / <i>Cost:</i> \$1,400,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Grand Terre Marsh Creation – This project involved vegetative planting of <i>S. patens</i> and <i>S. spartinae</i> for marsh creation and stabilization. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LSU Ag Center / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP with no direct cash contribution.</p> <p>*Giant Bulrush Evaluation – This project involved an initial evaluation study of Louisiana ecotypes of <i>Schoenoplectus calif.</i> <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP with no direct cash contribution.</p> <p>*Barataria Waterway Marsh Creation – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish and intermediate marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,500 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Deer Range Canal – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Myrtle Grove – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for shoreline protection. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,100 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*East Golden Meadow – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,048 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Small Bayou Lapointe – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for intermediate marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$14,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>

<p>*Lake Cheniere Interior Marsh Demonstration – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$23,100 (BTNEP with no direct participation in financial support).</p>	Complete
<p>*Kings Ridge Interior Marsh Demonstration – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for intermediate marsh creation and shoreline protection. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,394 (BTNEP with no direct participation in financial support).</p>	Complete
<p>*Grand Bayou Revegetation Project – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush on brackish bayou banks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$7,464 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Bayou Folse – This project involved vegetative planting of giant cutgrass on bayou banks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$7,284 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Barataria Landbridge Shoreline – This project involved placement of rock for shoreline protection in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> CWPPRA, NRCS, LDNR, Crescent SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,493,017 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*BBWW West Revegetation – This project involved planting of smooth cordgrass in coconut fiber mats in brackish marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,325 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Brady Canal II – This project involved vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,980 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution)</p>	Complete
<p>*Castex Water Management – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush in fresh marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$11,580 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution)</p>	Complete
<p>*Discovery Project – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., T-Beb's Wetland Nursery / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,600 (BTNEP contribution \$5,000).</p>	Complete
<p>*Goose Bayou Revegetation – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush in intermediate marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$4,904 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Jonathan Davis Wetland Construction, Unit 3 – This project involved placement of rock for shoreline protection in intermediate marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> CWPPRA, NRCS, DNR, Crescent SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,177,337 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves creation of 45 acres of brackish marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$325,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution)</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves placement of rock for shoreline protection of an eroding canal and removal of an artificial levee that was impounding over 1,850 acres of fish habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$333,650 (BTNEP contribution \$12,600).</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves beach protection via sand fencing and mangrove planting. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$36,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing

<p>*North Little Lake / South Bayou – This project involved vegetative planting of cordgrass in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$14,236 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*NW Pen Revegetation – This project involved planting of California bulrush in intermediate marsh habitats. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,282 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Shell Island Bay Revegetation – This project involved vegetative planting black mangrove in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Plaquemines SWCD, NRCS, LDAF / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,962 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*South Lake Decade – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,156 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>Habitat Importance of <i>Vallisneria</i> Beds – The goal of this project is to assess the nursery value of <i>Vallisneria</i> habitat, via nekton sampling at Little Lake, Bay L'Ours, and other nearby shallow water habitats in the BTES. This data will be used to predict habitat value at other locations in LA and in other estuaries along the Gulf coast. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NOAA, NMFS / <i>Cost:</i> \$45,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management applied for a Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant to create marsh along the South Lafourche Protection Levee System. All the permits, right-of-ways, and requirements have been met and the project is expected to be built this year. The project is to build five acres of marsh platform along the Levee. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche CZM Program / <i>Cost:</i> \$239,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
<p>The Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Program utilizes local high school and junior high students to recycle Christmas Trees. A new site was built along the South Lafourche Protection Levee to serve as a buffer along the Levee. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche CZM Program.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management (Jess Curole) purchases 1,000 Cypress trees each year, and with the help of Kirk Kilgen (DNR), Susan Terrebonne (Les Reflections Du Bayou), and volunteers, the trees are planted along Bayou Lafourche and other areas. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche CZM Program.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Les Reflections du Bayou is planting marsh grass plants along Bayou Lafourche's banks and the area's hurricane protections levees, and the marshlands surrounding Bayou Lafourche, thereby enhancing coastal and marine habitat. These planting are designed to raise awareness about land loss and activate community groups to become better environmental stewards. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Bayou Colyell Re-Vegetation Project – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in saline marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,592 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Rachael Canal – This project involved vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,048 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Queen Bess '02 – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh-spoil habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,200 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Simoneaux '02 – This project involved vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in fresh marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$9,300 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete

	<p>*Barataria Land Bridge – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish-spoil habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,700 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Brown Marsh Plantings – This project involved vegetative plantings in salt marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NOAA / <i>Cost:</i> \$132,048 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
EM-7	<p>*Jonathan Davis Wetland (see GPRA tables for full description of project). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR, Jefferson Parish SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> \$680,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Falgout Canal Demonstration Project – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush and coconut mats with giant cutgrass in fresh-brackish marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$28,666 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Jonathan Davis – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush in intermediate and brackish marsh habitats. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,400 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>*Naomi Outfall Management – This re-establishment involved siphon outfall management in intermediate marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR, CWPRA / <i>Cost:</i> \$500,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
Water Quality Action Plans		
EM-8	<p>Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to collect water quality data on waterbodies that consistently do not meet their standards for the purposes of calculation of Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL). TMDLs are the total amount of pollutants that can enter a waterbody without violating the standard for that given pollutant. In the BTNEP, work on TMDLs for the Barataria Basin was started in March of 2002 and will be completed by the end of March 2004. In the Terrebonne Basin work was started in March 2003 and will be completed by March 2007. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDEQ.</p> <p>Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to collect water quality data at within the BTNES each year. Statewide there are 504 sites where fish tissue is sampled for mercury in 298 water bodies on a three year rotating basis. Data collection is ongoing. Aerial deposition of mercury is sampled at four sites statewide: Lake Charles, Chase, Alexandria, and Hammond. Although no data is collected within the BTNE, the Hammond site is the closest to our area. Mercury aerial deposition data is collected weekly and is ongoing. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDEQ.</p> <p>The redirection of stormwater was one of the four priority projects conceived under the Gulf of Mexico's Shellfish Challenge Initiative. \$30,000 of seed money was directed to the Pointe Aux Chenes project from the Shellfish Challenge as seed money to get it started. There are 256 pumping stations in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary and these stations have the potential to be diverted, either completely or partially, into degrading wetlands. This project is measuring the effects of stormwater on degrading wetlands and pollutant removal. The project will measure various parameters both pre- and post- stormwater pump installation to get an idea of the impact that the stormwater has on nutrient uptake, bacterial die off, and vegetative growth among other effects. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000.</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
		Ongoing

	<p>continue to monitor atrazine concentrations at Six Sampling Stations in the Upper Terrebonne Basin. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDAF, LDEQ.</p> <p>BTNEP has incorporated an indicator of toxic loading from oil spills into the BTNEP indicators program.</p> <p>The BTNEP/Gulf of Mexico Program's Barataria-Terrebonne Shellfish Challenge Initiative compiled data sets related to fecal coliform concentrations in the estuary. In addition, the Project Team compiled extensive information on potential sources of fecal coliform bacteria. BTNEP plans to incorporate this information into its Data and Information Management System. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP.</p> <p>In March 2000, the Nicholls Biology Society initiated a public service project to monitor fecal coliform levels in Bayou Lafourche using the Most Probable Number (MPN) assay. The project is designed to train students in the utilization of this technique while promoting heightened awareness and stewardship for our vital water bodies.</p> <p>Fecal coliform, <i>E. coli</i>, and enterococci indicator bacteria are currently being analyzed monthly from Bayou Grosse Tete at Rosedale and Bayou Boeuf at Amelia. The purpose is to compare older fecal coliform databases with newer (especially enterococci) techniques.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-9	<p>Booklet and Presentation on Oil and Produced Water Spill Prevention and Early Detection for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary – A publication was developed which illustrates the benefits of spill prevention in layman terms, by emphasizing the cost-effectiveness of prevention and/or early detection of petroleum and oilfield brine spills in the BTES. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Shell Pipeline Corp. has adopted the premise that preventing spills of petroleum and related oil production fluids is less environmentally damaging and less costly to their company than reacting to them once they occur. They have developed a process that proactively identifies release and spill sources with a solution for correcting them. Equilon Pipeline Co. has recognized a lack of effort on this concept and wants to be a leader in spill prevention. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Shell Pipeline Corporation, Equilon Pipeline Company.</p> <p>The Barataria-Terrebonne's La Fête d'Écologie annually displays informational material provided by Denbury Management, ES&H, and Shell Pipeline Corp. demonstrating the benefits of oil prevention and early detection measures. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p> <p>The Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) has taken several steps towards minimizing the effects of oil spills to the environment. They currently have policies and procedures 1) for oil spill prevention, planning, response, and natural resource damage assessment, 2) to leverage resources by partnering with other state and federal agencies where outcomes are mutually beneficial, and 3) to accomplish goals and objectives in a cost effective manner. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LOSCO.</p> <p>An Oil Spill Prevention Action Plan Team was formed and includes representatives from Shell Pipeline and the US Coast Guard. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p> <p>Forest Oil Company reduced oil spills in half due to incorporating and HS&H oil spill prevention plan.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
EM-10	<p>Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure – The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>of the need to keep BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (November 2001, 2002, and 2003). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	
<p>Marina pumpouts have been promoted through the Clean Vessel Program, The Gulf of Mexico Shellfish Challenge Program, and the BTNEP. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Clean Vessel Program will cost share for the installation of pumpout equipment and connection to the marina's sewage treatment plant. Currently there are six marina pumpouts in the BTNE complex in the following locations: Morgan City (Lake Palourde), Houma (Intersection of Bayou Terrebonne and GIWW), Pointe A La Hache (Levee Canal), Empire (off of Adams Bay), Buras (off of Bay Pomme D'Or), and Venice (Tiger Pass). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDWF.</p>	Ongoing
<p>LDEQ and BTNEP are working on a project with the LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to implement a marsh-based system to treat domestic wastewater from coastal dwellings. The objective of this project is to implement an injection/upwelling field system for the treatment of wastewater in saline, intermediate and brackish marsh coastal areas. The saline marsh project was successfully completed in March of 1997 after a 2 ½ year evaluation period and demonstrated significant reductions in fecal coliforms below shellfish harvest standards within the immediate area of the project. The intermediate marsh project began in 2000 and will evaluate the function on a cluster of camps in the Bayou Segnette area. The Marshland Upwelling System (MUS) is an innovative project being funded by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and implemented by Louisiana State University (LSU). The first project utilizing the MUS technology in Louisiana was conducted at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) Fourchon satellite camp in a saltwater regime. After several BTNEP EM-10 Action Plan Team meetings that involved the decision to develop an alternative sewage treatment technology booklet, it was decided that in addition to data collect for the MUS from salty groundwater areas of the state, data should be collected from fresher areas in order to determine exactly what areas of the state the MUS could be used in. The current project is a result of that effort. Funds for the project are jointly coming from Clean Water Act 319 funds through the LDEQ 319 program and the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP). Funds from LDEQ are providing for the construction of sampling wells and collection systems that lead from the camps in the area and bacterial sample analysis. The GMP funds are providing funds for virus analysis of the same collected samples. The project ended in December 2003, however additional data will need to be collected. It is uncertain at this time as to whether the LDEQ-319 program will be able to provide the additional funding. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDEQ, BTNEP, LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, GOMP.</p>	Complete
<p>The redirection of stormwater was one of the four priority projects conceived under the Gulf of Mexico's Shellfish Challenge Initiative. \$30,000 of seed money was directed to the Pointe Aux Chenes project from the Shellfish Challenge as seed money to get it started. There are 256 pumping stations in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary and these stations have the potential to be diverted, either completely or partially, into degrading wetlands. This project is measuring the effects of stormwater on degrading wetlands and pollutant removal. The project will measure various parameters both pre- and post- stormwater pump installation to get an idea of the impact that the stormwater has on nutrient uptake, bacterial die off, and vegetative growth among other effects. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000.</p>	Complete
<p>The South Central Planning and Development Commission continued their K-12 and public nonpoint source pollution (NPS) education project. The objective of this project is to transfer information about urban NPS and home sewage systems. The effectiveness of construction best management practices (BMPs) will be demonstrated through the use of presentations, photographs, and videos that document successful examples. SCPDC served as an educational resource for elementary, middle and high schools by making presentations of "Desdemona's Splash," (EPA interactive computer game) and the EnviroScape® model (plastic watershed model). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> SCPDC / <i>Cost:</i> \$250,000 (\$150,000 from LDEQ; \$100,000 from SCPDC).</p>	Ongoing

<p>Workshops for Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Owners and Operators -- The workshops were held in Thibodaux at the regional Dept. of Health and Hospitals office. Three workshops were held for STP owners and operators. The first STP workshop was for Lafourche Parish (5/14/03), the second for Terrebonne Parish (5/21/03) and the third for Assumption and St. James Parishes (8/27/03). The series of workshops were for the BTNE region and organized by the Regional Dept. of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality. The BTNEP was invited to give presentations for each of the workshops to provide environmental reasoning and background for well-maintained sewage treatment plants.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDEQ, LDHH, BTNEP.</p>	Complete
<p>During the Shellfish Challenge Initiative, four projects were chosen based on the potential to substantially decrease contamination to shellfish beds and the real potential for implementation: install new and improve use of pumpouts and dump stations (BT-31); revise the shellfish relay system (BT-32); connect poorly operating individual wastewater treatment systems along Bayou Petit Caillou to a community level treatment system (BT-38); and reroute stormwater runoff from Larose to Golden Meadow to suitable wetlands (BT-35). During the Initiative two Shellfish Challenge Coordinators were hired to work towards implementation of the Priority Projects. During their time, they were able to work with BTNEP state agencies partners to implement Shellfish Challenge Priority and non-Priority Projects. Implementation of project BT-31 was already beginning to be implemented when selection of the four Priority Projects was finalized by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. So far, six pumpout and dump stations have been installed within the BTNE complex. Project BT-32 was not implemented because the relay system involves moving oysters from areas of sewage discharge to "clean" areas. This makes the project logistically problematic. Project BT-38, was successful. BTNEP and Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government developed a workshop to assess community support for the sewer project in December, 1998. Greater than 50% of the people surveyed during the workshop were in favor of the sewer upgrade. This led to \$1 million dollars of community development funds being designated for the upgrade of the sewage collection system in Chauvin, LA. Project BT-35, has been highly successful with a twist. Currently, the BTNEP is implementing a stormwater rerouting demonstration project in the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area rather than in the Golden Meadow area. The first phase of the project is collecting baseline water quality and vegetation data; whereas, the second phase will collect post-pump station installation data for the same parameters. Other projects that have been implemented as part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative include a "Marina Environmental Management Measures Guide," "Marina Environmental Management Measures Guide Mural Display," a Shellfish Challenge Initiative computerized kiosk, and a Shellfish Challenge Initiative Website. Other ongoing BNTEP and Management Agency Partner projects are being implemented that continue to fulfill the goal of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP, LDWF / <i>Cost:</i> \$266,000.</p>	Complete
<p>The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) Molluscan Shellfish Program continued monitoring the concentration of sewage pathogen indicator -- fecal coliform bacteria -- in oyster growing waters throughout the BTES. Based on the results of this monitoring and on the time of year, the state classifies oyster growing waters as "open" or "closed" to harvest. The conservative nature of this program has been quite effective in preventing illness from the consumption of sewage contaminated oysters.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDHH.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Authored and published several publications on wetlands issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp and Houseboat Sanitation in Louisiana • Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Re-Introductions • Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration • Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Environmental and Economic Considerations 	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Louisiana and South Florida: A Comparative Wetland Inventory • Stewardship Incentives for Louisiana's Coastal Landowners • Wetlands Functions & Values in Louisiana • Portrait of an Estuary <p>The redirection of stormwater was one of the four priority projects conceived under the Gulf of Mexico's Shellfish Challenge Initiative. \$30,000 of seed money was directed to the Pointe Aux Chenes project from the Shellfish Challenge as seed money to get it started. There are 256 pumping stations in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary and these stations have the potential to be diverted, either completely or partially, into degrading wetlands. This project is measuring the effects of stormwater on degrading wetlands and pollutant removal. The project will measure various parameters both pre- and post- stormwater pump installation to get an idea of the impact that the stormwater has on nutrient uptake, bacterial die off, and vegetative growth among other effects. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000.</p> <p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p> <p>As part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative Grant, BTNEP and the Gulf of Mexico Program have developed a Marine Environmental Management Measures Guide booklet that contains sections covering the following titles and subjects: Top Ten Clean & Green Tips; Emergencies and Safety; Boat Safety; Hurricane Preparations; Hazardous Waste Disposal; Recycling; Smart Shopping; The Ocean is Not a Dump!; Oil and Fuel; Outboard Engine Maintenance; Prevent Pollution; Sewage Discharges; Exotic Plants; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Top side; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Bottom side; Tips for Wood Treatment, painting, and stripping; Tips for Graywater. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$4,000.</p> <p>As part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative Grant, BTNEP and the Gulf of Mexico Program have developed a Marine Environmental Management Measures Guide poster display that contains sections covering the following titles and subjects: Top Ten Clean & Green Tips; Emergencies and Safety; Boat Safety; Hurricane Preparations; Hazardous Waste Disposal; Recycling; Smart Shopping; The Ocean is Not a Dump!; Oil and Fuel; Outboard Engine Maintenance; Prevent Pollution; Sewage Discharges; Exotic Plants; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Top side; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Bottom side; Tips for Wood Treatment, painting, and stripping; Tips for Graywater. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$1,270.</p> <p>Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) samples monthly for fecal coliform bacteria at 140 stations in Terrebonne Basin to monitor bacterial levels above shellfish/oyster beds. Of the 140 stations in the Terrebonne basin, 4 are also sampled monthly for harmful algal blooms. In addition, the LDHH samples monthly for fecal coliform bacteria at 200 stations in Barataria Basin to monitor bacterial levels above shellfish/oyster beds; 4 of these stations also are sampled monthly for harmful algal blooms. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDHH.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-11	<p>Influence of Chopper-Harvested Green Cane Residue Blankets on Sugarcane Production and Agricultural Runoff – This project examines the use of plant residues deposited on the soil surface after harvesting green cane with a chopper harvester to minimize soil, nutrient, and pesticide losses from sugarcane fields without reducing cane and sugar yields. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> USDA, Ag. Research Service / <i>Cost:</i> \$80,825 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program – This project involved wetland and upland habitat management and protection.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>

	<p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP with no direct cash contribution.</p> <p>The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) continue to monitor atrazine concentrations at Six Sampling Stations in the Upper Terrebonne Basin.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDAF, LDEQ.</p> <p>The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service conducted a large number of field demonstrations of various methods for reducing the use of atrazine in corn and sugar cane fields in Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville Parishes. Information on atrazine runoff and appropriate BMPs was included in regularly scheduled grower meetings. In some areas, less than half the usual amount of atrazine was purchased by sugar cane farmers. Sugar cane is the predominant row crop in the BTNEP parishes and atrazine runoff from sugar cane in those parishes has been greatly reduced. A suitable alternative to atrazine for corn was not found; however, corn acreage in the BTNEP parishes is relatively small.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LCES.</p> <p>NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District provide farmers in Lafourche and Terrebonne the planning, engineering, and equipment to precision land grade their fields. In Lafourche and Terrebonne there were 1,094.2 acres done in 2001, 1,316.9 acres in 2002, and 1,732.8 acres in 2003. Precision grading improves surface drainage and controls soil erosion.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD.</p> <p>Technological advances in the Louisiana sugarcane industry are helping to improve production practices and maintain a healthy environment. Approximately half of the acreage is planted with LCP 85-384, a new high-yielding variety, and harvested with the combine harvest system. Producers can now effectively harvest lodged sugarcane and reduce harvest losses both in the field and on the highway. Management of the leaf "mulch" is being researched to reduce pesticide usage and soil loss. Additionally, several new environmentally friendly pesticides are being researched for use within the industry.</p> <p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-12	<p>Barataria-Terrebonne Resident's Guide – BTNEP is developing a guide (a booklet with color pictures) that explains the benefits of using native plants to improve wildlife habitat, provide water quality best management practices, and provide other eco-friendly landscaping practices.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>The redirection of stormwater was one of the four priority projects conceived under the Gulf of Mexico's Shellfish Challenge Initiative. \$30,000 of seed money was directed to the Pointe Aux Chenes project from the Shellfish Challenge as seed money to get it started. There are 256 pumping stations in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary and these stations have the potential to be diverted, either completely or partially, into degrading wetlands. This project is measuring the effects of stormwater on degrading wetlands and pollutant removal. The project will measure various parameters both pre- and post- stormwater pump installation to get an idea of the impact that the stormwater has on nutrient uptake, bacterial die off, and vegetative growth among other effects.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000.</p> <p>The South Central Planning and Development Commission continued their K-12 and public nonpoint source pollution (NPS) education project. The objective of this project is to transfer information about urban NPS and home sewage systems. The effectiveness of construction best management practices (BMPs) will be demonstrated through the use of presentations, photographs, and videos that</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>document successful examples. SCPDC served as an educational resource for elementary, middle and high schools by making presentations of "Desdemona's Splash," (EPA interactive computer game) and the EnviroScape® model (plastic watershed model). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> SCPDC / <i>Cost:</i> \$250,000 (\$150,000 from LDEQ; \$100,000 from SCPDC).</p> <p>During the Shellfish Challenge Initiative, four projects were chosen based on the potential to substantially decrease contamination to shellfish beds and the real potential for implementation: install new and improve use of pumpouts and dump stations (BT-31); revise the shellfish relay system (BT-32); connect poorly operating individual wastewater treatment systems along Bayou Petit Caillou to a community level treatment system (BT-38); and reroute stormwater runoff from Larose to Golden Meadow to suitable wetlands (BT-35). During the Initiative two Shellfish Challenge Coordinators were hired to work towards implementation of the Priority Projects. During their time, they were able to work with BTNEP state agencies partners to implement Shellfish Challenge Priority and non-Priority Projects. Implementation of project BT-31 was already beginning to be implemented when selection of the four Priority Projects was finalized by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. So far, six pumpout and dump stations have been installed within the BTNE complex. Project BT-32 was not implemented because the relay system involves moving oysters from areas of sewage discharge to "clean" areas. This makes the project logistically problematic. Project BT-38, was successful. BTNEP and Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government developed a workshop to assess community support for the sewer project in December, 1998. Greater than 50% of the people surveyed during the workshop were in favor of the sewer upgrade. This led to \$1 million dollars of community development funds being designated for the upgrade of the sewage collection system in Chauvin, LA. Project BT-35, has been highly successful with a twist. Currently, the BTNEP is implementing a stormwater rerouting demonstration project in the Pointe Aux Chenes Wildlife Management Area rather than in the Golden Meadow area. The first phase of the project is collecting baseline water quality and vegetation data; whereas, the second phase will collect post-pump station installation data for the same parameters. Other projects that have been implemented as part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative include a "Marina Environmental Management Measures Guide," "Marina Environmental Management Measures Guide Mural Display," a Shellfish Challenge Initiative computerized kiosk, and a Shellfish Challenge Initiative Website. Other ongoing BNTEP and Management Agency Partner projects are being implemented that continue to fulfill the goal of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP, LDWF / <i>Cost:</i> \$266,000.</p> <p>A statewide comprehensive plan is being prepared under the LCA process. This plan was submitted for inclusion in the WRDA Authorization of 2004.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-13	<p>BTNEP participated in the development of a sediment sampling and toxicity evaluation for Bayou Lafourche. Bayou Lafourche sediments were extensively sampled and evaluated in anticipation of the Bayou Lafourche re-introduction of the Mississippi River.</p>	Complete
EM-14	<p>LUMCON researchers continue to monitor harmful algal blooms along a transect in the Barataria Basin. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON.</p> <p>Water samples that are collected throughout the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary by LDHH are being monitored for harmful algal species.</p> <p>Monitoring for the occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): 1) Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals routine monitoring over oyster beds (1997-1999); 2) EPA GOMP EMPACT program (4 stations weekly to monthly, starting Sept. 1999); 3) LSU Barataria Transect (5 stations monthly, starting Mar. 1998); 4) Soniat/Dortch station in Terrebonne Bay (weekly sampling, starting 1994); 5) occasional sample analysis for various Louisiana State agencies after "red tides" or fish kills. The purpose is to determine what HAB species are present and likely to cause human health or ecosystem impacts and provide background data for comparison after the opening</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>of the Davis Pond Diversion. From the sampling to date, the Barataria estuary has the highest incidence and abundance of HAB species of all Louisiana estuaries routinely sampled.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDHH, LSU.</p> <p>Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) samples monthly for fecal coliform bacteria at 140 stations in Terrebonne Basin to monitor bacterial levels above shellfish/oyster beds. Of the 140 stations in the Terrebonne basin, 4 are also sampled monthly for harmful algal blooms. In addition, the LDHH samples monthly for fecal coliform bacteria at 200 stations in Barataria Basin to monitor bacterial levels above shellfish/oyster beds; 4 of these stations also are sampled monthly for harmful algal blooms.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDHH.</p>	Ongoing
Living Resources Action Plans		
EM-15	<p>Migratory Bird Celebration Days were held in April of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These events were designed to promote awareness of the importance of maritime forests and other barrier island habitats across the Gulf as staging areas for millions of migratory birds. The event is centered on promotion and education, and it gives the public an opportunity to see the thousands of birds in their migration.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, BTEF / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,000 (Sec. 320) for each year's event.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Educator Workshops – Two educator workshops (<i>Healthy Water, Healthy People, The Planning of Wetlands</i>) have been planned for January and March 2004, to highlight BTNEP curricular materials, in partnership with LUMCON Education Programs.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,540 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Barataria-Terrebonne Resident's Guide – BTNEP is developing a guide (a booklet with color pictures) that explains the benefits of using native plants to improve wildlife habitat, provide water quality best management practices, and provide other eco-friendly landscaping practices.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>An Accelerated Program of Woody Species Selection for Conservation, Restoration, and Enhancement of Neotropical Bird Habitat – The objectives of this project are (1) to implement an accelerated program to develop woody plant species technology; (2) to provide plant species information to coastal wetland managers; and (3) to demonstrate methods for improving plant species diversity and improved wildlife habitat.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> USDA, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$112,500 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Permitting for Boardwalk on Orleans Audubon Property, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana – Orleans Audubon is constructing a boardwalk and observation platform (with interpretive signage) on their property in Terrebonne Parish. BTNEP funding will be used to leverage other funds through Orleans Audubon Society, local tourism funding, and other funding sources.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Orleans Audubon Society / <i>Cost:</i> \$25,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Woodlands Trail and Park in Plaquemines Parish – The Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. (a grassroots, non-profit organization) is working with local, state, and federal partners to acquire and preserve a property in the English Turn area along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This site then will be added to the Coastal Louisiana Birding Trail and serve as an important ecotourism destination. BTNEP funding is providing the initial seed money needed to develop the trail and educational kiosks.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Grand Isle Birding Trail, Jefferson Parish, LA – The Louisiana Nature Conservancy established the Grand Isle Birding Trail with the intent</p>	Complete

<p>that it would be incorporated into the larger Coastal Birding Trail. The trail tied together a number of birding sites on the island. A map was developed showing these sites. A boardwalk, trail and kiosks were constructed to provide educational information about migratory and residential birds to the general public.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> The LA Nature Conservancy / <i>Cost:</i> \$61,000 (BTNEP contribution \$21,000).</p>	
<p>Migratory/Resident Bird Video – a video that addresses Barataria-Terrebonne’s importance to both migratory and resident birds was developed and mass produced, and is now available to the public. The video is 3rd in a series that is designed to inform, entertain, and encourage people to visit the area.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p>	Complete
<p>Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival – the 1st Annual Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival was held in October 2003. The purpose of this event was to educate people about the importance of bottomland hardwoods, cypress swamps, and floating marsh habitats to migratory and resident birds, encourage ecotourism, and promote habitat protection and restoration. The festival included several different bird tours, a forum for discussion of current activities, and opportunities to provide educational information.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,724 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>3rd Annual North American Ornithological Conference – BTNEP provided funding for this conference, which was held in New Orleans in September 2002.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Tulane University / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,775.</p>	Complete
<p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Barataria waterway) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of trees and shrubs in channel spoilbanks.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p>	Complete
<p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Grand Isle) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of trees and shrubs in salt marsh habitat.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p>	Complete
<p>*Accelerated Program for Woody Species Selection (Port Fourchon) – This project is part of an ongoing project, and involved planting of a tree and shrub adaptation trial in brackish marsh habitat.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, NFWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$27,850 (BTNEP contribution \$9,775).</p>	Complete
<p>*Wildlife Enhancement – This project involved tree planting of several species (sawtooth oak, water oak, green ash, mayhaw, bald cypress, blackgum, and cherrybark oak) in bottomland hardwood habitat.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$7,650 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>BTNEP, in a partnership with the NRCS Plant Material Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate a number of woody plant species and their ability to survive in the salt marsh/barrier island habitats of coastal Louisiana. The species chosen reflect those that are important to neotropical migrant songbirds that spend part of their lives in coastal Louisiana.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, NRCS Plant Material Center, LSU Ag. Center / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 4 years.</p>	Ongoing
<p>The LA Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism initiated the development of the Great Louisiana Coastal Birding Trail. Numerous sites across south Louisiana were nominated for inclusion. An effort to evaluate all of these sites was made and a list of appropriate sites was developed. LDCRT will be establishing a web site and brochure documents regarding the trail.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDCRT / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete

	<p>BTNEP in a partnership with NRCS Plant Materials Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate numerous herbaceous plants and their survival in the salt marsh environs at Port Fourchon, LA. In addition, this project serves to evaluate new techniques for planting that could reduce the price associated with vegetating newly restored marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, NRCS Plant Material Center, LSU Ag. Center / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 3 years.</p> <p>The Louisiana Nature Conservancy purchased 10 acres of property on Grand Isle, LA and developed management easements on other properties on the island. This effort helps to protect these critically imperiled habitats from destruction and serve as an ecotourism destination. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> The LA Nature Conservancy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
EM-16	<p>Barataria-Terrebonne Resident's Guide – BTNEP is developing a guide (a booklet with color pictures) that explains the benefits of using native plants to improve wildlife habitat, provide water quality best management practices, and provide other eco-friendly landscaping practices. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>The NRCS, through several incentive programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, has provided and continues to offer incentive payments for farmers in the BTNEP parishes to eliminate exotic species such as tallow trees and to reintroduce native species. NRCS has developed a conservation plan detailing steps to be taken to eliminate exotic species and to establish native species for each farmer who applied. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS.</p> <p>An aquatic vegetation study was conducted to determine the range and amount of hydrilla and investigate any chemical control measures in Bayou Lafourche. Study was conducted by Dr. Alex Lasseigne of Nicholls State University. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD / <i>Cost:</i> \$42,000.</p> <p>Hydrilla on Bayou Lafourche was controlled using two mechanical harvesters on loan from the US Army Corp of Engineers. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BLFWD, USEPA / <i>Cost:</i> \$150,000 (\$50,000 for equipment; \$100,000 per year for personnel).</p> <p>The Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (a USDA facility) continues to provide native plants for coastal restoration projects. Research continues at the center to determine which natives are best suited to stabilizing areas vulnerable to land loss from erosion. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> USDA.</p> <p>BTNEP has created an Invasive Species Coordinator position to establish an invasives program.</p> <p>In April 2003, BTNEP and other partners staffed a booth at Earth Day to educate the public of the impacts of exotic species. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p> <p>BTNEP initiated a contract to fund second year work on the State Invasives Management Plan. The Aquatic Task force is nearing the completion of a draft invasive species management plan. The Task Force is led by LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries. BTNEP is a member of this task force. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDWF.</p> <p>As part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative Grant, BTNEP and the Gulf of Mexico Program have developed a Marine Environmental Management Measures Guide booklet that contains sections covering the following titles and subjects: Top Ten Clean & Green Tips;</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>

	<p>Emergencies and Safety; Boat Safety; Hurricane Preparations; Hazardous Waste Disposal; Recycling; Smart Shopping; The Ocean is Not a Dump!; Oil and Fuel; Outboard Engine Maintenance; Prevent Pollution; Sewage Discharges; Exotic Plants; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Top side; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Bottom side; Tips for Wood Treatment, painting, and stripping; Tips for Graywater.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$4,000.</p> <p>As part of the Shellfish Challenge Initiative Grant, BTNEP and the Gulf of Mexico Program have developed a Marine Environmental Management Measures Guide poster display that contains sections covering the following titles and subjects: Top Ten Clean & Green Tips; Emergencies and Safety; Boat Safety; Hurricane Preparations; Hazardous Waste Disposal; Recycling; Smart Shopping; The Ocean is Not a Dump!; Oil and Fuel; Outboard Engine Maintenance; Prevent Pollution; Sewage Discharges; Exotic Plants; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Top side; Boat Maintenance and Repair: Bottom side; Tips for Wood Treatment, painting, and stripping; Tips for Graywater.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, GOMP / <i>Cost:</i> \$1,270.</p>	Complete
EM-17	<p>The LSU Sea Grant College Program is funding growth and mortality studies of zebra mussels in the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge by researchers at the LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute. The Sea Grant Program also funds an outreach project led by researcher Yvonne Allen, who is visiting towboat captains from Morganza to Venice to educate them about environmentally sensitive means of removing zebra mussels from boat hulls and from the boat's internal water systems.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LSU Sea Grant College Program.</p> <p>The Terrebonne Parish Water Department, Schriever station, is monitoring for adult and veliger populations of zebra mussels around its intake area. Veligers coming in from the Intracoastal Waterway have been identified, but no adult populations have been found.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Terrebonne Parish Water Department.</p> <p>BTNEP has incorporated a zebra mussel component in its indicator program.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EM-18	<p>Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Continued Development and Implementation of DIMS – The purpose of the Data Information and Management System (DIMS) is to archive and disseminate information that was generated and/or used by BTNEP in developing the CCMP. DIMS serves as a repository of data on the Barataria-Terrebonne basins, and this information can be used as a baseline to compare the effectiveness of action plan implementation.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$70,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

III. Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement

Citizen Involvement and Participation Action Plans		
SR-1	<p>Bayou Land Resource Conservation and Development was developed and a number of projects have been completed or recently initiated through partnerships (including with BTNEP).</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Bayou Land Resource Conservation and Development.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The BTNEP staff represents the interests of the CCMP in policy-making venues by actively participating on various boards, study panels, and committees for interagency and community-based natural resources management. Currently, Program staff hold seats with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Interagency Committee • Louisiana Coastal Curriculum Committee • Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force, and Outreach Committee • Gulf of Mexico Program Focus Teams (Public Health, Non-Indigenous Species, Habitat) • Gulf of Mexico Program Shellfish Challenge Initiative • Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association • Association of National Estuary Programs, Public Outreach Committee • Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Advisory Board • Louisiana Sea Grant Exotic Species Board • Estuary Research Foundation • Restore or Retreat • America's Fisheries Society • SeaGrant Director Search Committee • Louisiana Science Teacher's Association • Environmental Educator's Association • America's Wetlands Campaign • National Marine Educator's Association • Louisiana Marine Educator's Association • Native Plant Society • Ground Water Management Task Force • New Orleans Chamber of Commerce • Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce • Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce • Bayou Region Chamber of Commerce • Louisiana Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force 	Ongoing
	<p>The Terrebonne Parish Council reinstated the Terrebonne Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee by resolution in 1997. The</p>	Ongoing

	<p>presence and activities of BTNEP helped to raise awareness about particular coastal issues that required special attention by the Terrebonne Parish government. The Committee comprises 15 members representing various interests within the parish, including commercial and recreational fishing, private landowners, the oyster and shrimp harvesting industry, marine interests, and the general public. The Terrebonne Parish CZM Program was approved by the State Department of Natural Resources in 2000.</p> <p>The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation has been awarded a Gulf of Mexico Grant to build capacity within the Bayou Lafourche Community. The Bayou Lafourche Initiative is building an alliance of cultural and environmental organizations and gathering community leaders to focus attention and improve the health of the Bayou Lafourche Community. BTNEP has continued projects under the Bayou Lafourche Initiative, contributing to a linkage of communities along this 100-mile bayou. One of the results is the forming of a multi-parish committee that is working on the production of a bayou map for environmental tourism. There is also strong interest in the development of a canoe livery business. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP program staff has been requested to present to Leadership Programs on a regular basis, including Leadership Lafourche and Leadership Terrebonne. Involvement in these programs has given program staff access to civic and business leaders on an annual basis, and has provided an opportunity for their education about BTNEP, the seven priority problems, our action plans to address those problems, and our progress thus far. These leaders have become participants in BTNEP events and programs, such as our annual festival, paddle trips, as well as planting efforts. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP with no direct cash contribution (in-kind materials, donations, etc.).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP now maintains memberships in several area Chambers of Commerce, including the Greater New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, The Chamber of Lafourche and the Bayou Region; the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce, and the Houma-Terrebonne chamber of Commerce. These memberships provide BTNEP program staff regular opportunities for contact with area business and civic leaders. Special events and seminars provide opportunities for presentations about BTNEP priority problems and our actions to correct them.</p>	Ongoing
SR-2	<p>Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure – The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding of the need to keep BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (November 2001, 2002, and 2003). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Program continues the use of Action Plan Teams (APT) to assist the staff in the development of projects. APTs are made up of individuals who have an interest in that action plan. These individuals range from scientists to the general public.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>In February 2003, the Program, along with EPA, sponsored and facilitated a public meeting to gather input from citizens on the LCA. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, USEPA.</p>	Complete
	<p>In conjunction with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, BTNEP hosted several Wetland Workshops. These workshops were held in Terrebonne, Plaquemines and Jefferson parishes. BTNEP regularly sponsors meetings and seminars addressing a variety of issues confronting our system. These seminars are open to the public. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, CRCL.</p>	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 16, 2002 -- The Barataria-Terrebonne Basin and the Opportunity for a Third Delta (co-sponsored with Restore or Retreat, BTNEP with in kind contribution). May 2, 2003 -- Climate Change and Coastal Fisheries in Louisiana (co-sponsored with Mississippi River Basin Alliance, BTNEP with in-kind contribution). Spring of 2002 -- Wetlands Workshop for local government leaders and planning officials held in Jefferson Parish (co-sponsored with the Coalition to Restore Coastal LA, BTNEP contribution \$7,000). November, 2003 -- a seminar regarding the Brownfield Redevelopment effort in the region (co-sponsored with the South Central Planning and Development Commission). <p>BTNEP coordinated and organized 2 Project Selection Meeting for the Gulf of Mexico Program and the State of Louisiana. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p> <p>BTNEP was asked by multiple agencies to lead and coordinate the response to the Marsh Dieback. This phenomenon was classified as an Ecological Emergency.</p> <p>3rd Annual North American Ornithological Conference -- BTNEP provided funding for this conference, which was held in New Orleans in September 2002. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Tulane University / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,775.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
SR-3	<p>Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure -- The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding of the need to keep BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (November 2001, 2002, and 2003). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Marsh Maneuvers -- Marsh Maneuvers is a week-long, intensive camping experience conducted four times in July by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the LSU Sea Grant Program, the LDWF, and BTNEP. The camp is held at the LDWF's St. Amant Marine Lab on Grand Terre Island, where youth learn about marine ecology, barrier islands, the fisheries industry, and the culture of coastal Louisiana. The last night of the camp, teens (from four different parishes all over the state) role play local government making decisions about coastal land management. Top campers have an opportunity to participate in an advanced camp at LUMCON's Cocodrie facility. These coastal wetlands educational camps are conducted for about 100 students annually. In addition, presentations about the Marsh Maneuvers camps were given at the 4-H Club Congress. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Cooperative Extension Service, LA Sea Grant, LDWF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 annually (BTNEP contribution \$4,000).</p> <p>BTNEP 2004 Calendar -- BTNEP developed and printed a tidal graph calendar for the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The calendar also provides information on numerous issues relevant to the area. For example, pictures and text address the importance of the Louisiana Derelict Crab Trap Program, explain the shrimp life cycle and habitat requirements, and highlight restoration projects addressing Louisiana's coastal erosion problem; each month presents information about contemporary issues related to cultural heritage, coastal resources, living resources, water quality, and other topics. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,252 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Migratory Bird Day celebrations were held in April of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These events were designed to promote awareness of</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>1st printing complete, 2nd printing ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>the importance of maritime forests and other barrier island habitats across the Gulf as staging areas for millions of migratory birds. The event is centered on promotion and education, and it gives the public an opportunity to see the thousands of birds in their migration.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,000 (Sec. 320) for each year's event.</p>	
<p>La Fête d'Écologie estuary festivals were held in fall of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These festivals are educational events targeted to the general public, highlighting cultural and environmental issues of the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The goal of these events is to demonstrate the values of the estuary, demonstrating to citizens why the region is worth protecting and restoring. Promotions include radio, television, and print advertisements (e.g., billboards, design and layout of t-shirts, newspaper inserts, etc.). Volunteers participate in these events, which attract approximately 4,000 visitors.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$40,000 (Sec. 320) for 2003 festival and promotions.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival – the 1st Annual Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival was held in October 2003. The purpose of this event was to educate people about the importance of bottomland hardwoods, cypress swamps, and floating marsh habitats to migratory and resident birds, encourage ecotourism, and promote habitat protection and restoration. The festival included several different bird tours, a forum for discussion of current activities, and opportunities to provide educational information.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,724 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP funds were used to purchase water quality testing kits for educators participating in the Gulf Coast-wide Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) Institute. This National Science Foundation program aims to develop partnerships between marine researchers and educators and promote a deeper understanding of marine science and technology by the public.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON / <i>Cost:</i> \$1,273 (Sec. 320).</p>	Complete
<p>Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnepest.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Barataria Waterway Marsh Creation – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish and intermediate marsh creation.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,500 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Grand Isle Rehabilitation – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for the creation of dunes.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps, UNO Env. Camp / <i>Cost:</i> \$9,400 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Deer Range Canal – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for brackish marsh creation.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$16,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Myrtle Grove – This rehabilitation project involved vegetative planting for shoreline protection.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD, LDNR, LDAF, Americorps / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,100 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete

<p>*Queen Bess '02 – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in salt marsh-spoil habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$6,200 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Simoneaux '02 – This project involved vegetative planting of giant cutgrass in fresh marsh habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$9,300 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Jonathan Davis – This project involved vegetative planting of California bulrush in intermediate and brackish marsh habitats. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,400 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Barataria Land Bridge – This project involved vegetative planting of smooth cordgrass in brackish-spoil habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Americorps, Crescent SWCD, NRCS, LDNR / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,700 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Complete
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves creation of 45 acres of brackish marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$325,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves placement of rock for shoreline protection of an eroding canal and removal of an artificial levee that was impounding over 1,850 acres of fish habitat. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$333,650 (BTNEP contribution \$12,600).</p>	Ongoing
<p>*Lafourche Parish Wisner Restoration Project – This project involves beach protection via sand fencing and mangrove planting. In May 2003, BTNEP recruited 18 volunteers from area schools and civic clubs to participate in the planting of 2,300 black mangroves on property owned by the Wisner Donation Land Trust at Port Fourchon. The planting was completed over a two-day period. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Edward Wisner donation, NOAA Restoration Center, UNO, Restore America's Estuaries, CRCL, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Morris P. Herbert, Inc., BTNEP, Chevron Texaco, NRCS / <i>Cost:</i> \$36,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP, in a partnership with the NRCS Plant Material Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate a number of woody plant species and their ability to survive in the salt marsh/barrier island habitats of coastal Louisiana. The species chosen reflect those that are important to neotropical migrant songbirds that spend part of their lives in coastal Louisiana. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS Plant Material Center, LSU Ag. Center, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 4 years.</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP in a partnership with NRCS Plant Materials Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate numerous herbaceous plants and their survival in the salt marsh environs at Port Fourchon, LA. In addition, this project serves to evaluate new techniques for planting that could reduce the price associated with vegetating newly restored marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS Plant Material Center, LSU Ag. Center, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 3 years.</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP Participated in the coastal wetlands training and project direction of Americorps on the Bayou volunteers. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LSU Ag. Center, LA Sea Grant.</p>	Complete
<p>Coastal Roots: School Seedling Nursery Program for Coastal Restoration – As part of this program to assist BTNEP area students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward natural resources in the area, 17 schools in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are actively growing seedlings and conducting plantings for habitat restoration projects. The project provides each school with about</p>	Ongoing

	<p>1000 seedlings to perform yearly small-scale restoration projects in the coastal zone. In addition, a planting manual and teacher's guide were developed, and several editions of the Coastal Roots Newsletter have been circulated to participating schools and the general public. Exhibits about this project have been presented at 4 major festivals in the area. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Sea Grant, LSU Ag. Center.</p> <p>Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management (Jess Curole) purchases 1,000 Cypress trees each year, and with the help of Kirk Kilgen (DNR), Susan Terrebonne (Les Reflections Du Bayou), and volunteers, the trees are planted along Bayou Lafourche and other areas. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Lafourche CZM Program.</p> <p>Les Reflections du Bayou has increased environmental awareness and stewardship in the region, as evidenced by a 25% increase in membership, a 25% increase in coverage of environmental issues by the three local forms of media (newspaper, television, and radio), and by the involvement on monitoring and planting projects of 10 community groups that have previously not participated in environmental stewardship efforts. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.</p> <p>Les Reflections du Bayou is planting marsh grass plants along Bayou Lafourche's banks and the area's hurricane protections levees, and the marshlands surrounding Bayou Lafourche, thereby enhancing coastal and marine habitat. These planting are designed to raise awareness about land loss and activate community groups to become better environmental stewards. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.</p> <p>Les Reflections du Bayou is expanding the Citizens Water Quality Monitoring of Bayou Lafourche to at least 4 monthly monitoring locations. This monitoring is designed to raise community awareness and activate community groups to become better environmental stewards. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
SR-4	<p>Les Reflections du Bayou is expanding the Citizens Water Quality Monitoring of Bayou Lafourche to at least 4 monthly monitoring locations. This monitoring is designed to raise community awareness and activate community groups to become better environmental stewards. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.</p> <p>LUMCON is working with estuary teachers and groups to set up local monitoring programs for schools within the estuary. This program is called Bayou Side Classroom. BTNEP provides funds and training for this program. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON, BTNEP.</p> <p>BTNEP has produced a "Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities....." Report to disseminate information on environmental indicators. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
SR-5	<p>Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure – The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding of the need to keep BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (November 2001, 2002, and 2003). Paddle Bayou Lafourche, these 4-day paddling trips, have become known among participants as "cultural trips". Paddlers are treated to a "backyard view" of the bayou's culture, and residents take pride in showing off their lifestyles. Evening</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>events highlight cultures such as the United Houma Nation Native American tribe. The local pride that is fostered by these trips results in a heightened sense of stewardship for the bayou. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	
<p>Woodlands Trail and Park in Plaquemines Parish – The Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. (a grassroots, non-profit organization) is working with local, state, and federal partners to acquire and preserve a property in the English Turn area along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This site then will be added to the Coastal Louisiana Birding Trail and serve as an important ecotourism destination. BTNEP funding is providing the initial seed money needed to develop the trail and educational kiosks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>La Fête d'Écologie estuary festivals were held in fall of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These festivals are educational events targeted to the general public, highlighting cultural and environmental issues of the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The goal of these events is to demonstrate the values of the estuary, demonstrating to citizens why the region is worth protecting and restoring. Promotions include radio, television, and print advertisements (e.g., billboards, design and layout of t-shirts, newspaper inserts, etc.). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$40,000 (Sec. 320) for 2003 festival and promotions.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Louisiana Marine Fisheries Museum in St. Charles Parish – BTNEP contributed funding support for museum. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Marine Fisheries Museum Foundation.</p>	Complete
<p>The Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve continues to provide permanent and revolving museum exhibits to highlight cultures of southeast Louisiana and their interaction with the wetland environment. The center also serves to perpetuate cultural exchange with weekly informal music programs. The center added a children's room, with hands-on activities for kids to explore their cultural heritage. Average annual visitation to the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, from its opening in November 1992 to December of 2003, was approximately 90,000.</p>	Ongoing
<p>The Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve conducts 2 week-long historical and environmental summer camps for kids, with funding provided by BTNEP.</p>	Ongoing
<p>The Cheniere Hurricane Centennial centers on a community destroyed by a hurricane. Survivors of the hurricane established communities throughout the basin. This project illustrates the bond between the natural resources in the basins, the evolution of activities of long-time residents, and the unique culture that resulted. A video of highlights from the centennial has been made and circulated.</p>	Complete
<p>The National Wetlands Research Center has developed an interactive CD-ROM that focuses on wetland types in Louisiana. It is part of an overall effort to work with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Program to identify the cultural, ecological, and economic importance of Louisiana's wetland resources. To date, over 20,000 copies have been distributed.</p>	Complete
<p>For each of the past four years, Pierre Part Middle School has celebrated "Heritage Day." What was first conceived as a school festival has grown to a festival that includes this entire formerly French-speaking community as exhibitors as well as participants. The festival features Cajun musicians and dancers, traditional boat-building exhibits, oral history presentations by 100+ year-old community elders, and traditional crafts which rely on the resources of the local environment. The festival has grown to include exhibits by representatives from state and local resource management agencies, who inform the community about their efforts to manage the resources and counter threats to the environment.</p>	Ongoing

	<p>BTNEP annually supports the Bayou Camps Program, with the intention of developing awareness and interest among students about environmental issues related to Louisiana wetland environments and the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. The camp is now held at Nicholls State University and includes four two-week sessions. Bayou Camp provides over 500 K-8 students in Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes with both classroom and field experience.</p> <p>The Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum continues to operate in the town of Houma. The museum to act as a tourism anchor as well as an environmental educational tool.</p> <p>Destrehan Plantation celebrates the Spring Heritage Festival, involving thousands of school children in learning about the rich cultural history of plantation and levee living.</p> <p>Three commercial books have been published highlighting the gravity of the coastal land loss in the B-T system, and Louisiana as a whole. Each of these books has covered the BTES in detail. Each of the authors was able to rely on BTNEP staff for accurate technical information in addition to general information about our system. These books are: <i>Holding Back the Sea: The Struggle for America's Natural Legacy on the Gulf Coast</i> by Christopher Hallowell (2001); <i>Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast</i> by Mike Tidwell (2003), and <i>Saving Louisiana? The Battle for Coastal Wetlands</i> by Bill Streever (2003).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
SR-6	<p>Barataria-Terrebonne Resident's Guide – BTNEP is developing a guide (a booklet with color pictures) that explains the benefits of using native plants to improve wildlife habitat, provide water quality best management practices, and provide other eco-friendly landscaping practices. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Woodlands Trail and Park in Plaquemines Parish – The Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. (a grassroots, non-profit organization) is working with local, state, and federal partners to acquire and preserve a property in the English Turn area along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This site then will be added to the Coastal Louisiana Birding Trail and serve as an important ecotourism destination. BTNEP funding is providing the initial seed money needed to develop the trail and educational kiosks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>SCPDC, a member of the BTNEP Management Conference, in conjunction with the City of Thibodaux, applied for and was awarded a Phase I site assessment grant under the EPA's Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative. The Phase II application is pending. If approved, the City will convert property that was once an abandoned landfill into a city park, landscaped with native plants and trees. BTNEP contribution is in-kind. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> SCPDC, City of Thibodaux / <i>Cost:</i> \$250,000 (Phase I award from EPA to SCPDC).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
SR-7	<p>BTNEP has continued the storm drain marking program as part of its water quality program. As part of this program, the Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator leads groups within the community on storm drain marking and hanging door hangers. Participants in the "marking day" are given a short presentation on nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and directions on how to safely apply the adhesive to the markers and apply the markers and on how to hang door hangers. During this time period 287 storm drain markers were put down and 207 Door Hangers were put on houses. In addition to normal requests for stormdrain marking, BTNEP partners each year with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) education program to teach high school students stewardship skills using the exercise of stormdrain marking during the LUMCON Estuarine Awareness and Discovery (LEAD) summer camp.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	Lead Agencies: BTNEP, LUMCON.	
Public Information and Education Action Plans		
SR-8	<p>Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.</p> <p>Lead Agencies: BTNEP / Cost: \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Outreach Committee has initiated a website at www.lacoast.gov. This site includes up-to date information on CWPPRA projects as well as the Brown Marsh Phenomenon in Barataria-Terrebonne. This group also maintains an e-mail news flash service that is targeted not only to legislators and decision makers, but members of the general public as well.</p> <p>Lead Agencies: CWPPRA.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities distributes copies of the CWPPRA publication <i>Watermarks</i> and relevant newspaper clippings on coastal issues to LA legislators. It also distributes information requested through legislative constituent referrals with a copy to the legislator. Staff members of the Governor's Office continue to meet regularly with members of the House and Senate Environmental Committee, as well as the Natural Resources Committee, for input into the State Plan, and for restoration updates.</p> <p>Lead Agencies: LA Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources maintains a full time person for informing, educating and telling the Louisiana coastal story to the Louisiana Delegation. This person meets regularly with House and Senate staffers to provide updates on coastal issues.</p> <p>Lead Agencies: LDNR.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>State Representative Loulan Pitre, who is Vice Chairman of the BTNEP MC, serves as a conduit for distribution of BTNEP educational materials to the Louisiana Legislature.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP is increasingly serving as a credible source of information to federal and state legislators. In the Fall of 2003, BTNEP hosted a tour of Bayou Lafourche for representatives of the EPA and federal and state legislators to inform them of critical issues regarding water usage on this bayou.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP has produced a "Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities....." Report to disseminate information on environmental indicators.</p> <p>Lead Agencies: BTNEP.</p>	Complete
	<p>BTNEP provided educational information to state and federal legislators regarding the impacts of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activity on the BTES. Efforts of the Louisiana Delegation resulted in approximately \$26 million in Coastal Impact Assistance Funds to the State of Louisiana. Monies are distributed by the State through its Parish governments.</p>	Complete

SR-9	Public Awareness Program – This project involves development of public outreach and education materials, including a display for the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Re-Introduction Project and a multi-purpose media/information packet for BTNEP. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).	Ongoing
	BTNEP Portable Education Display – In 2001, BTNEP purchased a Nimlok 10' display, to build public awareness for the program and to visually stimulate interest and education of potentially large audiences about the BTES's ecological problems. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 (Sec. 320).	Complete
	Point Coupee to the Gulf: Production of a Bi-weekly Newspaper Column – 48 newspaper columns were produced and distributed to newspapers located within the estuary. These columns featured interviews with basin residents and information on BTNEP issues and programs. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF.	Complete
	Les Reflections du Bayou has increased environmental awareness and stewardship in the region, as evidenced by a 25% increase in membership, a 25% increase in coverage of environmental issues by the three local forms of media (newspaper, television, and radio), and by the involvement on monitoring and planting projects of 10 community groups that have previously not participated in environmental stewardship efforts. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Les Reflections du Bayou.	Ongoing
	Three commercial books have been published highlighting the gravity of the coastal land loss in the B-T system, and Louisiana as a whole. Each of these books has covered the BTES in detail. Each of the authors was able to rely on BTNEP staff for accurate technical information in addition to general information about our system. These books are: <i>Holding Back the Sea: The Struggle for America's Natural Legacy on the Gulf Coast</i> by Christopher Hallowell (2001); <i>Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast</i> by Mike Tidwell (2003), and <i>Saving Louisiana? The Battle for Coastal Wetlands</i> by Bill Streever (2003).	Complete
	In February 2001, BTNEP hosted reporters from KNOE TV in Monroe, LA who produced a feature segment on coastal erosion in South Louisiana.	Complete
	During the 2003 Paddle Bayou Lafourche trip, a film crew from the University of Tampa participated in shooting many hours of footage to be made into a documentary on Louisiana's land loss.	
	In September 2003, BTNEP produced a live broadcast over the internet from the Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection levee. This broadcast was funded by NOAA and was viewed by students across Louisiana and the nation. It was subsequently made into BTNEP's newest video and is being widely distributed.	Complete
	BTNEP Director and Program staff participate in regularly scheduled, monthly radio interviews to discuss ecological issues affecting the B-T- system on KTIB Radio in Thibodaux. In addition, special appearances to promote BTNEP sponsored events are conducted on KLRZ Radio in Larose. BTNEP program staff appears on HTV's taped cooking show, "Cooking at Its Finest" to showcase recipes featuring estuarine resources and to promote upcoming BTNEP events twice per year.	Ongoing
	In Spring 2001, ITV aired a documentary on invasive species which included footage of a boat tour of a Hydrilla infestation on Bayou Lafourche.	Complete
	Published author Mike Tidwell visited South Louisiana in 2000 to gather information for his upcoming book <i>Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Coast</i> . BTNEP staff arranged for and accompanied the author on a flight over the estuary. One	Complete

chapter is devoted to Barataria-Terrebonne and the flight with Kerry St. Pé over the decimated marsh.	
Baton Rouge Advocate environmental reporter Amy Wold has written a number of stories about coastal land loss. BTNEP partners have worked with Ms.Wold to get the issues before the public	Complete
BTNEP has continued a strong relationship with Thibodaux Daily Comet environmental writer Katina Gaudet. Ms Gaudet not only covers BTNEP and other coastal functions, but frequently contacts the program in quest of stories or advice.	Ongoing
Many Management Conference members work in agencies which have their own media staff and report on BTNEP efforts.	Ongoing
Television broadcasts, such as BTNEP's "Haunted Waters" and "Rescuing the Treasure" and the latest video, "America's Vanishing Treasure" on Louisiana Public Broadcasting and National Public Broadcasting, are another form of communications used to generate interest in the Program. When "Rescuing the Treasure" was first premiered on WYES-TV, New Orleans, the viewing ratings were near the highest market-share, even besting a televised Saints football game! Numerous citizens have contacted the Program office after viewing the video documentaries, and many citizen relationships with the Program have been initiated from our participation in community events.	Complete
Whenever possible, the Program uses event announcements as an opportunity to educate the public about the estuary. Promotional materials that are distributed to print and broadcast media, such as the "Migratory Bird Day Celebration" and "La Fete d'Ecologie," serve not only to publicize and announce the events, but as educational tools. In addition, these events themselves generate substantial media coverage of estuary issues and events.	Ongoing
The BTNEP Program Director and other Program spokespersons are recognized by the media as resources for factual and consensus-based information on often controversial estuary issues. In addition, the Program is recognized as being able to address a broad range of issues, from nutria market development and nature-based tourism to stormwater management and Brown Marsh Phenomenon. This recognition has substantially increased media coverage of the Program, the CCMP, and the Program's efforts within the estuary.	Ongoing
BTNEP has established its e-newsletter <i>Crablines</i> . <i>Crablines</i> reaches approximately 900 email recipients on the BTNEP database. <i>Crablines</i> is not a regularly scheduled newsletter, but an occasional update of Program office activities and an alert to upcoming events and noteworthy issues and projects. <i>Crablines</i> is issued approximately 5 times per year.	Ongoing
BTNEP staff have given numerous presentations and tours to media representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BTNEP Program Director gave a presentation and BTNEP materials were distributed to the American Society of Environmental Journalists. • The BTNEP Community Relations Coordinator participated in a national conference of the National Association of Government Communicators. • BTNEP Program staff hosted a film crew from Southern California, Joes Pickford and Company, providing resource materials, and guided spots for filming. A travelogue featuring the B-T system and Coastal Louisiana will be produced from this trip. • BTNEP Program Staff provided a land and water tour to reporters from National Geographic Magazine. The tour featured stops at the BTNEP Maritime Forest Ridge Restoration Project and the Chenier Forest in Grand Isle. These stops demonstrate the importance of habitat in the C-T system to neo-tropical migrant birds. • BTNEP Program Staff provided a guided tour of Bayou Lafourche and area coastal marshes to LSU post-graduate 	Complete

	<p>journalism students. A documentary on coastal land loss will be produced by this group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTNEP Program staff provided a guided tour of Bayou Lafourche, area coastal marshes and Port Fourchon to a reporter for Germany's division of National Public Radio. A four-minute segment on the ecological crisis in coastal Louisiana was produced as result of this trip and was aired in Germany. <p>BTNEP has developed relationships with area newspapers. A reporter from the Daily Comet attends quarterly management conference meetings. Relationships with other newspapers and periodicals include the Morning Advocate, The Houma Courier, and The Tri-Parish Times.</p> <p>BTNEP has an update column in the LUMCON News, the quarterly newsletter of its state sponsor, the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium. The BTNEP Update page became a regular feature of the LUMCON News in 2002. LUMCON News is mailed to an audience of 1200 recipients from the scientific community, area legislators, and marine educators, as well as the general public. The newsletter also is mailed to 30 international recipients.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
SR-10	<p>Public Awareness Program – This project involves development of public outreach and education materials, including a display for the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Re-Introduction Project and a multi-purpose media/information packet for BTNEP. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Point Coupee to the Gulf: Production of a Bi-weekly Newspaper Column – 48 newspaper columns were produced and distributed to newspapers located within the estuary. These columns featured interviews with basin residents and information on BTNEP issues and programs. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF.</p> <p>BTNEP Portable Education Display – In 2001, BTNEP purchased a Nimlok 10' display, to build public awareness for the program and to visually stimulate interest and education of potentially large audiences about the BTES's ecological problems. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>The Americorps on the Bayou group members acted as emissaries for the BTNEP, giving over 100 presentations on estuary issues in local schools.</p> <p>The Family and Consumer Education civic organization from South Lafourche Parish has given presentations on the estuary that was delivered by local group members to all state chapters of their organization.</p> <p>The Management Conference members as well as BTNEP staff have routinely spoken to civic clubs, professional clubs, and other organizations concerning the ways our natural environment is critical to our lives in Barataria-Terrebonne.</p> <p>BTNEP has begun work on forming a council of advocates, called Leadership Barataria-Terrebonne. This council will be composed of interested persons from community sectors throughout the estuary. This group will be intensively trained in BTNEP issues, so as to be able to bring the message home through presentations to their own communities.</p> <p>The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, with funding from BTNEP, has developed a slide presentation regarding Mississippi River water quality. This presentation was delivered to leaders in coastal parishes by a volunteer team of water quality experts. The speaker team targeted parishes faced with considering the pros and cons of diverting river water into ailing marshes for restoration purposes. This project also produced a directory of coastal water quality experts, with contact information.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>

	The Jefferson Parish Environmental and Development Control Department provides speakers to schools, scouts, and civic groups, who explain various public outreach programs, such as the storm drain marking program the nonpoint source pollution poster contest and the Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Program.	Ongoing
	With BTNEP funding, the Cooperative Extension Service conducts 5-week long Marsh Maneuvers Camps each summer for 4-H students, who learn about issues affecting the estuary.	Ongoing
	South Central Planning can be called upon to give presentations on non-point source pollution using a watershed model and computer program.	Ongoing
	South Terrebonne Levee District personnel and South Lafourche Levee District each have representatives who BTNEP can call upon to give presentations on a variety of estuary issues.	Ongoing
	There are a number of estuary partners with specific areas of expertise whom we rely on regularly to speak for us on estuary issues. Sixty talks were conducted on the integration of environmental integrity and human habitation in coastal Louisiana.	Ongoing Complete
SR-11	Program Information Materials – Numerous informational documents highlighting estuary issues have been produced by BTNEP. These materials are used by educators in public presentations, and are available to the public. See Appendix G for a complete list of materials available through BTNEP.	Ongoing
	Public Awareness Program – This project involves development of public outreach and education materials, including a display for the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Re-Introduction Project and a multi-purpose media/information packet for BTNEP. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$15,000 (Sec. 320).	Ongoing
	BTNEP 2004 Calendar – BTNEP developed and printed a tidal graph calendar for the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The calendar also provides information on numerous issues relevant to the area. For example, pictures and text address the importance of the Louisiana Derelict Crab Trap Program, explain the shrimp life cycle and habitat requirements, and highlight restoration projects addressing Louisiana's coastal erosion problem; each month presents information about contemporary issues related to cultural heritage, coastal resources, living resources, water quality, and other topics. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,252 (Sec. 320).	1 st printing complete, 2 nd printing ongoing
	Point Coupee to the Gulf: Production of a Bi-weekly Newspaper Column – 48 newspaper columns were produced and distributed to newspapers located within the estuary. These columns featured interviews with basin residents and information on BTNEP issues and programs. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF.	Complete
	BTNEP Portable Education Display – In 2001, BTNEP purchased a Nimlok 10' display, to build public awareness for the program and to visually stimulate interest and education of potentially large audiences about the BTES's ecological problems. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 (Sec. 320).	Complete
	Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnepp.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.	Ongoing

	<p>Chamber of Commerce, BTNEP, the Terrebonne Parish School Board, and the Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Diocese, key teachers and principals in the region were given presentations and teaching materials, including a video targeted to students, produced by BTNEP, on land loss in the estuary. These teachers, in turn, brought the information and materials back to their schools, and developed class activities with their fellow teachers.</p> <p>Between January 2001 and December 2003, BTNEP participated in 85 conferences and community events, such as "Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo" in Grand Isle, where educational materials are broadly distributed to the general public.</p> <p>BTNEP has produced a "Healthy <i>Estuary</i>, Healthy <i>Economy</i>, Healthy <i>Communities</i>...." Report to disseminate information on environmental indicators.</p> <p>An Oil Spill Prevention Action Plan Team was formed and includes representatives from Shell Pipeline and the US Coast Guard.</p> <p>BTNEP participated in the production of the "What's An Estuary? Now You Know" multi-media presentation.</p> <p>BTNEP produced a number of new target-specific products during this time period, including a yearly tidal graph calendar for the fishing community, Estuary Live video for the formal education community, a Clean Marina Guide for boaters, an Oil Spill Prevention Manual for the oil industry, and an environmental indicators report for general audiences.</p> <p>The CWPPRA Outreach committee has developed a series of project fact sheets which contain a project description, a statement of the problem the project is designed to correct, the restoration strategy involved, and the progress of the project, as well as a project site map. The most recent round of fact sheets was developed in October 2003. These sheets are distributed at conferences, seminars, and special events, and are also available on the web. Twenty-three fact sheets have been developed for CWPPRA projects in the BTES.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
SR-12	<p>BTNEP 2004 Calendar – BTNEP developed and printed a tidal graph calendar for the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The calendar also provides information on numerous issues relevant to the area. For example, pictures and text address the importance of the Louisiana Derelict Crab Trap Program, explain the shrimp life cycle and habitat requirements, and highlight restoration projects addressing Louisiana's coastal erosion problem; each month presents information about contemporary issues related to cultural heritage, coastal resources, living resources, water quality, and other topics. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$5,252 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>Through the education page of the BTNEP website, educators can now access video clips from 4 of the 6 BTNEP videos, as well as a downloadable field trip guide and salt marsh activity book.</p> <p>Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival – the 1st Annual Wings Over the Wetlands Bird Festival was held in October 2003. The purpose of this event was to educate people about the importance of bottomland hardwoods, cypress swamps, and floating marsh</p>	<p>1st printing complete, 2nd printing ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

habitats to migratory and resident birds, encourage ecotourism, and promote habitat protection and restoration. The festival included several different bird tours, a forum for discussion of current activities, and opportunities to provide educational information. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,724 (Sec. 320).	
3 rd Annual North American Ornithological Conference – BTNEP provided funding for this conference, which was held in New Orleans in September 2002. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Tulane University / <i>Cost:</i> \$3,775.	Complete
Migratory Bird Day celebrations were held in April of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These events were designed to promote awareness of the importance of maritime forests and other barrier island habitats across the Gulf as staging areas for millions of migratory birds. The event is centered on promotion and education, and it gives the public an opportunity to see the thousands of birds in their migration. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,000 (Sec. 320) for each year's event.	Ongoing
BTNEP has 15 locations where program materials are distributed: LCES Office-Galliano, St. Charles CZM Office, South Lafourche Levee District Office, Lafourche Parish Tourist Commission, Houma-Terrebonne Tourist Commission, LDWF Regional Office-Bourg, Jefferson Parish Environmental Department Office, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Office-Houma, LDEQ Bayou Lafourche Regional Office-Raceland, Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Office-Cut Off, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Office-Houma, NRCS Office-Donaldsonville, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District Office-Thibodaux, LDWF Office-Baton Rouge.	Ongoing
The Program Office continues to capture the amount of materials distributed. On a quarterly basis, the distribution points and Program Office are inventoried and this information is recorded into an Access table, along with any material received (printed) in that quarter. At the end of the fiscal year, this information will be used to determine the amount of materials distributed.	Ongoing
Teachers and principals in the region have access to teaching materials, including a video targeted to students, produced by BTNEP, on land loss in the estuary, made available through a partnership of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, BTNEP, the Terrebonne Parish School Board, and the Houma-Thibodaux Catholic Diocese.	Ongoing
A number of BTNEP-funded educator workshops have been held including Project STEPS (Students and Teachers as Educational Partners), WETMAAP (Wetlands Education using Maps and Aerial Photography), and demonstrations of the CD ROM Knee Deep in Louisiana Wetlands. BTNEP products are demonstrated and disseminated at these workshops.	Complete
BTNEP staff have demonstrated and disseminated BTNEP materials at a number of educator conferences including the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and Louisiana Environmental Educators annual meetings. In addition, BTNEP staff members have contacted each estuary parish with information about BTNEP free materials and services. This has resulted in many requests for materials from educators.	Complete
The CWPPRA Outreach Committee's LA Coast website and newsflash is used by BTNEP and its partners to disseminate information about coastal issues.	Ongoing
BTNEP has coordinated the development of an educational poster entitled "The Habitats of Barataria-Terrebonne: Their Importance to Migratory and Resident Birds". It provides information on the various habitats found throughout the Barataria-Terrebonne basins and how and why they are important to the birds that use them. This product is being printed and distributed and is expected to be combined into a curriculum to be used in the classroom setting.	Complete

	The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism is partnering with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and others to develop the Great Louisiana Coastal Birding Trail. This concept involves identifying routes (Highways) that provide access to certain birding destinations throughout Barataria-Terrebonne. Eventually, map products, signage, bird observation platforms, pullovers, etc. will be constructed as part of this effort.	Ongoing
SR-13	The Program's 1-800 phone line has served as a valuable outreach mechanism. BTNEP stakeholders and interested citizens have utilized the 1-800 line for an average of 981 minutes per month from January 2001 to December 2003. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.	Ongoing
	Between January 2001 and December 2003, the Program has disseminated over 93,000 pieces informational materials. These items were requested through the 1-800 telephone number, Internet website, participation in community events and individual contacts. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.	Ongoing
K-16 Curriculum Action Plans		
SR-14	Coastal Roots: School Seedling Nursery Program for Coastal Restoration – As part of this program to assist BTNEP area students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward natural resources in the area, 17 schools in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are actively growing seedlings and conducting plantings for habitat restoration projects. The project provides each school with about 1000 seedlings to perform yearly small-scale restoration projects in the coastal zone. In addition, a planting manual and teacher's guide were developed, and several editions of the Coastal Roots Newsletter have been circulated to participating schools and the general public. Exhibits about this project have been presented at 4 major festivals in the area. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Sea Grant, LSU Ag. Center.	Ongoing
	Marsh Maneuvers – Marsh Maneuvers is a week-long, intensive camping experience conducted four times in July by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the LSU Sea Grant Program, the LDWF, and BTNEP. The camp is held at the LDWF's St. Amant Marine Lab on Grand Terre Island, where youth learn about marine ecology, barrier islands, the fisheries industry, and the culture of coastal Louisiana. The last night of the camp, teens (from four different parishes all over the state) role play local government making decisions about coastal land management. Top campers have an opportunity to participate in an advanced camp at LUMCON's Cocodrie facility. These coastal wetlands educational camps are conducted for about 100 students annually. In addition, presentations about the Marsh Maneuvers camps were given at the 4-H Club Congress. <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 annually (\$4,000 contributed by BTNEP). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Cooperative Extension Service, LA Sea Grant.	Ongoing
	Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science (STEPS) – Project STEPS is an innovative program, started in 2001, developed by two key educators in partnership with BTNEP and LUMCON. Two workshops are being held at LUMCON in spring and fall, where two students will be paired with each of 12 teachers participating in the workshops. The workshops focus on water quality and land loss problems. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$21,000 (Sec. 320).	Ongoing
	Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btneep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually	Ongoing

<p>appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. BTNEP is adding an "Educator's Plate" section, which will list all educational materials and workshops available to educators and the public, as well as provide links to lesson plans and other websites which pertain to estuary issues. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p>	
<p>The Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve presented curriculum-based education programs focusing on the natural history of the Barataria basin to over 6000 students. Of that number, approximately 1/3 participated in the program for 6th-8th grade entitled "Vanishing Wetlands."</p>	Ongoing
<p>The Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve presented curriculum-based education programs focusing on the cultural heritage of the Barataria basin to 4,716 students. Additionally, four teacher workshops were held at the Center.</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP is engaged in curriculum development through the continuation of older projects and the initiation of new one. Staff will be wrapping up the Educator's Guide to the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary and Louisiana is for the Birds curriculum next summer. Twenty-eight activities were developed with funding from NOAA to accompany the new Estuary Live video, and are being served on the Education Page of the BTNEP website. In addition, an exciting new curriculum has been initiated called Spirit of the Estuary. <i>Cost:</i> \$45,000 (Educator's Guide), \$3,000 (Estuary Live activities), \$19,000 (Spirit of the Estuary).</p>	Ongoing
<p>BTNEP has developed a variety of curriculum materials for formal educators, including a video on history, culture, and the environment, with accompanying teachers' guide; a poster series on the priority problems; satellite and habitat change maps; and a self-guided field trip handbook. A video on the priority problems has been developed with BTNEP funds, for classroom use.</p>	Complete
<p>BTNEP has funded K-12 teacher in-service workshops that have focused on the use of maps and aerial photography (WETMAAP) to analyze change in the landscape. Workshops have been conducted in both classroom and field settings, where teachers have experienced the estuaries first-hand. At the 7-12 grade levels, two of the field workshops matched a teacher with an outstanding student from their classroom. The student-teacher team became the instructional partners to the students back at their school. The student-teacher workshop has become known as the Student and Teacher as Education Partners in Science, or STEPS, Program. The STEPS Program has become very successful and the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and the Louisiana Environmental Educators Association have adopted the concept and will conduct workshops of their own. BTNEP has also funded teacher workshops which present the Knee Deep in Wetlands CD ROM</p>	Complete
<p>The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, with partial funding from BTNEP, has developed a series of lesson plans on priority problems in the BT Estuary for informal educators. These have been made available to all extension service agents and to the public as well. BTNEP educational materials are distributed to teachers at fairs, festivals, and educator symposiums. In addition, BTNEP funds a variety of workshops for teachers, students, and the public, including two annual Coastal Wetlands Workshops, Teachers' Estuarine Workshops, The STEPS Program (Student and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science), Assumption Parish Summer Bayou Camps, and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Marsh Maneuvers Program. In addition, a number of teachers have given presentations, using BTNEP educational materials at annual meetings of the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, National Science Teachers Association, Louisiana Environmental Educators Association, and National Association of Marine Educators Association.</p>	Complete

BTNEP has partnered with the CWPBRA outreach branch to produce a CD-ROM on coastal restoration efforts. BTNEP has also partnered with the Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette to produce a wetlands CD-ROM.	Complete
BTNEP staff and Management Conference members have participated, both by designing programs and presenting information, in annual Leadership Programs.	Complete
BTNEP has funded a "Wetlands Wall" at the Terrebonne Parish Waterlife Museum. This wall is mural, with interpretive information about various wetland habitats in the estuary. This site functions as a distribution point for educational materials, and is visited by estuary residents, and travelers from around the world.	Complete
BTNEP has begun work on a curriculum package to be presented to teachers through workshops throughout the estuary. BTNEP has purchased EnviroScape watershed models with funds from the LDEQ Non-Point Source Program. Demonstrations will be provided to teachers on teaching about non-point source issues using this tool. The EnviroScapes will be made available to teachers throughout the Estuary.	Ongoing
A curriculum document on the importance of BTES to migratory birds is under development by BTNEP staff, as well as a Salt Marsh Coloring Book.	Ongoing
BTNEP annually supports the Bayou Camps Program, with the intention of developing awareness and interest among students about environmental issues related to Louisiana wetland environments and the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. The eight-week long summer camp programs provide over 500 K-8 students with both classroom and field experience. Due to increased demand for this popular camp, the program is now held at Nicholls State University and serves students in the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne.	Ongoing
The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program has coordinated the development of an educational poster entitled "The Habitats of Barataria-Terrebonne: Their Importance to Migratory and Resident Birds". It provides information on the various habitats found throughout the Barataria-Terrebonne basins and how and why they are important to the birds that use them. This product is being printed and distributed and is expected to be combined into a curriculum to be used in the classroom setting.	Ongoing
The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and its partners are developing a video that addresses the importance of the many wetland habitats to migratory and resident birds. The video focuses on the geographic area of southeast Louisiana but is applicable to the same habitats found throughout the southeastern Gulf States. This video is designed to be an educational piece but also will serve as an ecotourism piece to promote these areas as "birding meccas".	Ongoing
Rachel Somers joined BTNEP via the Delta Service Corps. She helps the program with presentations at educator conferences and in classrooms, storm drain marking activities, and coordination of BTNEP activities involving a local 10 member Americorps service group. She has also produced preliminary curriculum for educating children about migratory birds in BTES. She also acts as the office artistic consultant and is currently producing a salt marsh coloring book.	Ongoing
BTNEP representatives participated in a Youth Congress at Camp Ripley, Minnesota to speak to students about efforts to monitor the Mississippi River at its southern most basin. Their discussions provided insight to students regarding the connection between water quality monitoring efforts in Minnesota and the effects observed downstream.	Complete
Valerie Butler, of Hahnville High School in Marrero, has incorporated water quality testing into her science curriculum through an ongoing project at the impending sight of the Davis Pond Diversion. She and her students were recently highlighted on CNN's	Ongoing

	<p>"Cable in the Classroom" program for this effort.</p> <p>BTNEP staff members have been intensively involved with a nonprofit educational organization called the Jason Foundation for Education. This foundation conducts an expedition that is followed by million of students and their teachers around the world to important ecosystems. The focus for 2005 is Louisiana's Disappearing Wetlands. In addition to the live expedition broadcast over the internet and satellite feed, curriculum and video development are currently underway.</p>	Ongoing
SR-15	<p>Marsh Maneuvers – Marsh Maneuvers is a week-long, intensive camping experience conducted four times in July by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the LSU Sea Grant Program, the LDWF, and BTNEP. The camp is held at the LDWF's St. Amant Marine Lab on Grand Terre Island, where youth learn about marine ecology, barrier islands, the fisheries industry, and the culture of coastal Louisiana. The last night of the camp, teens (from four different parishes all over the state) role play local government making decisions about coastal land management. Top campers have an opportunity to participate in an advanced camp at LUMCON's Cocodrie facility. These coastal wetlands educational camps are conducted for about 100 students annually. In addition, presentations about the Marsh Maneuvers camps were given at the 4-H Club Congress.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Cooperative Extension Service, LA Sea Grant / <i>Cost:</i> \$8,000 annually (BTNEP contribution \$4,000).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>2001 Bayou Camps – BTNEP participated in a series of environmental summer camps, aimed towards educating ~500 students (ages 6-14) about the priority problems and environmental issues of the BTES. The camp was discontinued in 2002 because of personnel changes, and has been replaced with camps at the National Park Service centers.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> Bayou Camp Foundation, Inc.</p>	Complete
	<p>BTNEP has partnered with the Jean Lafitte National Park Cultural Center and Barataria Preserve to produce history and environmental summer camps at each location. Students learn about the rich cultural history of the area while engaged in hands-on activities, and conduct surveys and removal of exotic vegetation among other activities.</p> <p><i>Cost:</i> \$7325.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btneep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
	<p>LUMCON, the Louisiana University Marine Consortium hosts many teacher training workshops as well as hosting school groups who visit a nearby barrier island, help conduct a trawl sampling and analysis of the catch.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Workshops were held in 2001-2002, which were BTNEP funded. The purpose is to educate the public about coastal wetlands issues, show firsthand what is being done to restore wetlands through field trips, and motivate participants to take action. These workshops are now programs of the CRCL.</p>	Complete
	<p>Participated in the coastal wetlands training and project direction of Americorps on the Bayou volunteers.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LSU Ag. Center, LA Sea Grant.</p>	Ongoing

<p>Coastal Roots: School Seedling Nursery Program for Coastal Restoration – As part of this program to assist BTNEP area students in developing an attitude of stewardship toward natural resources in the area, 17 schools in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are actively growing seedlings and conducting plantings for habitat restoration projects. The project provides each school with about 1000 seedlings to perform yearly small-scale restoration projects in the coastal zone. In addition, a planting manual and teacher's guide were developed, and several editions of the Coastal Roots Newsletter have been circulated to participating schools and the general public. Exhibits about this project have been presented at 4 major festivals in the area. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LA Sea Grant, LSU Ag. Center.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science (STEPS) – Project STEPS is an innovative program, started in 2001, developed by two key educators in partnership with BTNEP and LUMCON. Two workshops are being held at LUMCON in spring and fall, where two students will be paired with each of 12 teachers participating in the workshops. The workshops focus on water quality and land loss problems. <i>Cost:</i> \$21,000 (Sec. 320).</p>	Ongoing
<p>Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve continues to offer interpretive programs on a variety of natural and cultural history topics relevant to southeastern Louisiana. From January 2001 to December 31, 2003 approximately 7600 visitors participated in interpretive programs at the Barataria Preserve and 6500 visitors participated in interpretive programs at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is sponsored by the Office of Soil and Water Conservation, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The focus is on nonpoint source water pollution. Since April 1996, 194 teachers and 41 facilitators from BTNEP parishes have been trained. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDAF.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve – Barataria Unit has regularly occurring free teacher training workshops.</p>	Ongoing
<p>The South Central Planning and Development Commission continued their K-12 and public nonpoint source pollution (NPS) education project. The objective of this project is to transfer information about urban NPS and home sewage systems. The effectiveness of construction best management practices (BMPs) will be demonstrated through the use of presentations, photographs, and videos that document successful examples. SCPDC served as an educational resource for elementary, middle and high schools by making presentations of "Desdemona's Splash," (EPA interactive computer game) and the EnviroScape® model (plastic watershed model). The Education Coordinator conducted 246 classroom presentations to a total of 5,628 students within the region. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> SCPDC, LDEQ / <i>Cost:</i> \$250,000 (\$150,000 from LDEQ; \$100,000 from SCPDC).</p>	Ongoing
<p>The Central Gulf of Mexico Regional Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence teams scientists and teachers for one week at LUMCON and several online sessions to learn about ocean and coastal science as a way of teaching a larger audience about oceanography. The scientists help the teacher learn science; the teachers help the scientists learn to express themselves better before public audiences, therefore improving ocean science education. Louisiana participants focused heavily on BTNEP and estuarine issues, including land loss and water quality. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON, University of Southern Mississippi / <i>Cost:</i> ~\$148,000 (\$147,000 from USM; \$1,000 from BTNEP).</p>	Ongoing
<p>Ongoing utilization of WETMAAP (wetland education through maps and aerial photographs www.wetmaap.org) -- The BTNEP funded other agents and agencies to develop a series of materials describing land loss in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins at Golden Meadow and Cocodrie (the Cocodrie project was implemented by Fall 2001). LUMCON has fully integrated these materials</p>	Complete

	<p>into its Marine Education program. We have developed wall displays for people taking a short tour, activities for groups that can devote several hours, and devoted a full room to a WETMAAP exhibit during our Open House in 2003. Training in the full use of WETMAAP materials is a key component of our Fall teacher workshop. We are updating the program with information on restoration efforts as new information becomes available from the various agencies involved. This project was initiated in the fall of 2001 and is ongoing.</p> <p><i>Cost:</i> \$28,500 (\$28,000 from BTNEP; \$500 from LUMCON for a display at its Open House).</p> <p>Workshops for Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Owners and Operators -- The workshops were held in Thibodaux at the regional Dept. of Health and Hospitals office. Three workshops were held for STP owners and operators. The first STP workshop was for Lafourche Parish (5/14/03), the second for Terrebonne Parish (5/21/03) and the third for Assumption and St. James Parishes (8/27/03). The series of workshops were for the BTNE region and organized by the Regional Dept. of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality. The BTNEP was invited to give presentations for each of the workshops to provide environmental reasoning and background for well-maintained sewage treatment plants.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDEQ, LDHH, BTNEP.</p> <p>Bayouside Classroom is a science education and stewardship program achieved via water sampling at LUMCON and in participating classrooms with access to a nearby waterbody. A website connects the various participants, and makes it possible for teachers who cannot sample either here or at their school to use data generated in the program. Through a partnership with Terrebonne Parish Public Schools, nine Terrebonne Parish schools participate in this program. Teachers who have received equipment and training during training workshops have taken the program to St. Charles, Lafourche and St. Mary Parishes.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LUMCON / <i>Cost:</i> \$47,000.</p> <p>Website and Touch Screen Kiosks at LUMCON – A website is being developed to enhance awareness of non-point source pollution in the coastal zone, especially in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. The website uses Thematic Mapper images of the Basins and Digital Ortho Quarter Quadrangles of subsegments to show users what each area looks like and refers to data used by the LDEQ to determine whether each subsegment is meeting its designated uses. Supporting information about sources of pollutions, pollutants, and issues of importance in the coastal zone, including hypoxia and septic treatment will be included. This website will be available via LUMCON's website and on touch screen kiosks at LUMCON in Cocodrie and at the Port Fourchon facility. LUMCON is the lead implementer for this project, costing 67,888 from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (with LUMCON match). BTNEP also provided Water Quality Coordinator expertise. This project was initiated in the spring of 2001 and is on-going.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
SR-16	<p>In 1995, the Louisiana Legislature created the Environmental Education Commission and the Office of Environmental Education within the Governor's office. The gubernatorial-appointed Commission includes representatives of environmental groups, state agencies, educational institutions and organizations, and business and industry. The Coordinator of the Office of Education, with assistance and direction from the Commission, has among her duties, the review of the state's environmental education grants program, and the establishment and maintenance of an environmental education clearinghouse and the holding of Baton Rouge Earth Day annual celebrations.</p> <p>BTNEP has worked closely with the Jason Foundation for Education in producing a curriculum package, video, and live broadcast focusing on Louisiana's Disappearing Wetlands. As a result of the cooperation from Louisiana, LA teachers are being offered up to an 80% discount on the curriculum/expedition package. BTNEP is partnering with LA universities and the Department of Education to find sources of funding for our teachers to access this program.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	The Louisiana Office of Environmental Education continues the "Louisiana Environmental Educator's License Plate". The sale of this decorative plate, featuring the state bird (the brown pelican), will be used to fund the Office of Environmental Education.	Ongoing
SR-17	The BTNEP staff, especially the Education Coordinator, continue to network with key formal and informal education offices. The program is in close contact with officers and other educators in the Louisiana Environmental Educators Association, the Louisiana Science Teachers Association, the State Office of Environmental Education, Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the Louisiana Sea Grant Program, Louisiana University Marine Consortium, the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators, etc. BTNEP distributes information at a variety of educator meetings, including but not limited to those mentioned above.	Ongoing
	All BTNEP education projects and programs are approved, developed, and funded through an action plan team composed of a network of educators and education specialists.	Ongoing

IV. Economic Growth

Economic Development Action Plans		
EG-1	The commercial production of coastal wetland plants is a developing industry in Louisiana. There are five active nurserymen in the state, three of whom are in the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. The NRCS Plant Materials Program provides assistance to these nurserymen by providing foundation plant materials, plant production information, and soil and water management, as well as other technical information exchange.	Ongoing
	The CWPPRA "Nutria Harvest and Wetland Demonstration Project" project provided \$2 million to develop national and international markets for nutria meat for human consumption. In addition to market development, funds are being used to provide payments to trappers for every nutria delivered to a licensed processor and payments to processors for every pound of nutria meat sold.	Ongoing
	The LDWF has completed several promotional projects, including participation in the largest food show in Asia during this past Spring. This fall and winter will be the first trapping season during which payments will be made.	Complete
	Paddle Bayou Lafourche, a 4-day paddling trip, has become known among participants as a "cultural trip". Paddlers are treated to a "backyard view" of the bayou's culture, and residents take pride in showing off their lifestyles. Evening events highlight cultures such as the United Houma Nation Native American tribe. The trip is becoming increasingly popular to the point where there are discussions being held regarding opening a canoe livery on the bayou. In addition, BTNEP is partnering with the three parish tourist commissions along the bayou to produce a tourism map for Bayou Lafourche.	Ongoing
EG-2	Bayou Lafourche Community Adventure – The goal of this project is to utilize cultural heritage as a tool to increase public understanding of the need to keep BTES free from pollution. To that end, the following projects have been developed: a photography contest (ongoing), an oral history collection (ongoing), and 3 paddling trips down Bayou Lafourche (November 2001, 2002, and 2003). <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).	Ongoing
	Woodlands Trail and Park in Plaquemines Parish – The Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. (a grassroots, non-profit organization) is working with local, state, and federal partners to acquire and preserve a property in the English Turn area along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, LA. This site then will be added to the Coastal Louisiana Birding Trail and serve as an important ecotourism destination. BTNEP funding is providing the initial seed money needed to develop the trail and educational kiosks. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. / <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 (Sec. 320).	Ongoing
	Migratory/Resident Bird Video – a video that addresses Barataria-Terrebonne's importance to both migratory and resident birds was developed and mass produced, and is now available to the public. The video is 3 rd in a series that is designed to inform, entertain, and encourage people to visit the area. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP.	Complete
	Development and Maintenance of the BTNEP Web Site – The BTNEP web site (www.btnep.org) was redesigned to focus on key issues now being addressed through the program. The website enables the program to disseminate information in a rapid and visually appealing manner, and follows the Program's overall message strategy in tone, style, and format. Citizens can obtain information on	Ongoing

<p>the goals and progress of CCMP Action Plans, technical publications, educational materials, and projects. Mini web pages are being developed for specific aspects of the program (e.g., Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Shellfish Challenge, Elmer's Island Grass Roots Campaign), especially in terms of highlighting key partnerships. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$49,025 (Sec. 320).</p> <p>The LA Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism initiated the development of the Great Louisiana Coastal Birding Trail. Numerous sites across south Louisiana were nominated for inclusion. An effort to evaluate all of these sites was made and a list of appropriate sites was developed. LDCRT will be establishing a web site and brochure documents regarding the trail. <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 (BTNEP with no direct cash contribution).</p> <p>The Louisiana Nature Conservancy purchased 10 acres of property and leased approximately 6 additional acres on Grand Isle, LA; this land will serve as a sanctuary for migratory and resident birds. This effort helps to protect these critically imperiled habitats from destruction and serve as an ecotourism destination. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> The LA Nature Conservancy.</p> <p>Grand Isle Birding Trail, Jefferson Parish, LA – The Louisiana Nature Conservancy established the Grand Isle Birding Trail with the intent that it would be incorporated into the larger Coastal Birding Trail. The trail tied together a number of birding sites on the island. A map was developed showing these sites. A boardwalk, trail and kiosks were constructed to provide educational information about migratory and residential birds to the general public. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> The LA Nature Conservancy / <i>Cost:</i> \$61,000 (BTNEP contribution \$21,000).</p>	<p>According to the LDWF license data, the number of recreational fishing licenses sold in the BTES parishes to both residents and nonresidents remains fairly constant at 200,000 over the last decade. In 2001, this represented about 32 percent of the total recreational fishing licenses sold in Louisiana. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDWF.</p> <p>Migratory Bird Day celebrations were held in April of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These events were designed to promote awareness of the importance of maritime forests and other barrier island habitats across the Gulf as staging areas for millions of migratory birds. The event is centered on promotion and education, and it gives the public an opportunity to see the thousands of birds in their migration. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$10,000 (Sec. 320) for each year's event.</p> <p>The Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum continues to operate in the town of Houma. The museum acts as a tourism anchor as well as an environmental education tool.</p> <p>The Capital Resource Conservation and Development Tourism Council seized a unique opportunity to promote tourism and cultural diversity in Southeast Louisiana. The Council submitted a proposal to the National Register of Historic Places to request them to include Southeast Louisiana on their recently created travel itineraries. These itineraries will assist in promoting historic preservation and heritage tourism on a national, state, and local level. The Council's proposal was accepted and in the near future, travel information pertaining to significant historical places in the Council area will be accessible via the National Register's website.</p> <p>Cypress Swamp Tours, owned and operated by Mr. Bill Quenan, is a nature-based tourism business with a mission to save the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. Three boats bring 2500 visitors per week from around the world into Bayou Segnette, in the fishing village of Marrero. While visitors are treated to the usual show of alligators, moss-draped trees, and regal wading birds, Cypress Swamp Tour guests are also given an education on the current state of the estuary, and the need to save it. Tour operators are trained</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>
		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>to hit certain points regarding the issues affecting the estuary so that the tour will go beyond the average fare.</p> <p>Dave Coignet has developed a 26-acre nature trail and garden at his Bed & Breakfast (Le Jardin Sur Le Bayou) in Bourg.</p> <p>The annual Louisiana Rural Tourism Development Conference is held in October throughout coastal Louisiana, highlighting nature-based tourism.</p> <p>Jean Lafitte National Historical Park offers free guided nature activities.</p> <p>The active promotion of the estuary as an attractive area for sports fishing has had tremendous direct (e.g., boat charter companies, campgrounds, room rentals, and restaurants) and indirect economic benefits to Barataria-Terrebonne communities.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EG-3	<p>In 2002 LDWF completed the 1st year of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program that consists of an economic incentive payment of \$4 per nutria tail delivered by registered participants to collection centers established in coastal Louisiana. A total of 308,160 nutria tails, worth \$1,232,640, were collected from 342 participants. The parishes with the most nutria tails collected were Terrebonne with 92,831 tails, Plaquemines with 63,208 tails, Lafourche with 28,852 tails, St. Mary with 26,004 tails, Jefferson with 20,529 tails, St. John with 18,450 tails and St. Charles with 11,169 tails. The parishes with the most participants were Terrebonne with 104, Plaquemines with 69, Lafourche with 48, St. Charles with 24, St. Mary with 22, Jefferson with 19 and St. John with 11.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDWF.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
Technology Transfer Action Plans		
EG-4	<p>La Fête d'Écologie estuary festivals were held in fall of 2001, 2002, and 2003. These festivals are educational events targeted to the general public, highlighting cultural and environmental issues of the Barataria-Terrebonne region. The goal of these events is to demonstrate the values of the estuary, showing citizens why the region is worth protecting and restoring. The festival also serves as a venue for all stakeholders and public and private entities to showcase new ideas, concepts, and strategies which could assist in restoration and preservation efforts within the BTES.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTEF, BTNEP / <i>Cost:</i> \$40,000 (Sec. 320) for 2003 festival and promotions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
EG-5	<p>In 2002 LDWF completed the 1st year of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program that consists of an economic incentive payment of \$4 per nutria tail delivered by registered participants to collection centers established in coastal Louisiana. A total of 308,160 nutria tails, worth \$1,232,640, were collected from 342 participants. The parishes with the most nutria tails collected were Terrebonne with 92,831 tails, Plaquemines with 63,208 tails, Lafourche with 28,852 tails, St. Mary with 26,004 tails, Jefferson with 20,529 tails, St. John with 18,450 tails and St. Charles with 11,169 tails. The parishes with the most participants were Terrebonne with 104, Plaquemines with 69, Lafourche with 48, St. Charles with 24, St. Mary with 22, Jefferson with 19 and St. John with 11.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> LDWF.</p> <p>The USDA Plant Materials Center has developed new strains of marsh plants and has made these species generally available to companies. There are numerous private companies now involved in the restoration of wetlands.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> USDA Plant Materials Center.</p> <p>Houma Indian craftsmen Ray Parfait and Marie Dean exhibit Louisiana's Houma wares at the Smithsonian and trade in France</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	regularly.	
EG-6	<p>*Brown Marsh Accessions (Bayou Lafourche) -- This project involved replicated field trials testing accession collection of <i>S. alterniflora</i> dieback. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR-CRD / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP support in-kind.</p>	Complete
	<p>*Brown Marsh Seeding (Lake Felicity site) -- This project involved aerial seeding of selected brown marsh sites to develop technique and seedling survival data. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, LDNR-CRD, LAES / <i>Cost:</i> BTNEP support in-kind.</p>	Complete
	<p>BTNEP, in a partnership with the NRCS Plant Material Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate a number of woody plant species and their ability to survive in the salt marsh/barrier island habitats of coastal Louisiana. The species chosen reflect those that are important to neotropical migrant songbirds that spend part of their lives in coastal Louisiana. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS Plant Material Center / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 4 years.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>BTNEP in a partnership with NRCS Plant Materials Center and the LSU Ag Center began an effort to evaluate numerous herbaceous plants and their survival in the salt marsh environs at Port Fourchon, LA. In addition, this project serves to evaluate new techniques for planting that could reduce the price associated with vegetating newly restored marsh. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> BTNEP, NRCS Plant Materials Center, LSU Ag. Center / <i>Cost:</i> \$170,000 over 3 years.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District provide farmers in Lafourche and Terrebonne the planning, engineering, and equipment to precision land grade their fields. In Lafourche and Terrebonne there were 1,094.2 acres done in 2001, 1,316.9 acres in 2002, and 1,732.8 acres in 2003. Precision grading improves surface drainage and controls soil erosion. <i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS, SWCD.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>The following plant materials activities are being conducted by the NRCS at Golden Meadow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected herbaceous perennials are being evaluated for dune enhancement and stabilization. The following species are demonstrating potential for use in coastal Louisiana, including bitter panicum (<i>Panicum amarum</i>); seaoats (<i>Uniola panniculata</i>); marshhay cordgrass (<i>Spartina patens</i>); seacoast bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium maritimum</i>). Plant materials in association with sand fencing are proving to significantly impact dune enhancement. The four noted species perform well in association with sand fences. Plant materials for coastal marsh (salt marsh through fresh marsh species) are being studied. Smooth cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>) studies have resulted in the release of a commercially available cultivar named 'Vermilion.' Current studies consist of efforts to improve establishment procedures of the most widely used marsh restoration species, smooth cordgrass. This involves improved nursery practices for commercial production and improved seed viability and production technology. Other species being studied include: Seashore paspalum (<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i>); Gulf cordgrass (<i>Spartina spartinae</i>); Giant bullrush (<i>Scirpus californicus</i>); Roseau cane (<i>Phragmites australis</i>); Marshhay cordgrass (<i>Spartina patens</i>); Black mangrove (<i>Avicennia germinans</i>). Studies are being conducted to improve propagation technology for selected marsh species; this includes vegetative and seed methods. <p>The NRCS has assisted landowners and/or agricultural producers to implement agricultural conservation practices including conservation cover, crop rotation, green manure crop, residue management, grade stabilization structures, pasture and hayland</p>	Ongoing

	<p>management, pasture and hayland planting, prescribed grazing, streambank and shoreline protection, water control structures, nutrient management, pest management, tree and shrub establishment, wildlife wetland habitat management, wildlife upland habitat management, and wetland development and restoration.</p> <p><i>Lead Agencies:</i> NRCS.</p> <p>BTNEP is coordinating an effort to gather information on the development of an onsite sewage treatment system (marsh up-welling system) that can be successfully used to treat sewage from camps and individual homes. Partners include LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality, Jefferson Parish Environmental Dept., Bayou Segnette Boater's Association and the Gulf of Mexico Program. This effort could potentially result in legislative approval of this new technology.</p> <p>Technological advances in the Louisiana sugarcane industry are helping to improve production practices and maintain a healthy environment. Approximately half of the acreage is planted to LCP 85-384, a new high-yielding variety, and harvested with the combine harvest system. Producers can now effectively harvest lodged sugarcane and reduce harvest losses both in the field and on the highway. Management of the leaf "mulch" is being researched to reduce pesticide usage and soil loss. Additionally, several new environmentally friendly pesticides are being researched for use within the industry.</p> <p>The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LDNR, LDEQ, NRCS, and the USDA Farm Services Agency, have worked with the Farm Bureau and the American Sugar Cane League to encourage farmer adoption of BMPs for the reduction of soil erosion and runoff of agricultural chemicals into surface waters.</p> <p>The commercial production of coastal wetland plants is a developing industry in Louisiana. There are several active nurserymen in the state, three of whom are in the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. The NRCS Plant Materials Program provides assistance to these nurserymen by providing foundation plant materials, plant production information, and soil and water management, as well as other technical information exchange.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Cooperative Incentives Action Plans		
EG-7	<p>The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and various USDA agencies have informed farmers of the availability of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to provide incentive payments or cost share for implementation of BMPs.</p> <p>The commercial production of coastal wetland plants is a developing industry in Louisiana. There are several active nurserymen in the state, three of whom are in the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary. The NRCS Plant Materials Program provides assistance to these nurserymen by providing foundation plant materials, plant production information, and soil and water management, as well as other technical information exchange.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
EG-8	<p>As standard operating procedure the USACE holds pre-application meetings for all wetlands permits. These meetings are designed to educate the applicant about the permit and the permit procedures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

* indicates project from GPRA tables – see Table 7 and Attachment B for full information on habitat types and area affected.

APPENDIX E

Healthy Estuary, Healthy Economy, Healthy Communities...
Environmental Indicators in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System 2002
Environmental Indicators Report

APPENDIX F

Compendium of Newspaper Clippings, 2001 – 2003

APPENDIX G

Compendium of Thank-You Letters, 2001 – 2003

Volunteers needed to organize annual festival

By KATINA A. GAUDET

Staff Writer

THIBODAUX - Volunteers are needed to help organize this year's La Fete d'Ecologie, a festival that draws attention to environmental issues affecting area wetlands.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is seeking members for its 2001 steering committee, which will plan the fifth annual festival for Sept. 29 at Peltier Park.

"We're trying to transform the festival into one (organized) almost entirely by volunteers," said Cullen Curole, foundation administrator.

The annual festival, begun in 1998, is the centerpiece of the foundation's efforts and has been organized main-

ly by its limited staff, its administrator and its secretary, as well as some volunteers willing to lend a hand.

"Basically, we've been doing a lot of it ourselves," said Curole. "Most festivals in South Louisiana are run with huge volunteer bases. We had triple the volunteers this year, but we need to transfer some of the responsibilities to volunteers so that the festival can become more of a financial success."

Proceeds go to the foundation for administrative and utility costs and to fund ecology-based projects such as Grand Isle's Migratory Bird Celebration and the Bayou Lafourche Initiative, an effort to partner state and federal agencies lining the waterway to preserve the bayou's cultural

and ecological heritage.

Last year's festival allowed the foundation to put a secretary on staff.

More than 70 volunteers helped in October, up from 20 the previous year. About 5,000 visitors attended the festival.

Volunteers are always needed to work the festival's booths and auction, but other preparations must be made in advance, such as handling promotions and contacting participating agencies.

Volunteers could also help in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program office.

A steering committee meeting will be held this month for volunteers. Those interested should contact the foundation at 447-8092.

Houma, LA

THE COURIER, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2001

Pirogueing Down Bayou Lafourche

In the Spring or Summer of 2001, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation will sponsor a pirogue trip down Bayou Lafourche starting at its headwaters of the Mississippi River in Donaldsonville and ending the Intracoastal in Larose. The foundation seeks to raise awareness of the historical, cultural, economic and environmental significance of the waterway. A millennium ago, the Mississippi river wound its course to the Gulf of Mexico through the corridor that is now called Bayou Lafourche. The delta it created is home to 250,000 individuals who in many ways still derive their livelihoods from the resources created by the former river course. At the onset of the second millennium of the bayou's existence, the foundation hopes to create an annual community event that will enlighten current and future generations of their former relationship to the waterway.

In past years, others have made this trek, some local and others from communities as far away as Canada. The Boulet family of Larose, La. made the trek in the 1960's. Scouting troops made the trek as recent as the 1970's. Just recently, a Penoscot Indian from Canada who wished to remain anonymous, made part of the trek as part of a year long canoe trip which brought home from the eastern seaboard to the Gulf of Mexico and will eventually lead him through Mexico and back to Canada along the Pacific seacoast. He was last seen paddling from the Bayou Lafourche community of Golden Meadow, La. to the Gulf at Fourchon.

The Foundation is seeking participation from experienced individuals who would like to make the trek, and assistance from individuals, organizations and businesses who would like to sponsor the event. If you are interested, please contact the Foundation toll free at 1-877-ESTUARY.

The Cajun Gazette

Pierre Part 1A
Wednesday, January 3, 2001

FROM POINTE COUPEE TO THE GULF

Looking at life on an island, our unique estuary

By ROD E. EMMER, Ph.D.
For The Courier

Did you realize that the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary is an island? That's right. If you live anywhere from Pointe Coupee to the Gulf of Mexico, you really live on an island.

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, at 4.2 million acres, is the largest island in Louisiana, or for that matter, in the continental United States. This is just one of many characteristic that makes our estuary unique.

The Barataria-Terrebonne estuary is surrounded by water. The Mississippi River flows on the north and east, the Atchafalaya River on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico completes the triangle to the south. The rivers and the Gulf restrict our movement into and out of the estuary. We must travel across water to access the rest of the world. Our forefathers relied on boats as the most important means of transportation. This is why boats and boat building are an impor-

tant part of south Louisiana heritage. Large boats and small boats were utilized on our bays, streams and lakes and until bridges and motor vehicles were later built boats provided our only way to enter or leave our estuary.

Even today all cars, trucks, buses, or trains must enter or leave our estuary by crossing a bridge or by taking a ferry.

Being surrounded by water has advantages because these same water bodies offer access to international trade. The Barataria-Terrebonne estuary is the home of an extensive port system built along the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya and the Gulf. Major ports include the Port of Baton Rouge in Port Allen, the Port of South Louisiana which stretches through St. James and St. John parishes. The Port of New Orleans is one of the largest in the world. It includes facilities on the West Bank in Jefferson Parish and Algiers. The southern most port on the Mississippi River is in

6 green onions, finely chopped
3 tablespoons yellow onion,
finely chopped
1/2 half stick of butter
Parsley
2 cups whole milk
Salt and pepper

Plaquemine Parish at Venice. Venice is one of four estuary ports that serve the petroleum industry on the Gulf.

The others include Port Fourchon, the Port of Houma and the Port of Morgan City. Port Fourchon, located in Lafourche Parish, is the home of LOOP, Louisiana's offshore Superport. The Port of Houma is in Terrebonne Parish and the Port of Morgan City is in St. Mary Parish and is sited on the Atchafalaya River.

Living on our island we must be thankful for the lifestyle and opportunities that the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary provide. Surrounded by an

abundance of water, we often take for granted the need to preserve and protect the river and all of our bays, lakes and streams. We rely on water for fishing, for harvesting oysters and for recreation. We expect it will be available for cleaning and to quench our thirst. But let us not forget that living on an island, we need to protect our water from pollution. Most of the upland streams (the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya and Bayou Lafourche) We must all join together to protect and preserve the precious waters in the rivers and gulf that surrounds us and in the bays, lakes

Saute onions, green onions, and celery in butter until tender not brown. Pour in water that came with the oysters and simmer for 15 minutes. Add oysters, parsley, salt and pepper to taste, and simmer until oysters are plump and edges begin to curl. Add scalded milk and stir. Do not boil after milk is added. Serve hot with crackers.

Oyster Soup

1 pint oysters
1 stalk celery, finely chopped

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program office can be contacted at 447-8092, (800) 259-0869, or P.O. Box 1336, Thibodaux, LA 70302, or via e-mail at sandra_k@deg.state.la.us

Marsh study gets \$3M

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Three million dollars in federal funding earmarked for Louisiana's brown marsh phenomenon is ready for the taking.

The grant money, which will be allocated to the state Department of Natural Resources through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is part of the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Bill. Gov. Mike Foster, after declaring four coastal parishes - including Lafourche and Terrebonne - in a state of emergency, sought federal funding to study and help more than 250,000 acres of stressed saltwater marsh.

"The grant money is now available through NOAA," said Tim Osborne of NOAA. "The budget will guide us in terms of what the grant application will look like."

Monday, members of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program's revived scientific-technical committee (STC) met at Nicholls State University to discuss its subcommittees' recommendations for priority research needs, project possibilities and projected costs to be included in the \$3 million grant application.

The STC last month divided into subcommittees for the purposes of research and assessment, remediation and nutria control. Subcommittee members were charged with developing prioritized tasks. The subcommittee chairs reported back Monday.

See MARSH, 7A

Marsh

Continued from 1A

Recommendations will be presented to the state Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority.

Research, assessment

The research and assessment subcommittee is further divided into three ad hoc committees dealing with status and trends, causes and data management.

STC members hope to determine the status of affected marshland during the upcoming growing season and to compare that to data collected at sites established last spring when the die-back was first observed. Further investigation into possible causes of the die-back is also a priority task, the members said.

Representatives of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will continue conducting aerial surveys of the affected marsh, and aerial photography, from low and high altitudes, will be taken to enhance imagery data on designated sites. That should give researchers a better idea of the current state of the estuary system.

"Much of this data has already been collected," said Jimmy Johnston of the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette. "We'll take the data and update it with other imagery, looking at whatever re-growth there is, and, of course, we don't have any information on the last growing season."

Because the die-back was observed in August, researchers could gather no information during the growing season to identify possible causes. They are hoping that as data is collected, and as more is known about conditions surrounding the die-back, they can develop models to forecast future instances of marsh die-back.

Though the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are particularly affected, some effort will be made to document die-back areas in the Chenier Plain and the area east of the Mississippi River.

"What this will allow us to do is, as we did in Barataria-Terrebonne, to come up with percentages of that area that are moderately or severely affected," said Greg Linscombe of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Recommendations involving die-back causes include determining the salinity tolerance of spartina alterniflora, the saltwater marsh grass involved in the die-back, as well as other marsh species.

"The first task is to understand, based on the existing information that we have, what might have caused the die-back," said Irv Mendelssohn of Louisiana State University. "At what intensity of (various) stressors would spartina alterniflora succumb?"

Researchers will conduct experiments to determine salinity tolerance, investigate the interaction between the soil systems, hydrology and marsh grass, as well as take into account large-scale historical influences such as climactic changes and freshwater flow.

"Ultimately, we want to construct models using hydrology and climactic data and marsh soil conditions to 'hindcast' what the causes might have been and forecast when they might occur again," said Mendelssohn.

A data management system for the brown marsh effort will also be developed, and a symposium, which will produce a final report including the socioeconomic and ecological implications of the die-back, will be held toward the end of the effort.

"It's very important in the long-term to explain to people why we all should be concerned about this," said Mark Schexnayder of the LSU AgCenter.

Remediation

Also important is to try to remediate brown marsh areas suffering from a loss of vegetation, subsidence and shoreline exposure.

"The loss of foundation of plant material is a problem primarily because spartina alterniflora propagates primarily through vegetative means," said Greg Grandy of the Department of Natural Resources. "While it puts out an awful lot of seed, it doesn't regenerate itself through seeding as much as through vegetation."

Re-growth of the species is not likely in areas where there is little vegetation left, and without vegetation, the area becomes more susceptible to erosion. Vegetative planting techniques, such as using fiber mats fertilized with seed, as well as aerial seeding, were some projects recom-

mended by the remediation subcommittee.

"For aerial seeding, you can have a slurry of seed, fertilizer, mulch to bring it to the site by helicopter," said Grandy.

To protect against further erosion, shoreline stabilization methods were also recommended, such as using rocks or building a berm using a bucket dredge.

"Basically, the costs will be the determining factors," said Grandy.

Nutria Control

About \$200,000 of the \$3 million grant is designated for nutria control.

Though the problem might not be one most people are familiar with, it is a visible one, notably in the 100,000 acres of marshland that have been stripped of vegetation by the species.

"For about 20 years, nutria produced about \$1 million annually for trappers," said Greg Linscombe, chair of the nutria control subcommittee. "They actually become a renewable resource."

But in the 1980s, the market for nutria pelts began to decline, as animal rights activists pushed an anti-fur agenda.

In 1988, the first signs of nutria damage to wetlands were observed, though Louisiana probably had some damage back in the 1950s. To date, approximately 100,000 acres of marshland have been damaged by nutria.

To combat such damage, the subcommittee recommended, having a contractor review the available data on nutria and their affects on the wetlands; and proceed with nutria control methods such as a government trapping program. The subcommittee also recommended continuing the incentive payment to nutria trappers and chemical sterilization of a certain percentage of the species.

An information packet aimed at informing state and federal legislators of the need for nutria control funding was also recommended.

"The object here is to get some money to really be able to do something about the problem," said Linscombe.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

Soil chemistry killed marsh

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE – Soil chemistry changes, rather than high salt content, may have damaged thousands of acres of salt marsh along the Louisiana coast last summer and fall, researchers said Thursday.

Earlier studies of the "brown marsh phenomenon" focused on whether the drought and a lack of fresh water from rivers and other streams caused salinity to rise in soils, killing even salt-tolerant smooth cordgrass, the predominant salt-marsh vegetation.

But several studies discussed at the "Coastal Marsh Dieback" conference Thursday pointed more to changes in

soil chemistry. The conference continued Friday.

Scientists from Louisiana and other coastal states are meeting to share research on what they call the brown marsh phenomenon.

Surveys conducted in Louisiana show more than 100,000 acres of salt-water marsh have been severely affected, and another 17,000 acres died, making mud flats more prone to erosion.

The brown marsh problem is yet another blow to the coastal wetlands, which are already eroding at a rate of 25 square miles annually.

This summer's experience might

be "a harbinger of things to come," said Don Boesch, formerly head of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and now with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences.

Boesch showed the conference attendees two climate-change prediction maps that forecast rain deficits in South Louisiana. The models suggest the kind of phenomenon seen this year might become common, he said.

Normally, scientists talk about marshes deteriorating from too much water. But with this drought-induced

See MARSH, 7A

Marsh

Continued from 1A

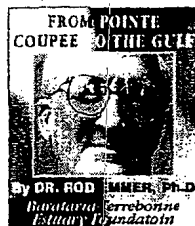
problem, Robert Twilley of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette said, scientists may need to rethink what they know about how plants sur-

vive and thrive.

Len Bahr, Gov. Mike Foster's top assistant for coastal issues, told the conference that while drought appears to be the "smoking gun, we don't have the autopsy report" that identifies what really killed the plants.

The purpose of the National Estuary Program

In previous columns, I described elements of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. For example, I recently introduced Kerry St. Pe, the executive director, and some of the people working on your behalf. But you may still be asking, "What are they trying to accomplish?" To start, the program is not "they" but "us". It all began in open discussions that involved over 200 people from all walks of life - scientists, landowners, educators, engineers, industry representatives, business owners,



fishers, civic groups, and more. Meeting during a four-year period, participants reached agreement on what we need to do to build a sustainable economic, cultural, and environmental future for the estuary. They wrote a series of goals and then initiated the harder part, accomplishing them. Let me take this column to summarize the goals of the National Estuary Program. National Estuary Program activities are directed at preserving and restoring wetlands and barrier

islands, thereby supporting diverse natural biological communities. Solutions to estuarine problems should be compatible with natural processes and must benefit the community as a whole while not placing the full burden of implementation on any one sector of the economy. We can do this by creating clear, fair, practical, and enforceable regulations, such as those which help us meet water quality standards that adequately protect estuarine resources (fish, shellfish, recreation) and human health. The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program assists in the development and implementation of a long-term comprehen-

sive watershed plan that involves all levels of government and the general public. This plan can only be achieved when we have created a comprehensive database that the public can access and understand. Reliable information allows us to select indicators of estuarine health and balanced usage as we periodically evaluate and adjust the basinwide plan. The program is implementing a comprehensive education and awareness initiative that enhances public involvement and maintains the cultural heritage of the basin. Dissemination of information allows the program to promote environmentally responsible economic activities that sustain estu-

arine resources. Finally, the National Estuary Program strives to create a national recognition for the estuary. It is important that you, as someone who lives, works, or visits the

basin, become involved. For additional information about the National Estuary Program, contact either me or the BTNEP office at 1-800-259-06-869.

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The Advocate ONLINE

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Bank president urges decisions on coastline

By **MIKE DUNNE**
Advocate staff writer

The president of Whitney National Bank said the state needs to create a commission that has the power to make the hard-nosed decisions needed to save Louisiana's disappearing coastline.

Politicians' lives are "to look at things on a short-term basis," R. King Milling said Friday.

His comments came during a meeting of scientists and others at the Radisson Hotel to share research on why thousands of acres of Louisiana saltmarsh turned brown this year.

The browning of saltmarsh could speed up the rate of wetlands loss in coastal Louisiana, where 25 square miles of wetlands disappear each year.

"Only the governor's office can get the serious attention needed," Milling said.

He has advocated increased funding for coastal restoration. The state's master plan, "Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana," recommends spending \$14 billion over 20 years to combat wetland loss.

"At the end of the day the only way to justify an up-front expenditure of \$15 billion must be compared with the true cost of failing to act," Milling said.

To get that much money, the federal government and the nation need to be told what is at stake, he said.

"The true cost of failing needs to be developed," he said. Loss of most of Louisiana's coastal marshes will almost kill the fishery, which accounts for 30 percent of nation's fish production in lower 48 states.

About a third of the nation's domestic oil production and a large percentage of natural gas production is in or near Louisiana's coastline. Each oil and gas platform and pipeline, designed with the idea of being protected by marsh, "will have to entirely be rebuilt or replaced," Milling said.

As president of a large financial institution, Milling asked the audience to consider the insurability of property in coastal Louisiana. As the Gulf of Mexico moves closer to communities, loss exposures will increase

and areas will eventually become uninsurable, he said.

Most coastal communities are protected by levees designed with a buffer of 40 to 50 miles of marsh, which is now disappearing, Milling said.

"Will we be forced to abandon entire communities?" he said.

Solving the land loss problem "will require Solomon-like decisions to be made that may be counter to political wisdom."

Milling criticized the state's inability to predict the damage to oysters caused by the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure in Plaquemines Parish, where a jury recently awarded oystermen damages that could ultimately exceed \$700 million.

"That failure resulted from our lack of resolve to face difficult decisions," Milling said.

"If we will continue to concentrate on incremental solutions" the problem will be helped but not solved, he said.

Milling cited Florida's success in getting Congress to commit \$7 billion to restore the Everglades. The governor of Florida "made the Everglades a statewide and, eventually, a nationwide concern" and put together commissions that came up with workable solutions.

"Somehow we have got to be able to create politically a structure that will allow us to pay attention" to bigger problems, he said.

Milling was one of three speakers at the conference calling for more investment in Louisiana's coastal land loss problem.

Mark Davis, director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, said that if that \$14 billion is not spent to restore the coast, a similar amount may be spent to retreat from the Gulf of Mexico.

"We will spend it on evacuation programs, emergency response" and other reactions ... It will not be an investment; it is an expenditure," Davis said.

The state needs to make a greater investment, too. While California and Florida put up 50 cents for every dollar in federal wetlands loss funds, Louisiana puts up only 10 percent to 15 percent.

"I think we ought to put as much on the table as we can... . If Louisiana is a 10 percent partner, it will be treated like a 10 percent partner," Davis said.

Steve Mathies of Battelle Memorial Laboratories has headed the federal-state Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act program and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

He said Louisiana has to sell more than loss of fish or ducks.

The state needs to tell the nation about the large percentage of the nation's oil and natural gas production that is serviced by Port Fourchon, which is at the end of a "thin ribbon of road" protected by now-disappearing marshes, Mathies said.

If a hurricane destroyed that marsh and knocked out several miles of road for six to eight weeks, "what would happen to gasoline prices?"

When people outside of the state think of Louisiana, they think of "Cajun music, Cajun food, Mardi Gras and corrupt politicians," Mathies said.

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Barataria-Terrebonne Looking For Volunteers

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation is assisting Exxon and the Nature Conservancy on Jan. 20 by planting a section of the Exxon Site on Grand Isle. Over 75 volunteers helped plant 3000 seedlings last year on a ten-acre site. If you can attend, email Richard Demay at richard_d@deq.state.la.us or call Cullen Curole at 1-877-ESTUARY.

Water plant operating

River Valley Services has been around Church Point since December 1999. On Thursday January 18, 2001 the construction company moved out of Church Point.

The \$2.5 million expansion project to the Church Point Water System, which will double the water capacity for the Town of Church Point, is now complete.

On Wednesday, January 17 the final inspection of the plant was done by Electric Engineers and Civil Engineers through Morgan Godeau and Associates.

As of January 18 the plant is fully automated.

The expansion is being looked at as an incentive for further residential and business growth.

Church Point is the first community to tap into a new state revolving fund administered by both DHH (Department of

Health and Hospitals) and DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality).

The fund was established as part of the amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose of the fund is to help communities finance water system improvements through low interest loans.

The interest on the Church Point water project loan is 3.95 percent.

The new system will increase the daily water supply from 500,000 to 1.12 million gallons.

In 1997 plans began for the new system under the administration of Mayor Harold Beaugh. He pushed for the water project nearly through completion of financing. Beaugh retired in 1998 prior to the start of construction.

The plans continued under the mayorship of Mayor Roger Boudreaux.

Two additional filters and another settling basin

were added to the plant.

Work on the new water system began in December of 1999.

Mayor Boudreaux states that there are about 1,800 residential homes and businesses being served by the water system.

"There are still things to be done around the plant such as painting and yard work. As soon as the weather permits the work will be complete.

The town will be flushing the hydrants at a later date also. This will be done to clean out the water lines of mineral settlements.

The mayor invites the public to go by and see the new system.

Once all is complete, according to Mayor Boudreaux, the whole town can be proud of the system.

The first addition to the system will be to supply water to the Arthur Daigle Loop off Highway 178.

COMET
THIBODAUX, LA.

DAILY

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JAN-25-01

Meeting set

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program will hold a special meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday for area fishermen and shrimpers to discuss the state and federal action plan on hypoxia.

The meeting will be held at Nicholls State University.

Doug Daigle of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance will co-host the event. Daigle will discuss the hypoxic zone and the Hypoxia Action Plan as this important legislation moves through Congress.

The hypoxic zone or "dead zone" is a 7,000-square mile area in the Gulf of Mexico that extends from the mouth of the Mississippi River westward along the coast of Louisiana in the off-shore waters.

Thursday, January 25, 2001

Daily Comet Thibodaux, LA

Citizens help with monitoring

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Public participation is an integral component in conserving natural resources.

To that end, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is holding a free two-day workshop for community members to learn about water quality in the estuary through citizen monitoring efforts.

"Citizen monitoring is an excellent way to instill an attitude of stewardship amongst the public," said Kerry St. Pe', BTNEP director. "It gets the public directly involved in obtaining correct and meaningful information, and they then become very protective of their environment and better

understand their own environment. To get people to that point, though, we have to be sure that all proper procedures and attention to detail are integrated into the citizen monitoring program."

The workshop, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is being conducted with the help of the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), a Washington, D.C.-based, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting marine life. The CMC has conducted citizen monitoring workshops nationwide.

At the workshop, Thursday and Friday at Nicholls State University, several state and national agencies and non-profit organizations, as well as university professors, will provide

information on data collection, methodology and analysis of data, as well as citizen monitoring programs in other states.

Other topics include bacteria, macroinvertebrates, nutrients and turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total dissolved solids and fish and vegetation monitoring.

Participants will go on a field trip to Bayou Lafourche to learn and review sampling techniques.

Citizen monitoring has become an integral part of the effort to assess the health of the nation's waters because government agencies have found volunteer programs can provide high quality, reliable data.

See MONITOR, 7A

Monitor

Continued from 1A

These help to supplement their own water quality monitoring programs and helps stretch limited dollars, said Cullen Curole, administrator of the Barataria-Terrebonne

National Estuary.

Most states now have citizen-monitoring programs.

"In Missouri, there is a very good and very active citizen-monitoring program," St. Pe' said. "Their collection team has gone far beyond collection of water quality data. They've also taken on a sense of ownership of

the area they collect from, organizing litter pickups and beautification campaigns. It's those kinds of things we hope would spin off from citizen monitoring." The workshop is open to everyone and begins at 8 a.m. each day at the Century Room at John L. Guidry Stadium on the NSU campus.

For information call 447-0868.

Daily Comet

Miles Forrest, Publisher

Jeffrey Zeringue, Executive Editor

Michael Gorman, City Editor



A NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

Workshops a step forward

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) has a good idea and the folks in charge are putting it into practice.

Using the principal that we are all responsible for preserving our natural resources and that we all benefit from their preservation and restoration, BTNEP is holding a free two-day workshop for community members to learn about water quality in the estuary through citizen monitoring.

Kerry St. Pe', BTNEP's director, said it best: "Citizen monitoring is an excellent way to instill an attitude of stewardship amongst the public. It gets the public directly involved in obtaining correct and meaningful information, and they then become very protective of their environment and better understand their own environment."

The Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), a Washington, D.C.-based organization, is helping conduct the workshop, which is sponsored by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The CMC has given similar workshops throughout the United States.

The workshops, which ran Thursday and today at Nicholls State University, included college professors and state and national agencies and organizations.

They provided information on collecting and analyzing clean water data and included helpful information about similar programs being conducted in other states.

The basis of the program is that community volunteers rather than government-funded workers collect water samples and forward the results to a central data collection agency.

Going about the water monitoring in this way makes the effort much more reliable and widespread by stretching the finite number of dollars allocated to the funding and by increasing the number of collection sites that can be included in the data.

We commend all the agencies and institutions taking part in the program and particularly the volunteers who are learning how to go about this exciting process. We hope the effort is successful.

Editorials represent the opinions of this newspaper and not of any one individual. As such, editorials are unsigned. Signed columns represent the individual opinion of the columnist and not necessarily of this newspaper.

Friday, January 26, 2001

People should be good stewards

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Stewardship is an idea dating back to biblical times – a person's responsibility for sharing his time, talents and possessions for the benefit of mankind.

But stewardship also extends beyond the world's human resources.

"We have an obligation to protect the natural resources that we've been given," said Rob Gorman, head of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux's Catholic Social Services. "The evolving notion of stewardship is that as humans, we

live as part of the environment around us, not apart from it."

"We have an obligation to protect the natural resources that we've been given."

To foster environmental stewardship of Louisiana's waterways, the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, a statewide organization of churches, is conducting a series of interfaith workshops, with one planned at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Larose on Feb. 20.

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Catholic Social Services
Director Rob Gorman

The workshop is Drinking Salty Water: A Taste of the Future? Moral and Biblical Stewardship.

"The salty drinking water is an immediate issue, but it's symptomatic of a much broader problem," said Gorman.

The catalysts for the workshops are a series of hardships recently hitting Louisiana's waters, including the depletion of freshwater aquifers around the state and, locally, saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche.

"When people turned on their taps and tasted salt water, I think they were shocked," said Windell Curole, chairman of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program's management conference. "This is the big effect that the whole of our people have felt outside of hurricanes. I don't think they were expecting it."

But they did get it.

Lasting nearly two weeks, the episode was the most severe to date.

Those on the regional environmental front are hopeful that the area's saltwater intrusion and brown marsh problems will bring national attention, proving "local" problems are actually national problems given the state's preeminence in the oil, gas and fisheries industries.

First, they must bring home the message to people who call the area "home" by instilling a sense of stewardship in

Stewards

Continued from 1A

residents, organizers say.

"Creating a sense of stewardship is not just something that would be nice to have. It's an absolute necessity," said Kerry St. Pe', director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "If Louisiana is going to restore this system and preserve what we have here, we have to have a commitment from the people. It's not going to happen if our citizenry doesn't have a sense of stewardship."

Employing religion is one way of encouraging residents to embrace the environment.

"This is an area that is very tied to its religion," said Cullen Curole,

administrator of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. "We won't be preaching from the pulpits, but we will be pointing to our ministers to help reach people that might not otherwise hear our message."

At the workshop, speakers with local, state and federal agencies, as well as elected officials, will speak on the area's problems and what is being done to address those problems, as well as solicit audience responses, concerns and recommendations.

A major focus will be Bayou Lafourche's significance as a drinking water supply.

"It's really the only source of drinking water for about 300,000 people in this area," said Archie Chaisson, director of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District. "If something were to happen to the bayou, people

would be scrambling for drinking water."

The Commission on Stewardship of the Environment will make recommendations to the Louisiana Interfaith Conference from the information collected at the workshops.

"We really do want this to be an interfaith effort with people from all churches and the general public, even if they don't have a particular church they attend," said Gorman. "We'd also like to have all churches develop a stewardship ethic within their own congregations."

The workshop will last from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the church.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

Advocate

■ SATURDAY, Baton Rouge, La. ■ Saturday, January 27, 2001

Workshop offers advice on water monitoring

By **MIKE DUNNE**
Advocate staff writer

THIBODAUX — About 40 representatives of groups that operate community water quality monitoring programs in coastal areas learned how to attract volunteer help and raise money during a two-day workshop.

Participants spent mornings sharing information and afternoons on

field trips on and along Bayou Lafourche dealing with the more technical aspects of monitoring.

The program was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Marine Conservation. It was hosted by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Don McDowell of the Nature Conservancy, based in Baton Rouge, said he bolstered the volunteer hours

given to the agency from 500 annually to 4,000.

"That's almost the equivalent of two staff people," McDowell said.

He said the way to get volunteers is to build personal relationships with people, not rely on their dedication to his cause.

Martin Edlesfen of the Lorio Foundation, which funds charitable or educational projects in Thibodaux, talked about raising

money.

He also raises money for a local high school, so he has experience as both a giver and a getter.

Edlesfen said generating money also is based largely on creating relationships. He said those seeking grants should "not come in like a fisherman with a lot of lures, and put them on table and hope one of them gets a bite. Come in with one thing. Take your best shot."

Group seeks to protect waterways

LAROSE - A series of workshops kicks off Feb. 20 aimed at sparking grassroots involvement to protect area waterways.

"Drinking Salty Water: A Taste of the Future? Moral and Biblical Stewardship," is the first in the series, sponsored by the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, a statewide organization of churches.

The workshop is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Larose.

The catalysts for the workshops are a series of hardships recently hitting Louisiana's waters, including saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche, said Rob Gorman, head of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux's Catholic Social Services.

"When people turned on their taps and tasted salt water, I think they were shocked," said Windell Curole, chairman of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program's management conference.

Representatives of local, state and federal agencies, as well as elected officials, will speak on the area's problems and what is being done to address them and will solicit audience comments.

Dead zone fight needs group effort

By KATINA A. GAUDET

NYT Regional Newspapers

THIBODAUX — Widespread support among commercial fishermen and farmers is needed to implement a plan for reducing the Gulf of Mexico's 7,000-square-mile dead zone, officials said Monday.

The action plan, developed by representatives of federal agencies, as well as nine states bordering the Mississippi River, was unveiled nearly two weeks ago by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and aims to reduce oxygen depletion in the northern Gulf of Mexico by 30 percent.

Each spring and summer, the dead zone — an oxygen-depleted area unable to sustain aquatic life — develops off the coasts of Louisiana and Texas due to pollution, particularly nitrogen from farm fertilizers upstream, making their way to the Gulf by way of the Mississippi River. Once into the Gulf, the nutrients feed large algae blooms. When the algae decomposes, it depletes oxygen levels.

Most of the nitrogen, about 90 percent comes from agricultural runoff, and 56 percent of that enters the Mississippi River basin system above where the Mississippi meets the Ohio River.

Some of the pollution also originates from sources such as municipal wastewater.

"The people in the upstream states

have not always felt the same sense of concern that we have or really been receptive to hearing that they might be the cause of the problem," said Doug Daigle, hypoxia program director for the Mississippi River Basin Alliance. The alliance sponsored Monday's meeting with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "After two years of the task force process, not everything has been resolved, but the attitude of warfare and hostility is gone, and we all agree that we need to put this plan into place."

The plan calls for employing existing regulations as well as incentive-based, voluntary actions for reducing pollution.

"There's a real cooperation here within our own local farming community," said Kerry St. Pe, BTNEP director. "When nitrates run off their fields into our surface waters, farmers are losing a valuable commodity, and they realize this. They're really open to this, but we need to make sure they understand we're not looking to impose any (additional) regulations on anyone."

The task now is to have the action plan embraced by commercial fishermen, who have their own stakes in the reduction of the dead zone. This could be somewhat difficult for several reasons. First, the problem is not yet perceived as an immediate one.

"Every year, we have noticed the problem getting worse," said Johnny Glover, owner of Coco Marina in Cocodrie and a candidate for state Senate. "We can work around the problem today. If the commercial or recreational fisherman is not catching shrimp in one place, he picks up his nets and moves over to find shrimp. The problem is not so big (that) we can't live with it, but it is getting bigger."

The apprehension of commercial fishermen toward environmental groups might also lend itself to an unwillingness to support the action plan.

Desire to serve is attribute

By Todd Siegrist
Staff Writer

Political experience and a desire to serve are two attributes Leslie Robichaux McVeigh says she would bring to Baton Rouge if elected as the new state senator from District 20.

"I am ready to step in and do the job," the Raceland native said. "I know the legislative process and the people in Baton Rouge."

For the past five years McVeigh has been a legislative assistant to her cousin, state Sen. Mike Robichaux, D-Mathews, whose decision to resign from his post led to the upcoming special election.

Robichaux said he plans to support her candidacy.

"I have several friends in the race who are good candidates, but I think she'd be the best person for the position," Robichaux said.

Although the cousins share kin, they do not share party affiliation. She is a Republican and he a Democrat. That has not posed a problem for McVeigh.

"I've always worked for people who've covered the political spectrum," said McVeigh, who wants to continue some of Robichaux's work.



Leslie Robichaux McVeigh

Age: 43
Home: Raceland
Party: Republican
Occupation: Legislative Assistant
Public Office: None

we have a steady revenue stream for coastal restoration projects."

Protecting the coastline is one issue McVeigh

See McVEIGH, 7A

"There were several fisheries bills that Sen. Robichaux introduced a few years ago, (and) I'm hoping to be the senator that sponsors those bills' renewals."

Although McVeigh wants to work on a variety of issues and problems facing Louisiana, she said finding the money for them is key.

"Of course we need some serious fiscal reform if we are ever adequately going to address teacher pay and health care issues," McVeigh said.

"We need to make sure

McVeigh

Continued from 1A
says she feels strongly about

"We all know locally what's at stake," McVeigh said.

McVeigh spoke on the need for legislators to push forcefully to protect environmental programs, citing a recent requirement for state agencies to slash expenses by 7 percent.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality originally wanted to handle the cut by removing all of its funding to the local Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

"If it hadn't been for the legislators

making a lot of noise, it would have happened," McVeigh said.

The daughter of politically active parents, McVeigh became involved in campaigns at an early age.

"We've been working on political campaigns since I was a little girl," McVeigh said.

Her involvement in political campaigns extended to former U.S. Rep. Bob Livingston, the husband of her sister, Bonnie.

Although she said she enjoyed working to get candidates elected, getting to see them enact the laws they had promised to fight for led her to become even more involved in politics.

McVeigh earned a degree in politi-

cal science from Louisiana State University. Marriage to a man from Cedar Rapids took her to Iowa, where she worked for Iowa legislators.

First she worked for former U.S. Rep. Tom Tauke as a financial coordinator on his campaign. Then, in 1983, she became a constituent services case worker for Sen. Chuck Grassley, dealing with requests made to the senator by the state's residents.

"If they had problems with the IRS, or if they didn't get their social security check, or if they wanted White House tour tickets or if they just had concerns about legislation," she said.

In 1987 she left Grassley's office to work on the Iowa campaign of then-Vice President George Bush's presi-

dential run. After his election she returned to Tauke's office as a constituent service caseworker until 1989.

After a year's stay in Washington, D.C., as a regional finance director of the Republican National Committee, she returned to Iowa to work in the state Senate as a legislative assistant.

She returned to Lafourche in 1992 after her divorce and worked for her father, as an administrative assistant, then joined Mike Robichaux's staff.

McVeigh, 43, has one son, Patrick, 16.

Todd Siegrist is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. He can be reached at 448-7639 or by e-mail at todd.siegrist@dailycomet.com.

Divert a River, Save a Marsh

By Mike Dunne

Protecting Louisiana's coastal wetlands is a never-ending battle.

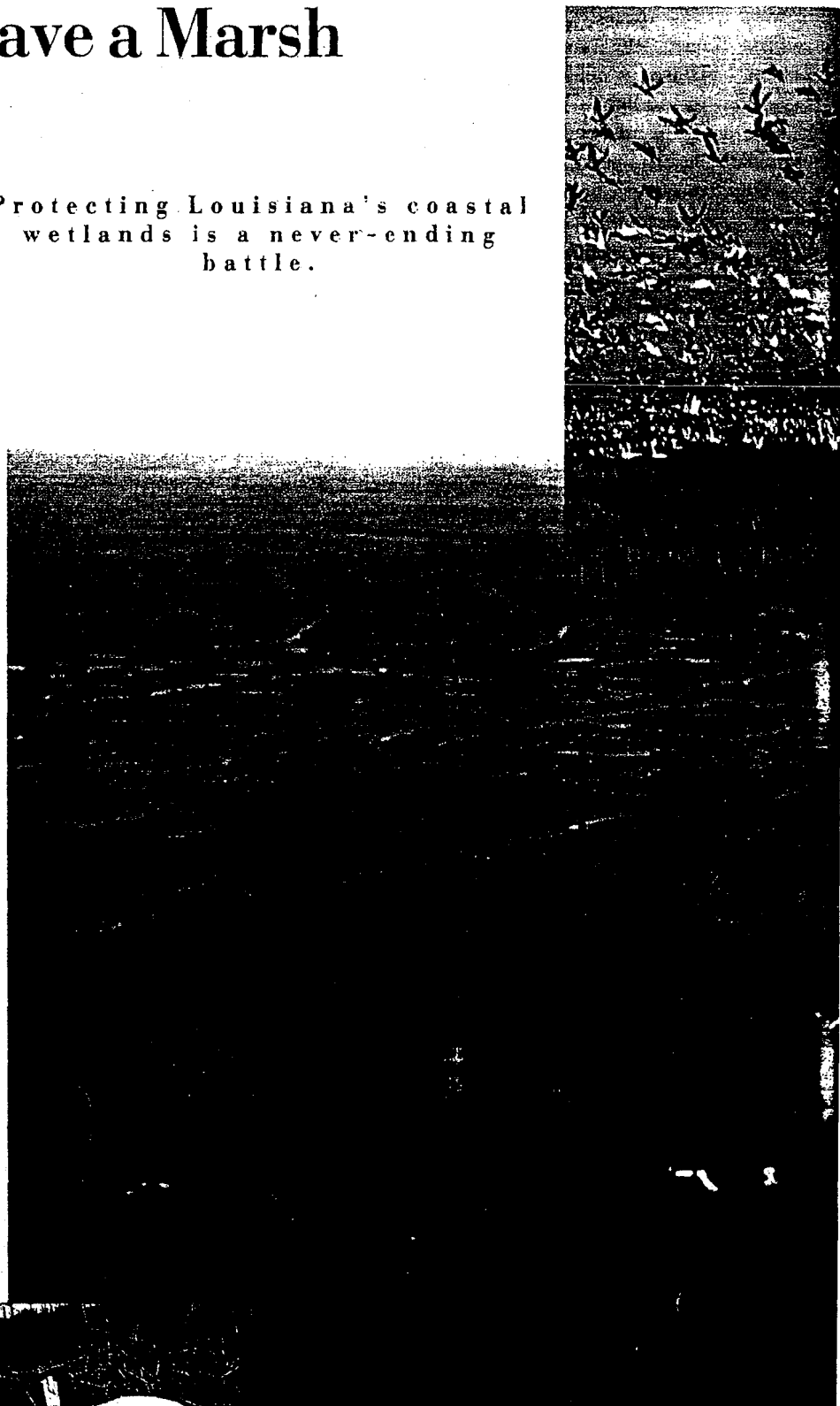
Late last summer, Kerry St. Pé flew over the marshes southwest of New Orleans. What he saw depressed him.

Instead of the normal swirls of green marsh grass amid the light chocolate waters of coastal Louisiana, there were big patches of dark brown where the marsh grass was dying and black patches where there was only grass stubble.

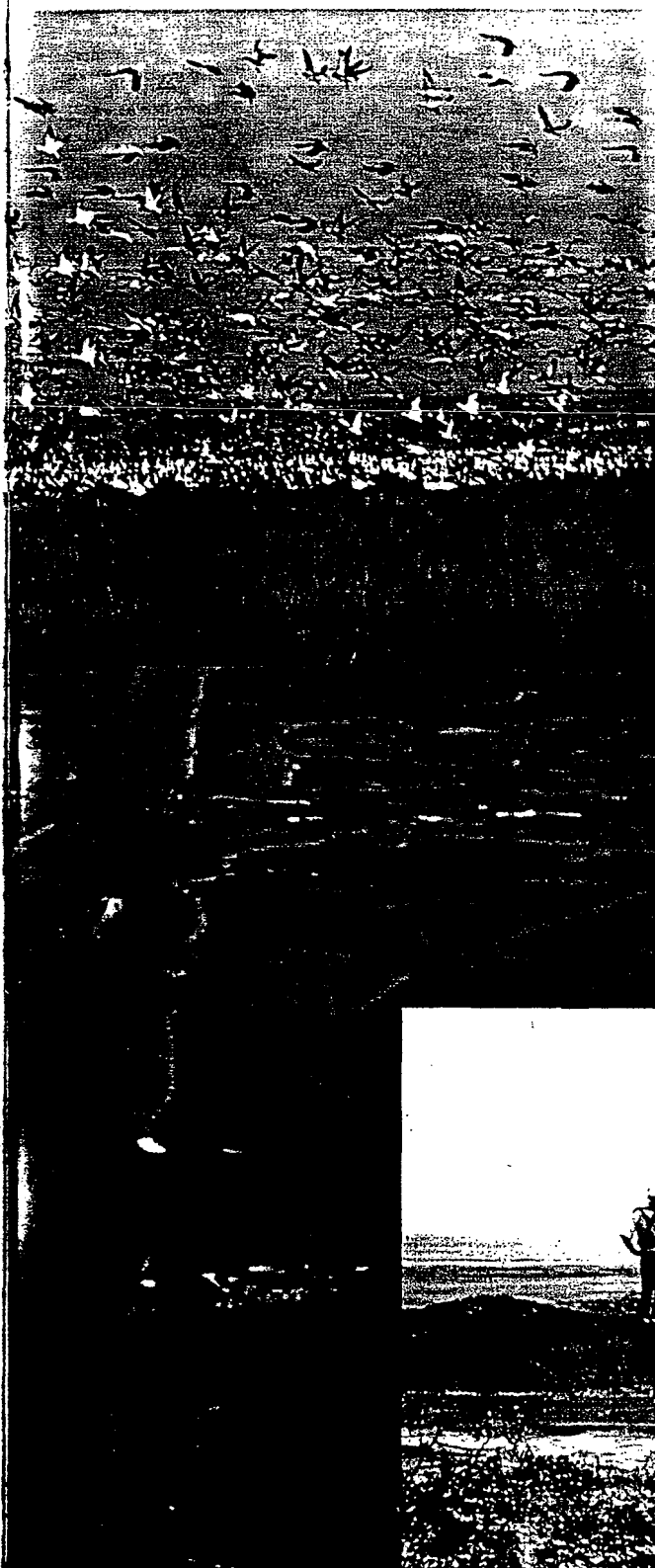
The colors were a signal that the marshes of Barataria and Terrebonne bays are dying of thirst—more precisely, not enough freshwater and too much saltwater. It is the delicate balance of fresh and salt that makes the estuaries so valuable for fisheries.

"I kept thinking, can we really do anything to save this system?" says St. Pé, the director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "We humans have totally abused this gift that has been given to us by the creator and if we don't correct those things

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration Division



Louisiana's coastal wetlands are disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year—a football field every 45 minutes. Channels dug by oil and gas companies, major contributors to southern Louisiana's economy, are part of the problem (as shown in the above 1980 photo of the Bayou Barataria Waterway south of New Orleans). Revegetation (left) helps prevent further erosion. The wire screen is an attempt to keep nutria away from the young plants.



U.S. Fishery and Wildlife Service

The wetlands provide winter habitat for half of the Mississippi flyway waterfowl population and almost a fifth of the entire U.S. duck and geese population. At left: Blue and Snow Geese migrating through Louisiana's Coastal Marshes. Below: discharge from a cutterhead dredge, Wine Island near Houma Navigation Canal.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

that we did, we are going to lose it forever."

The federal estuary program was created in 1990 to help restore the bays where seafood blossoms. The key to this process is to manage the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, which built this fragile landscape. Louisiana's coastal wetlands are disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year—a football field every 45 minutes. And that figure doesn't include the marsh that St. Pé was watching die.

A big loss

Losing the wetlands means much more than dying marshland. Southeast Louisiana's wetlands are the nursery for a \$1 billion fishery. They protect 155 miles of interior waterways over which more than 100 million tons of cargo are shipped annually. Eighteen percent of the nation's domestic oil production comes from coastal Louisiana, and the marsh helps protect the petroleum industry's pipelines and wells. Take note, too, in this winter of soaring natural gas prices, that 27 percent of our natural gas comes from these marshes offshore.



What a Marsh Means to You

Natural systems provide a tremendous variety of goods and services to humans. But humans also can destroy the systems quickly and silently. Such is the case of the coastal Louisiana wetlands, where nearly a century of altering hydrology, discharging pollutants, and mismanaging landscapes has put a valuable resource in great jeopardy.

The private and public activities that have led to the rapidly disintegrating marshes, estuaries, and barrier islands were all well intentioned. They were meant to enhance economic well-being through flood protection and agriculture, and to create jobs and profit investors through the mining of oil and gas reserves.

Little thought was given to the future of these ecosystems and the implications of their loss.

Today, as such ecosystems—including the Florida Everglades—become ever more endangered, we find increased concern for their preservation and enhancement.

The mismanagement problems go way back. They stem in part from the belief of some public agencies that maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem is not a high priority. In many cases, public officials showed little knowledge of the effects of altering hydrologic and sediment conditions.

An even bigger reason for neglect of the wetlands is the shortsightedness of private interests, which tend to value the land for what it produces in the short term—its private value. Yet the wetlands are most valuable as a public resource.

In today's dollars, an acre of south Louisiana wetlands is worth \$10,200 to \$19,000 for all the services and goods it provides to society. That's far more than the land's private, real estate value, which is less than \$500 an acre. The total natural asset loss from anticipated wetlands degradation over the next 100 years, using these broader, ecosystem values, ranges from \$7 billion to \$29.4 billion in 2000 dollars.

The barrier island system, which stretches some 150 miles along the south Louisiana coast, offers another example of the contrast between private and public values. The islands protect coastal communities from storms and normal wave action, which can disintegrate an already unhealthy wetlands system. Yet sea level rise and alterations in hydrology place this system at severe risk.

The public value of the barrier islands, according to my estimate, is between \$2,940 and \$4,100 an acre. As private real estate these islands have minimal value.

Most studies, including my own, focus on the economic value of the wetlands and barrier islands, and their benefits are many, including recreation, storm protection, wastewater treatment, and commercial fishing. Yet it is the cultural and social values of maintaining a unique way of life that are perhaps most significant—and most difficult to calculate.

In the end, the conservation of the wetlands and barrier islands will depend almost solely on public policy, rather than private markets. Reversing decades of public mismanagement, private exploitation, and failure to recognize significant values will be a struggle.

Stephen Farber

Farber teaches environmental economics at the Graduate School of International and Public Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

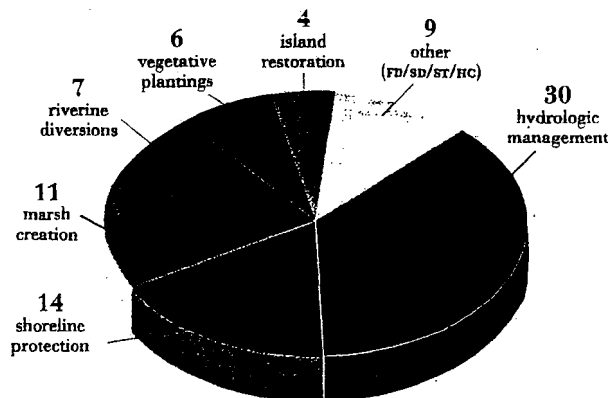
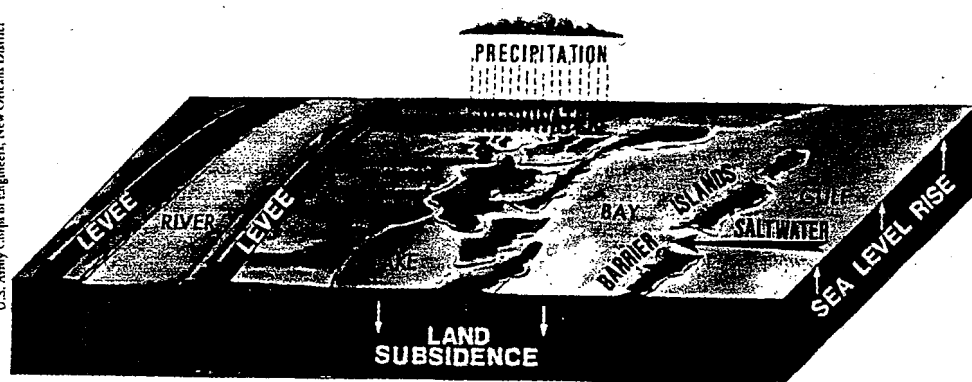


There's more: Waterfowl from the middle of the continent winter in the wetlands or stop off to feed and rest before migrating farther south in the fall and on the way back north in the spring. Most important, perhaps, the marshes offer hurricane protection for about two million south Louisiana residents. The storm tide pushed inland by hurricanes falls a foot for every 2.7 miles of marsh it must cross. Aerial surveys by state officials concluded in September that 105,000 acres, or about a third of all the salt marsh between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, are dead or dying. Another 145,000 acres are severely impaired.

If a hurricane had hit last summer, it would have caused a catastrophic loss of land on top of the 25 square miles lost in the average year. And there is still concern that winter storms or a hurricane next summer could hit before marsh plants grow back, washing away the fragile soil.

What's killing the marsh is a three-year drought, combined with low flows on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. "If you go back in history, no one has ever seen this," says biologist Robert Twilley of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Without rain or freshwater from the rivers, the normally salt-

Brown pelicans hover above their nesting habitat at Queen Bess Island as workers create a rock retaining dike prior to placing dredge materials. The island is located in the Barataria estuary.



NUMBER OF PROJECTS, BY MAJOR TYPE

Subsidence and sea level rise have accelerated the rate of wetland loss. New levees, canals, and waterways add to the problem by reducing the flow of freshwater and allowing saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico to intrude. Meanwhile, at least 80 projects are under way in various categories, as the pie chart shows.

tolerant grasses cannot handle the increased salinity levels.

Twilley and others noticed, however, that one section of marshland did not turn brown. That's the area near Caernarvon, a few miles downstream from New Orleans's French Quarter, where a freshwater diversion structure allows Mississippi River water to flow into the Breton Sound marsh. River water passed through the diversion structure for only a few weeks in early summer, but apparently that was enough to keep the marsh green while other stretches were brown by August.

The recent marsh die-off on top of the typical land loss shows the "chronic problem of lack of nourishment of the marshes by river water," says Len Bahr, coastal affairs assistant to Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster. For that we can thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for the flood control levees that confine the mighty river as it flows into the Gulf of Mexico. In the few places where small diversions of river water occur, such as Caernarvon, the injection of freshwater and nutrients has helped to protect the marshes against this stress, Bahr says.

In October, Gov. Foster asked the Corps of Engineers to manipulate flood control struc-

tures and locks and canals along the Mississippi to help the marshes, especially in periods of drought. Col. Thomas Julich, commander of the corps's New Orleans District, says he believes he has the authority to use these structures for freshwater diversion without congressional action. Foster, St. P , Twilley, and Bahr all agree that managing the Mississippi River is the key to reducing coastal land loss and sustaining the region's rich fish nursery.

Balancing act

But any management plan will require a delicate balancing act. The trick is to recharge the marshes while trying not to flood low-lying communities or hampering the fishing or oyster-growing industries.

Louisianans and others who live along the Mississippi River have been trying to control it for nearly a century. The river begins as a clear stream a few inches deep flowing out of Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota, winding up 2,300 miles south in the Gulf of Mexico. In between, it passes along or through 10 states, draining over 40 percent of the nation.

For thousands of years, the river has dumped rich sediment into the Gulf of Mexico between Vermilion Bay in southwest Louisiana

and the Mississippi Sound in Mississippi to the east. In some parts of south Louisiana, 60,000 feet of sediment sit on the bedrock. As the mud compacts, the delta land sinks at the rate of four to 4.3 feet a century, according to Shea Penland of the Coastal Research Laboratory at the University of New Orleans.

Meanwhile, sea level is rising some 4.6 inches per century, washing away more land. The gloomiest global warming forecasters warn that this figure could double in 50 years. As land sinks and water level goes up, says Don Cahoon, a researcher for the National Wetlands Research Center, the marshes effectively drown, and the plants die.

Unintended consequences

It's up to the Army Corps of Engineers to keep the Mississippi and its tributaries inside their flood control levees and to keep the region's waterways open and the economy flowing. It has done this in part through a system of navigation channels and levees.

But the corps's solutions turned out to be part of the problem. Its artificial waterways allow saltwater to infiltrate, killing the marsh vegetation. The levees that ended the annual flooding also block freshwater and silt from nourishing the plants.

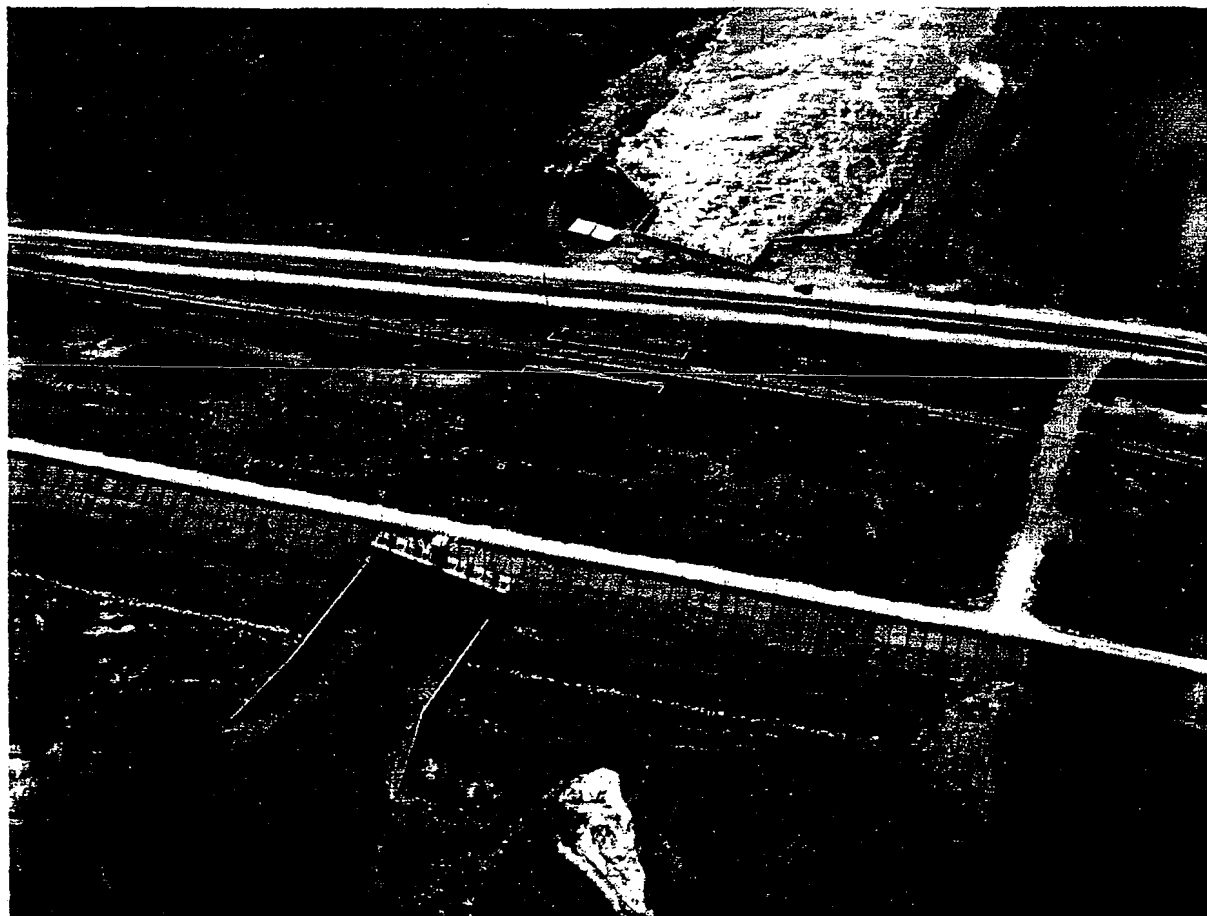
The oil companies also have hurt the coastal wetlands with the 17,000 miles of canals they have carved out to sink wells. "Spoil banks"—ridges of muck and mud—are built up when channels are dug, disrupting the natural flow of freshwater through the marsh.

Proper water flow is needed to provide nourishment to the plants that make up most of the marsh and to flush out the harmful sulfides that build up in plant roots, says Paul Kemp, a researcher at Louisiana State University's Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources in Baton Rouge.

Kemp's laboratory is the marshlands near the Caernarvon diversion, about 14 miles southeast of downtown New Orleans. He makes his point by plunging a probe into the muddy earth. The semicircular soil core that comes up—with layers of black and brown soil surrounding a slug of gray clay—tells the story of successive years of growth and death of plant life with occasional injections of sediment.

Kemp explains that the clay was deposited when the Mississippi River levee was admitted in the 1927 flood to relieve pressure on New Orleans's levees. Occasional floods are important, he says, to maintain the land-building process that came about through a succession of shifting deltas.

At Caernarvon, a few miles downstream from the French Quarter, a freshwater diversion structure allows Mississippi River water to flow into the Breton Sound marsh. The diversion structure, which was completed in 1991, is capable of discharging up to 8,000 cubic feet per second of freshwater, sediment, and nutrients into the estuary. So far, say observers, it seems to be working, and more diversions are planned. Some owners of shrimp boats like the one opposite worry, however, that more diversions could hurt their business. More than 50,000 Louisianans work in wetland-dependent fisheries.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Reconnecting

The top priority in rebuilding the wetlands is to reconnect the river system to the marshes, says David Frugé of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He represents his agency on the federal-state Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Task Force, which oversees the expenditure of about \$40 million a year to combat land loss in Louisiana. "We are going to have to do a better job of managing the flow of the river system," Frugé says.

All these researchers agree that diversions like the one at Caernarvon must balance their land-building benefits with the potential harm to resources such as shrimp and oysters. While they acknowledge that the threat of a major flood every five to 10 years is real, they believe that flood control and land building can be combined. The short-term loser, say Kemp and others, would be the region's fishery, but the losses would be counteracted in the long term by a more productive and sustainable marsh system.

Talk like that concerns Kevin Campo, one of more than 9,000 Louisiana shrimpers working the coastal marsh. Campo works the water-

diversion structure's high flows were "like flushing a toilet," he says, and shrimp and other seafood virtually disappeared.

If all the planned diversions near the mouth of the Mississippi River become reality, 100,000 cubic feet of water would flow into the marshes each second, killing the seafood business, claims Campo. "I'd like to see the coast saved, but I think we could save it in a better way than destroying my livelihood," he says.

In 1999, Campo joined other fishermen to help state officials create a management plan that avoids high flows during key seafood harvest times. Early last June, for example, the flow was limited to 1,000 cubic feet per second—an eighth of the maximum diversion. "We asked for a voice in it, and they gave it to us," Campo says.

Today, thanks to the influx of freshwater, the marsh in the basin below the diversion structure is flourishing, says Donald Ansardi, land manager for the Delacroix Corporation, the largest landowner in the Caernarvon vicinity. "I've seen it as a young boy, and when the saltwater came in and started killing it, and now I am seeing it good again," Ansardi says as his airboat skims over the low marsh, sending

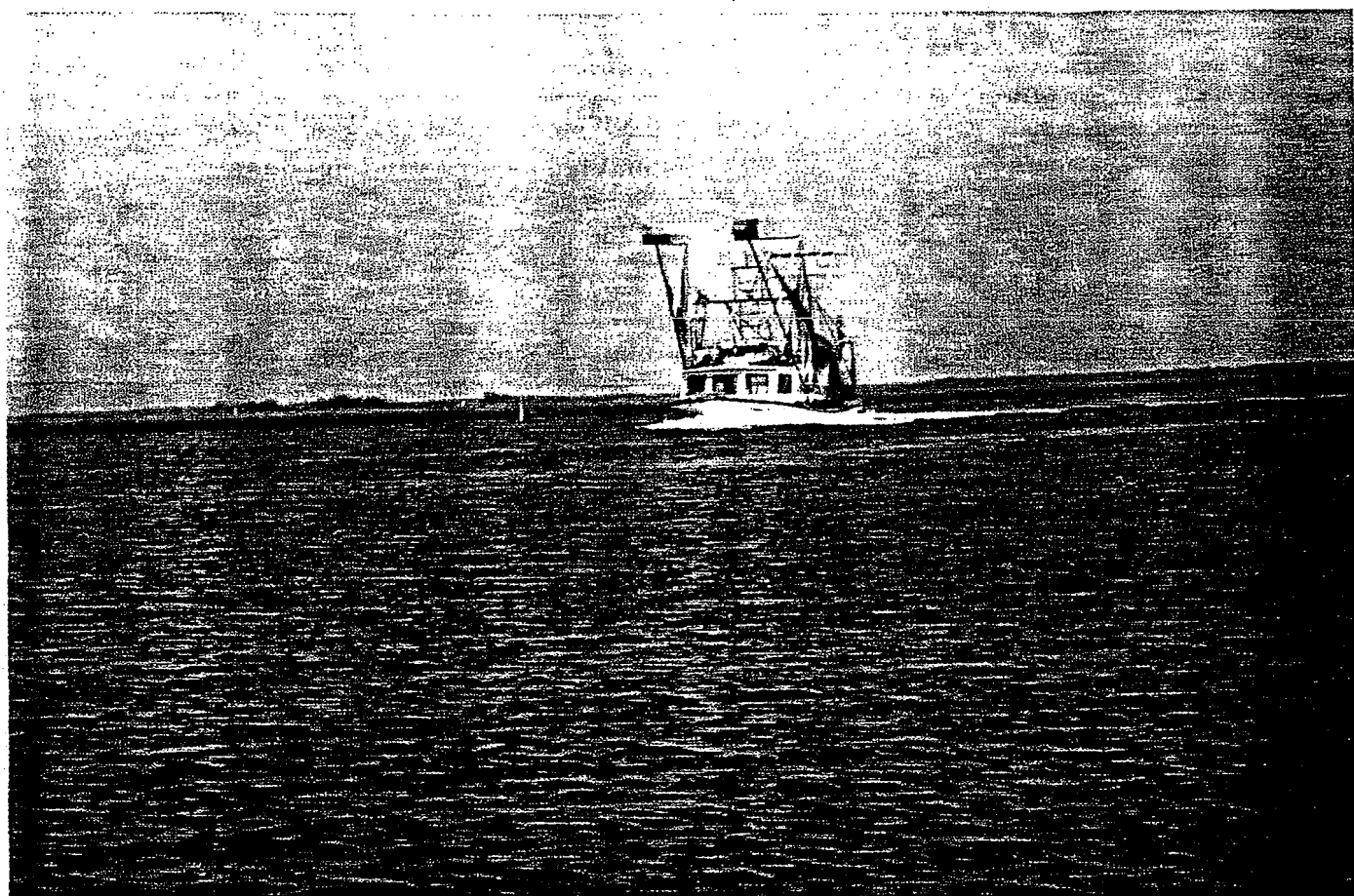
Two views

In fact, vegetation is increasing in the areas that benefit from Caernarvon's diversion. State monitoring has documented that 400 acres of what was once open water are now mud and marsh. Harvests of such wetland bounty as alligator eggs, waterfowl, and freshwater fish are up, Ansardi says.

But what's good for Ansardi may not be good for oysterman Kenny Fox of Plaquemines Parish, who leases water bottoms from the state for his crop. Fox has spent 40 years building oyster reefs that might now get too much freshwater. "As a landowner, diversion is the greatest thing," he says. "As an oyster leaseholder, it's a nightmare." The shellfish he cultivates under water live in that zone where freshwater and saltwater mix. Oysters can't swim off when a diversion pushes the saltwater back, killing some beds or cutting their production.

Fox predicts that about 10,000 acres of oyster leases ultimately will be wiped out by proposed diversions because of too much freshwater and silt. The Caernarvon diversion "has changed the whole ecosystem," he says.

In mid-December, five oyster growers who



Michael Kaplan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

age awards in excess of \$21,000 an acre from the state. The growers had claimed that Caernarvon's operation damaged their leases. If the awards are extended to all other oyster lease holders in the class action suit, the state could be liable for more than \$700 million in damages. The state is appealing the jury verdict.

Floods again?

In 1927, a great flood forced more than a million people from Illinois and Missouri down to the Gulf of Mexico out of their homes. That disaster prompted the building of the Mississippi River's levee system.

It's the prospect of more water in the marsh that worries people in flood-prone areas like the fishing village of Jean Lafitte, which sits atop a natural levee created by one of the Mississippi's old tributaries. The village, part of Jefferson Parish in suburban New Orleans, lies between the fast-disappearing marshes to the east and the sluggish Bayou Barataria to the west.

The best hope for rebuilding the marshes to protect Jean Lafitte is a river diversion, says Oneil Marlborough, an engineering con-

and that makes Jean Lafitte Mayor Timothy Kerner nervous. He wants the levees to come first. Restoring the marsh is a great idea, he says, "but not at the cost of more tidal flooding."

No one should have to make such a choice, says Col. Julich, the Army Corps of Engineers commander. Diversions and flood control could be managed together, he says. The corps is now completing a second freshwater diversion structure on the west bank of the Mississippi River at Davis Pond in St. Charles Parish, upriver from New Orleans. The \$104 million project, which is expected to be finished next June, will divert up to 10,500 cubic feet of freshwater per second into the upper Barataria Basin. By comparison, the average flow of Niagara Falls is about 6,000 cubic feet per second.

Is it realistic to expect more of the same? According to Julich, the corps could use navigational locks and channels to send more freshwater through the levees and toward the marshes. The corps also has the authority to funnel more water down the Atchafalaya River at the Old River Control

was the corps's way of being certain that the Mississippi would not use the Atchafalaya as a shortcut to the Gulf of Mexico and turn New Orleans and Baton Rouge into backwater cities.

University of Louisiana-Lafayette biologist Robert Twilley, notes that Congress recently approved \$7 billion to restore the Florida Everglades. Four or five more Davis Pond-type projects would add up to about \$500 million—or about a year's value of the shrimp industry, which could disappear if Louisiana's coastal wetlands are lost. That, says Twilley, would be a bargain—a wise investment in the future.

Mike Dunne is the environmental reporter for the Baton Rouge *Advocate*.

Resources

On the web. Coastal Research Laboratory at the University of New Orleans: www.coastal.uno.edu National Wetlands Research Center: www.nwrc.usgs.gov Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources at Louisiana State University:

Planning February 2001

Special conference issue on New Orleans



The Nontourist's Guide to New Orleans

- 4 Behind Bourbon Street. Coleman Warner unveils this unique city's planning struggles—and victories. A prelude to the APA national planning conference, March 10-14.



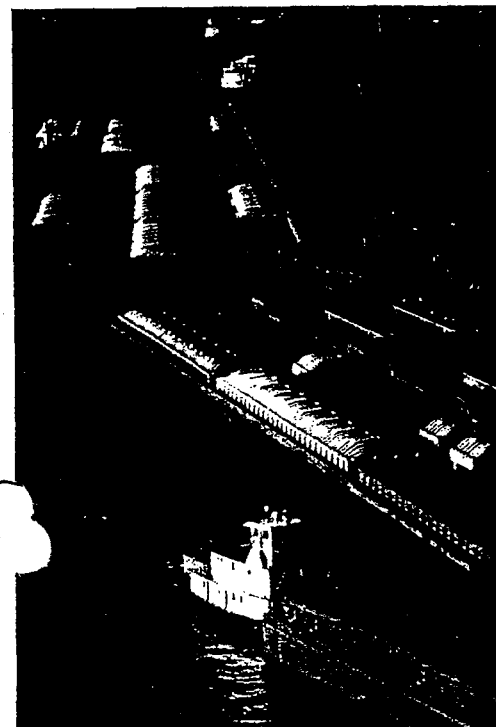
Divert a River, Save a Marsh

- 12 Saving southwest Louisiana's coastal wetlands is a never-ending battle. Mike Dunne reports in Planning Practice.



Laissez les bon plans rouler!

- 18 Slowly but surely, notes Ruth Knack, comprehensive planning is making headway in Louisiana.



Ports and Promenades

- 20 From New Orleans to Toronto, waterfronts are getting new respect.

Cover: "Secondline Parade," by Carl Purcell ©New Orleans CVB.

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Planning (ISSN 0001-2610) is published by the American Planning Association, 122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60603. APA's membership includes 12 monthly issues of Planning. From membership dues, \$30 is the subscription fee for Planning. Nonmember subscribers pay \$65 a year for 12 monthly issues of Planning (\$90 foreign). Periodical postage paid at Chicago, Illinois. Additional entry at Greenfield, Ohio. Planning is a registered trademark. Copyright 2001 by the American Planning Association. Reprint permission must be requested in writing from APA.

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Daily Comet, Lafourche Parish, La. Friday, February 2, 2001 7A

Dieback panel meets

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The committee charged with prescribing research and remediation tasks for Louisiana's marsh dieback finalized plans in the hopes of soliciting contractors for work.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program reconvened its scientific-technical advisory committee last December after the state called upon the program to coordinate its response effort to the more than 260,000 acres of saltwater marsh at risk in the estuary system.

About 20,000 acres are now void of vegetation because of the death of saltwater marsh grass.

Though no conclusive cause has been determined, scientists believe the lack of fresh water from a severe drought might have played a part in creating certain stressors that have caused the death of the marsh grass.

Wednesday, committee members finalized plans for requests for pro-

posals for four subcommittees dealing with: identifying potential causes of dieback; status of affected marsh and any observable trends in the marsh; management of data collected; and control of nutria contributing to marsh deterioration.

Remediation projects in affected marsh are in the works, but it is not known to what extent it is possible.

For these tasks, Congress has allocated \$3 million to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to be given to the state Department of Natural Resources after a formal grant application is completed. Prospective contractors will be required to submit a formal proposal, which will be reviewed by committee members.

Selection meetings will be held for causes, status and trends, and data management, and for nutria control.

The committee hope to be in a position to receive proposals in April.

FROM POINTE COUPEE TO THE GULF

Treasures can be found in Barataria Estuary's museums

By ROD E. EMMER, Ph.D.
Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation

On one of my regular trips through our estuary, I made note of the many museums we are fortunate to have "from Pointe Coupee to the Gulf." These collections display informative and interesting exhibits of our culture, a culture that is changing rapidly. Unfortunately, we are becoming more and more like the rest of America. We need to do everything we can to save our heritage.

The museums include buildings and items from plantations, life in a small town, or collections focused on one segment of the population such as fishermen, firemen or an ethnic group. Let me introduce four of these to show the range of museums you may want to take a weekend drive, a class or group to visit. What follows is no way inclusive. Refer to the books at the end of this column for a more extensive list.

In the northern part of our estuary is the Pointe Coupee Museum and Tourist Center (8348 False River Road, 225-638-7788) overlooking False River south of New Roads on La. 1. The unique structure marries a 1790

two-room French log cabin with a circa 1840 bousillage addition. The 3 1/2 x 10-inch cypress logs are stacked and dovetailed at the corners. A central chimney serves the fireplaces in each room. The cabin served as a house, jail and hospital on Parlange Plantation before it was moved to its present site and use. Furnishings such as the trundle bed, armoire, loom, corn-shuck broom and wall colors represent the cabin's appearance in the 1840s.

Further south is the West Baton Rouge Museum (845 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen, 225-336-2422). Exhibits focus on sugar production in a rural parish along the Mississippi River. In addition to the anticipated tools used in a sugarcane operation, the kids (old and young) will enjoy a 22-foot working model of a sugar mill. Next to the museum are the Allendale Cabin (circa 1850) and the Alliet House (circa 1830). The former is a slave cabin from the Allendale Plantation. The Alliet House is a French-Creole dwelling typical of plantations along the Mississippi River. Check with the museum for dates of demonstrations of sugar grinding,

Volunteers are always needed to help during special events or on a regular basis.

boiling, music and crafts.

In Thibodaux is the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center (314 St. Mary St., 504-448-1375), a branch of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Located just "up the bayou" from the downtown business district in the Percy-Lobdell warehouse, the museum is devoted to the Acadians who settled in the coastal wetlands of southeast Louisiana.

Exhibits include the tools for fishing and trapping, Acadian history, language, foods, music and religion when communities were only accessible by boat and French was the daily language. Check with the center for a schedule of plays and local musicians in the theater. At the same time, ask for the dates of special presentations.

The small gift area offers a respectable selection of books, videos, CDs and tapes about the region and its people.

Finally, I want to reference a more

recent, but growing museum farthest south. I had the pleasure of meeting the organizers on a recent trip to Lockport as part of a planning team. The Lafourche Heritage and Folklife Museum is on the corner of Lafourche and Main Streets in the old Merchants and Planters Bank building. Glen Pitre, a nationally acknowledged filmmaker and author, designed the exhibits on the culture of the area. A miniature Cajun cabin, murals and daily items are part of the exhibits. Call ahead (504-532-3140) as the museum is open by appointment.

I encourage all to visit and support these community museums.

Volunteers are always needed to help during special events or on a regular basis. Donate or place on loan family items and give oral histories of what life was like or what your grandparents described. It is only by all of us working together that we can preserve our culture.

This certainly does not include all our estuary has to offer. For additional information, I suggest "Baldwin's Guide to Museums of Louisiana" and "A Directory of Louisiana Museums and Historic Sites."

LISTENING TO OUR ELDERS

I can remember when the radio was the high-tech entertainment in my home. The previous generation, my parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents, gathered around the up-right piano for a sing-along because they grew-up before radios.

I've met people only recently deceased who could recall seeing the first airplanes flying across south Louisiana. When I talk to friends' children, they don't realize the world existed before computers and the internet. Our estuary is changing rapidly.

A large part of saving our culture "from Pointe Coupee to the Gulf" depends on us listening to our elders. Most of what they observed and how they lived has never been reported. A

number of schools and organizations enlist the younger generation to conduct interviews with their relatives. History projects ask students to tape record or video conversations between the students and great-grandparents or grandparents. These tapes are saved and compiled into books about a particular community. In fact, the National Estuary Program is doing this now.

If you are not already involved in one of these projects, I encourage you to become active. Visit with your great-grandparents and other relatives and find out what life was like in for them.

Record what they say and give a copy to the local organization collecting these oral histories.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program office can be contacted at 447-8092, (800) 259-0869, or P.O. Box 1336, Thibodaux, LA 70302, or via e-mail at sandra_k@deg.state.la.us.

McVeigh says she'll focus on funding

• This is the last in a series.

By **TODD SIEGRIST**
Staff Writer

Political experience and a desire to serve are two attributes Leslie Robichaux McVeigh says she would bring to Baton Rouge if elected as the new state senator from District 20.

"I am ready to step in and do the job," the Raceland native said. "I know the legislative process and the people in Baton Rouge."

For the past five years McVeigh has been a legislative assistant to her cousin, state Sen. Mike Robichaux, D-Mathews, whose decision to resign from his post led to the upcoming special election.

Robichaux said he plans to support her candidacy.

"I have several friends in the race

who are good candidates, but I think she'd be the best person for the position," Robichaux said.

Although the cousins share kin, they do not share party affiliation. She is a Republican and he a Democrat. That has not posed a problem for McVeigh.

"I've always worked for people who've covered the political spectrum," said McVeigh, who wants to continue some of Robichaux's work. "There were several fisheries bills that Sen. Robichaux introduced a few years ago, (and) I'm hoping to be the senator that sponsors those bills' renewals."

Although McVeigh wants to work on a variety of issues and problems facing Louisiana, she said finding the money for them is key.

"Of course we need some serious fiscal reform if we are ever adequately going to address teacher pay and health care issues," McVeigh said.

MCVEIGH, continue on 5A

MCVEIGH *Continued from 1A*

"We need to make sure we have a steady revenue stream for coastal restoration projects."

Protecting the coastline is one issue about which McVeigh says she feels strongly.

"We all know locally what's at stake," McVeigh said.

McVeigh spoke on the need for legislators to push forcefully to protect environmental programs, citing a recent requirement for state agencies to slash expenses by 7 percent.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality originally wanted to handle the cut by removing all of its funding to the local Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

"If it hadn't been for the legislators making a lot of noise, it would have happened," McVeigh said.

The daughter of politically active parents, McVeigh became involved in campaigns at an early age.

"We've been working on political

campaigns since I was a little girl," McVeigh said.

Her involvement in political campaigns extended to former U.S. Rep. Bob Livingston, the husband of her sister, Bonnie.

Although she said she enjoyed working to get candidates elected, getting to see them enact the laws they had promised to fight for led her to become even more involved in politics.

McVeigh earned a degree in political science from Louisiana State University. Marriage to a man from Cedar Rapids took her to Iowa, where she worked for Iowa legislators.

First she worked for former U.S. Rep. Tom Tauke as a financial coordinator on his campaign. Then, in 1983, she became a constituent services case worker for Sen. Chuck Grassley, dealing with requests made to the senator by the state's residents.

"If they had problems with the IRS, or if they didn't get their Social Security

check, or if they wanted White House tour tickets or if they just had concerns about legislation," she said.

In 1987 she left Grassley's office to work on the Iowa campaign of then-President George Bush's presidential run. After his election she returned to Tauke's office as a constituent services caseworker until 1989.

After a year's stay in Washington, D.C., as a regional finance director for the Republican National Committee, she returned to Iowa to work in the state Senate as a legislative assistant.

She returned to Lafourche in 1991 after her divorce and worked for her father as an administrative assistant. She then joined Robichaux's staff.

McVeigh, 43, has one son, Paul, 16.

Todd Siegrist is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. He can be reached at 448-7639 or by e-mail at todd.siegrist@dailycomet.com.

Keeping water drinkable difficult

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The quality of life is dependent upon a few things, one of which is an area's drinking water supply.

Without a viable source, life is made more difficult, as South and Central Lafourche residents learned late last year when saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche made their water undrinkable.

While saltwater intrusion has played its part in creating alarm for many residents, so, too, has the misconception of water quality in the Mississippi River, the source of water in Bayou Lafourche, officials say.

"Mississippi River water is not necessarily as bad a source as everyone thinks it is," said Dirk Barrios, general manager of the Lafourche Parish Water District No. 1. "The Mississippi River has gotten a bad rap over the years, but its water has a lot of sediment in it which is a desired commodity in water because it's easier and safer to purify."

Studies conducted by state and federal agencies have shown that, since the passage of the federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, or the Clean Water Act, pollution in the Mississippi River has decreased significantly.

In a 1991-1994 state Department of Environmental Quality study, tissue from fish in the Mississippi River was analyzed for more than 100 toxic chemicals. Few were detected, and of those were, concentrations were below standards for edible fish.

"DEQ found that when a priority pollutant is detected, it's usually associated with a spill on the Mississippi River," said Kerry St. Pe', director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Trace metal concentrations, including mercury, found in the Mississippi River are below U.S. Environmental Agency guidelines.

See WATER, 5A

Water

Continued from 1A

Fecal coliform counts have dropped from the 1970s to the 1990s, primarily due to upgrades in sewage treatment facilities, septic systems and waste management systems along the river.

Atrazine, a pesticide used by corn producers, and nutrient over-enrichment, are cause for some concern.

Despite this, the cleaning-up of the river results in fewer difficulties in treating water for consumption, as does other factors.

The less organic matter and the more sediment in water, the fewer the chemicals needed to treat it, and adding chemicals during treatment creates health risks, such as the production of carcinogens.

"Swamp water is high in the level of organic compounds, and when you add chlorine to that during treatment, you form trihalomethanes (THMs), which are carcinogens," said Barrios.

This, water plant officials say, is the primary reason for their preference for Mississippi River water over swamp water from sources such as Lake Verret in Assumption Parish and Bayou Black in Terrebonne Parish.

"Much of what we receive in Lake Verret comes from some of the largest contiguous, remaining swamps in Louisiana," said St. Pe'. "Lake Verret receives as a result a lot of swamp drainage and a lot of agricultural drainage."

While many streams draining into the lake border sugarcane fields, the lake also receives drainage from inadequately treated sewerage systems

from communities within its drainage basin.

For these reasons, the levels of organic matter in Lake Verret are so high that in 1973, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the lake as one of the most nutrient over-enriched lakes in the United States.

Though some would have Lake Verret as a drinking water source, water district officials prefer not.

Relying on Mississippi River water in Bayou Lafourche for about 66 percent of its freshwater needs, the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Waterworks No. 1 is familiar with treating swamp water and the expense that comes with it.

"We've gotten our experience by using our secondary source of water at Bayou Black," said Stephen Hornsby, general manager of Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Waterworks. When salt water intrudes into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, its primary source, the district must rely on swamp water from Bayou Black. "It does present some difficulties in treatment, and we certainly would not use it if we had the choice, but we have to make do with what we have."

And since the digging of the Houma Navigation Canal, which has introduced salt water into its supply more frequently, the district has had to do just that.

Between July 1999 and June 2000, the district used Bayou Black water for 131 days due to high salinity.

"It increases the chemicals we have to use to treat the water and also increases the cost," said Hornsby.

Unlike Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Waterworks, the

Lafourche Parish Water District is not equipped to treat such water. Neither is Valentine Paper, which draws about 2 million gallons of fresh water a day from Bayou Lafourche.

"One of the concerns that I have in addition to saltwater intrusion, which some continue to press as an issue, ... putting a stream of black water from Lake Verret into Bayou Lafourche," said Tom Bingham, Valentine Paper general manager. In addition to taste and stain, there's a substantial health risk to even sipping this water on a part-time basis."

For the paper mill, the color stain like a long-lasting episode of saltwater intrusion, would spell the end of business, said Bingham.

"It would put color in the water that we could not take out, not at a cost that we cannot afford," Bingham said. "To try to remove the stain from the water would be so prohibitive in cost that we would have to shut our doors."

While problems have arisen from using Mississippi Water, officials say those problems are restricted mostly to saltwater intrusion into the source, a problem in itself that needs addressing.

"The main thrust of the matter is that we're using Mississippi River water right now, and we're able to meet and exceed all the standards set up by the EPA and the Safe Drinking Water Act," said Barrios. "As standards are lowered, we have to meet them, and increased levels of organic matter in water make it harder to maintain those levels."

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

Spectators called to take action

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

LAROSE — Great literature abounds with descriptions of the relationship between man and nature. But no work of literature articulates that relationship better than the best-selling book of all time.

"God made the waters, and he saw that it was good," reads the book of Genesis, the beginning of man's account of his relationship with God and nature.

But lately because of saltwater intrusion, the water in South Louisiana has not been all good, and that could spell the end for many coastal communities.

About 200 people gathered at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Larose were asked Tuesday to step out of the role of "spectator" and become part of the solution to that problem.

The Louisiana Interfaith Conference, representing 14 different Christian denominations throughout the state, conducted one of a series of workshops Tuesday to make Louisiana residents more aware of the dangers now threatening the waters.

Throughout the state, water quality and quantity issues have begun affecting residents' daily lives, from below ground freshwater aquifers drying up in the northern part of the state to saltwater intrusion contaminating the drinking water supply in the south.

Once thought of as an unlimited natural resource, fresh water is becoming a valuable commodity.

"Statistics show that per capita consumption of water in the United States was almost 400 gallons per day in 1900," said Rex Caffey, an economist and fisheries specialist at the LSU AgCenter. "That's now 1,600 gallons per day, a four-fold increase in one hundred years."

Water consumption peaked in 1980, but has since dwindled back down, due to one reason: scarcity.

"Water has been treated as a public good, not an economic good," said Caffey. "The assumption was that we had a lot of it, and that it was free. The

Water

Continued from 1A

drought, however, has done much to lessen that thinking."

One focus of Tuesday's workshop was the promotion of good stewardship of at-risk resources.

"If I could convey one sentence to you, that would be 'Renew the stewardship of creation, oh Lord, beginning with me,'" said the Rev. C. Dana Krutz, executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

People have cut channels through area marshes, allowing saltwater to intrude in drinking water sources.

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Houma Navigation Canal are manmade waterways and do their part in saltwater introduction into Bayou Lafourche, the drinking water source for an estimated 300,000 residents.

"Natural waterways are curved. These waterways are straight, a dead give-away that they were built by humans," said Kerry St. Pe', director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "These features that humans have built allow salt water from the Gulf of Mexico to be pushed far up into the system."

Ground water in South Louisiana, unlike that in the northern part of the state, is unsuitable for drinking water because of elevated chloride levels, leaving residents dependent on surface water.

"We've grown up in a place that is very unique," said Windell Curole, general manager of the South Lafourche Levee District and chairman of BTNEP's management conference. "It has made us what we are, and we won't be the same unless we save it."

Projects like the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Diversion project, intended to divert 1,000 cubic feet per second of fresh water down Bayou Lafourche, and a proposal for a 200,000 cubic feet per second conveyance channel funneling fresh water and sediment to the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary basins to rebuild marshland are needed, panelists said.

But residents' support of those projects is also needed, they said.

Now estimated to cost between \$50 million and \$70 million, "the Bayou Lafourche Diversion project could be a reality within three years, if we could get a cost-share agreement from the parish and the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District," said

Sue Hawes, a biologist at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The (conveyance channel) is probably 20 years away, at least (because) it's very visionary, would affect a lot of people and needs to be planned very carefully."

It is a problem, though, that has so far not captured the nation's attention.

"We share in the frustration that things aren't moving fast enough," said St. Pe'. "I'm convinced that this cannot move fast until the entire state puts a priority on this issue."

During the past year, the issue of teacher pay raises has nearly paralyzed the state, said state Rep. Loulan Pitre Jr., R-Cut Off.

"We have not been able to have any meaningful discussion on any other priority in the state," said Pitre. "Our national government is not going to accept coastal erosion as a priority if we in the state don't accept that as a priority first."

To send letters to Gov. Mike Foster about saltwater intrusion or coastal land loss, mail them to P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA, 70804.

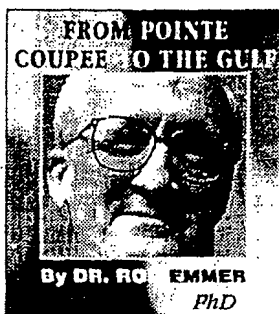
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The organization of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

At some time you probably wondered how the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program started. The structure of the National Estuary Program was conceived in the mid-1990's from efforts to restore the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay systems. The environmental problems of these regions, similar in what we face FROM POINTE COUPEE TO THE GULF, crossed the legislative mandates of local, state, and federal agencies. No one agency had the central responsibility to adequately address all of the issues affecting the region. This was complicated by the fact that in both of these early efforts, the watersheds included more than one state.

In response to these complexities, the affected parties developed a novel approach to restore the valuable resources. what they proposed would include all interested groups, such as federal, state, and local governments, representatives from business and industry, agriculture, and conservation organizations. Because the Great Lakes and Chesapeake efforts, Congress established the National Estuary Program to identify nationally significant estuaries threatened by pollution, development, and overuse.

The Barataria-Terrebonne estu-



ary was nominated by the Governor in the early 1990's. After evaluation the Environmental Protection Agency determined that we met the three criteria for inclusion in the program.

Our estuary had significant environmental problems that could only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive, watershed approach;

Our estuary is of national significance; and The Governor nominated the region.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program works as part of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality because of the relation between the EPA and DEQ. The oversight body known as a Management Conference include all interested agencies, business, industry, conservation groups, fishermen, oysterman, minorities, special interests, and educators. They first met in 1992 and created three committees: a Scientific-Technical Advisory Committee, a Local Governments Committee, and a Citizens Advisory Committee. These committees guided the activities of the BTNEP during the five years planning process. At the conclusion of the time, the Management

Conference was able to present to Governor Foster a

Comprehensive Plan that was built on consensus by the participants. Governor Foster signed the Comprehensive Plan in 1996 and forwarded it to EPA for approval.

The BTNEP Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan has 51 Action Plans. These plans outline what we should be doing to preserve and restore our estuary and its culture. Topics range from habitat management to water quality to education to sustainable economic development. As such, these 51 projects form the framework we use when implementing programs and activities you see today.

The BTNEP office, located at the Nicholls State University campus in Thibodaux, manages the day-to-day implementation of the 51 action plans. Kerry St. Pe is the Program Director. He is assisted by Deborah Schultz, the education coordinator, Eddie Landrum, coordinator for the Shellfish Challenge, Dean Blanchard, coordinator for programs, and Rachael Sommers, AmeriCorps intern. Office management rests with Sandra Helmuth who is ably supported by student workers. contact them at: 1-800-259-0869. But we need your help saving OUR ESTUARY. Please call the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation: 1-877-379-0279 and volunteer your services and expertise.

Nicholls to offer new degree

By Todd Siegrist
Staff writer

Nestled within the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, Lafourche Parish showers its residents with Mother Nature's riches.

Nicholls State University wants to use the local natural environment to enhance its academic offerings.

The university plans to add a master of science degree in marine and environmental biology to the degrees

available. The University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors approved the degree at its meeting Friday.

For the university to gain approval for the degree, a need unmet by neighboring universities had to exist. For the spring 2001, semester the university has 222 undergraduates majoring in the biological sciences.

The university's proposal to the board stated that it did, as several

state universities, offer master degrees in biology or environmental sciences, but none offer them in marine biology or marine and environmental biology.

"Many of these (biology) students want to extend their research interests at the graduate level with their research faculty mentors in our Department," the proposal reads.

See DEGREE, 5A

Degree

Continued from 1A

"Most of these students would not be able to afford to leave their families to pursue graduate education in another university."

The proposal emphasized the university's location near other government agencies that could assist in the graduate program. The federal Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the state Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Restoration Division and the South Louisiana Economic Council all have offices at the university. The state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries office in Bourg and the Department of Environmental Quality office in Mathews are also nearby.

"No other university is situated in the center of the nation's most important wetland region and therefore no university is a more appropriate host

to the proposed graduate program than Nicholls," the proposal reads. "The university's proximity to the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCOM) facility in Cocodrie and the vast, fertile estuaries in its service area place Nicholls in a strategic position for studies in marine science and related areas."

Local industries and government agencies needing personnel with such degrees would also benefit as the odds of finding local people with the degree would increase, eliminating the need to search out of the area or out of state.

Local businesses and agencies estimate they will need between 220 and 336 such graduates within the next five years.

"Agencies with branch offices in the Nicholls service region (mentioned) the difficulty in hiring scientifically qualified personnel who would either become or remain resident in southeastern Louisiana," the proposal

reads.

The university must still obtain approval from the state Board of Regents before it can offer the degree. If approved, the degree would become the sixth master's degree offered at Nicholls. Currently the university has a master of science in applied mathematics, master of business administration, master of arts in psychological counseling, specialist in school psychology and a master of education in several concentrations.

The university is also working toward offering a master of nursing, and is awaiting approval from the Board of Regents on that request. Nicholls spokesman Michael Delaune said it often takes a year between the board approving the degree and the university offering the degree.

Todd Siegrist is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. He can be reached at 448-7639 or by e-mail at todd.siegrist@dailycomet.com.

All about BTNEP

Chamber Insight
March, 2001

By Rod Enumer, Ph.D

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2001 Americorps members begin work

*Chamber
Insight
March, 2001*

By Cullen Curole
BTNEP

Have you seen a new crew working on the sides of our roads lately? These people are the 2001 AmeriCorps on the Bayou members.

They are Dawn Bagala, Coty Cheramie, Skippy Cheramie, Amanda Collins, Shelby Ducote, Lori Grammar, Jill Harrison, Nathan Hepner, Ben Menzies, Tiffany Naquin, and Marcy Pierce.

This is the second consecutive year that Les Reflections Du Bayou has sponsored our AmeriCorps team.

This month the AmeriCorps members have worked on several local projects including making swings to put up behind the

Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cut Off for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

The members also attended a two-day Water-Quality Monitoring Workshop where they learned testing techniques for everything from pH levels to oxygen and nutrient levels.

The AmeriCorps group is attempting to begin a regular Water Monitoring Program in the South Lafourche area, which we hope will have a positive impact on the citizens of our community.

We hope to keep Lafourche Parish informed of our progress in the months to come.

As always, sponsors, volunteers, and donations are greatly appreciated.

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The Advocate **ONLINE**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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**Farmer's Market
& Craft Bazaar**
June 2nd 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
**Pointe Coupee
ELECTRIC**

Fly away to Grand Isle for a birder's getaway

By CYNTHIA V. CAMPBELL

Travel editor

Enjoy Louisiana in grand style with an outing to Grand Isle at the southern tip of La. 1. Any farther south and you'll be swimming in the Gulf of Mexico.

That's just what people do at Grand Isle -- swim, sun, fish and watch the birds fly by. During spring, the barrier island is indeed a special place. An essential stop for migratory birds, the island is hosting the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration over the next several weeks. Most activities will be held today through Sunday, March 23-25, and again Friday-Sunday, April 20-22.

The entire celebration is sponsored by The Sanctuary Group, which is made up of 18 organizations, including the Lafourche and Bayou Region Tourist Commission and the Grand Isle Tourist Commission.

Cullen Curole, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program director, said the celebration is planned both as an economic development project and as a way to enhance the island's natural beauty.

"I grew up in the Galliano area, and Grand Isle was my playground," said the ecology-minded lawyer. "Tourism is great. Tying it to nature is great for everybody."

The celebration includes birdwatching tours, programs on gardening for birds, craft displays, seafood events and other fun for families and children.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion will offer a Birders' Breakfast in the Grand Isle School cafeteria on Saturday, March 24 from 6-9 a.m. The Orleans Audubon Society will host a Pirate's Day Flea Market, Craft Show and Heritage Fair, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., also at the Grand Isle School. A gumbo dinner theater, starring the mayor and elected officials of Grand Isle, will be held at 7 p.m. at Grand Isle School. Councilmen, dressed as pirates, will serve tables.

On Sunday, March 25, visitors can attend the Morning Coffee with Marine Birds at Gulf Stream Marina, 7 a.m., followed by the Birders' Mass at Our Lady of the Isle Catholic Church on Ludwig Lane.

Activities on the April 20-22 weekend will be comprehensive. On Saturday, April 21, events range from daylong birdwatching tours to a

Historic Home Tour presented by the Historical Society of Grand Isle (4-5 p.m.). The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana will sponsor a Birdwatching Tour for Families, 9:30-11 a.m., and the Baton Rouge Audubon Society will present An Introduction to Those Confusing Shorebirds, 4-5 p.m.

Visitors can enjoy a shrimp spaghetti lunch, priced at \$10, at the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Later in the day, the Grand Isle Rotary Club will host a seafood dinner featuring David Pashley of the American Bird Conservancy.

Anyone interested in the boat tour to Queen Bess Island on Sunday, April 22, needs to be in Grand Isle on Saturday for registration. Tours leave Sunday at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Participants will travel to the island and Barataria Bay to see nesting pelicans. Seating is limited. The cost is a \$10 donation to The Sanctuary fund, and people meet at Pirate's Cove Marina.

In addition, Grand Isle State Park, located on the east end of the barrier island, will welcome visitors with walking tours. The park is a great area for splashing around in the gulf. A swimming area features a bathhouse and picnic tables. Nearby is the fishing pier and another area for swimming and picnicking. Exhibits at the Visitors Center portray how man and nature have shaped the story of Grand Isle. The observation tower gives a bird's-eye view of the coastline.

A camping area at Grand Isle State Park can accommodate 100 families. It's designed for cooking freshly caught seafood around an open campfire. Self-sufficiency is important because there are no water or electrical utilities. Call the park at 877-226-7652.

The Grand Isle Tourist Commission can provide information on motel and cabin accommodations, fishing camps, RV campgrounds, fishing charters and area restaurants. Call 504-787-2997. The Web site is easy to follow. Check <http://www.grand-isle.com>

For more information and to sign up for birding tours, contact the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at 877-378-8279.

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Partners



Staff photo by Abby Tabor

Going coastal

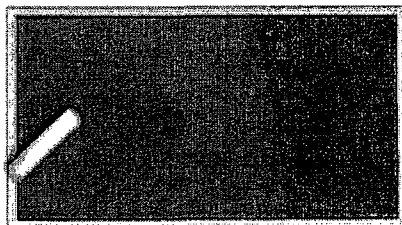
David Bourgeois, an area fisheries agent with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, helps AmeriCorps on the Bayou team members Nathan Hepner and Marcy Pierce sort seedlings to use in the Coastal Roots program. Students will grow the seedlings in green houses and then conduct plantings at suitable coastal restoration sites. [Click here for story.](#)

Council challenges Kyle

The Lafourche Parish Council's Finance and Legislative Committee voted to challenge state Legislative Auditor Dan Kyle's decision to override the parish in appointing an auditor during its meeting Tuesday night.

Lady Tigers roll on in 7-5A

The floodgates were left open as the Mustangs stamped past Ellen-der on Tuesday improving their rec-ord to 7-9, 3-2 in District 9-4A.



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Students plant roots in coast

By **Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

A new program is helping students take the matter of coastal land loss into their own hands.

Begun informally in late 1998, the program, known as Coastal Roots, enlists students' help in maintaining greenhouses on junior high and senior high school campuses throughout South Louisiana, allowing students to grow native wetland plants from seedlings and then use them in hands-on restoration projects.

"This is not a large-scale project, but it's an effective way to help," said David Bourgeois, area fisheries agent with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. In 1998, Bourgeois, with the help of the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management office and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, began collecting black mangrove seedlings, which he then distributed to a few Lafourche Parish schools.

"If we could get 800 to 1,000 seedlings to each school each year, we can start to approach a major impact in being able to plant these in strategic locations where they could do some good," Bourgeois said.

Currently, students from nine public and private junior high and senior high schools throughout South Louisiana are participating, including agriculture and environmental science students at Larose-Cut Off Junior High, South Lafourche and Central Lafourche high schools.

The primary reason for the program, organizers say, is to instill in students a sense of stewardship.

"We want to teach students about coastal issues, especially coastal erosion, but in such a way that they can give back to

the community and won't be learning about it through a textbook or looking at a slide," said Pam Blanchard of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. She also is, like Bourgeois and Ed Bush of the LSU Department of Horticulture, one of the program's co-directors.

"We want them to care about what's going on with the coast."

What is going on with the coast is the rapid rate of coastal land loss – the Barataria and Terrebonne estuaries being the most rapidly eroding in the world – coupled with an extensive die-back of saltwater marsh vegetation, with about 20,000 acres having already been converted to open mud flats and another 260,000 acres at risk.

Throughout the die-back area, though, scientists have observed that black mangrove have been, for the most part, unaffected.

In Lafourche Parish, students, with the help of AmeriCorps on the Bayou team members, are already growing black mangrove from seedlings, as well as southern wax myrtle and southern bald cypress.

While black mangrove does well in relatively saline water, bald cypress and wax myrtle can compete better in freshwater environments, as well as withstand colder temperatures. The wax myrtle also can be planted on coastal ridges to provide migratory birds with habitat.

When the species are ready for planting, the students will take them to a restoration site and do the planting themselves.

Students who take part in hands-on activities, and have an opportunity to witness coastal land loss, are more apt to take these lessons to heart, as well as to take a greater interest in their studies, organizers say.

"In the big picture, the school nurseries provide a learning and stewardship opportunity for kids, empowering them to take action," said Deborah Schultz, formal education coordinator for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "On a smaller scale, the nurseries are a dream for educators who can use the data collected from plant growth and sideline experiment to teach math and science concepts. Having an emotional attachment to 'their' plants, the kids are more likely to take an interest in these math and science

concepts designed around the nurseries and this critical problem of land loss.”

Some students are already aware of the problem and are willing to do something about it.

“Saving the wetlands is important because if we don’t start worrying about it now, the water’s going to be in our backyards,” said Phillip Pierce, 15, a ninth-grader at Larose-Cut Off Junior High.

Though the program has been in existence for a few years, this year marks the first for formal funding.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana are providing the program with its major funding in the form of two one-year grants. BTNEP is funding those schools with the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, while the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is funding those outside the basins.

Although organizers say comprehensive coastal restoration must begin with large-scale diversion projects, the program could complement future projects.

Either way, officials with both organizations say the money is well spent.

“The kids do get a sense of making a difference out there by improving habitat,” said Rebecca Triche, deputy director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, “and they understand how important that habitat is to maintain.”

For more information on the program, visit www.lamer.lsu.edu and click on Coastal Roots.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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CLEAN-UP



This neutral ground located in Larose recently got a face lift, compliments of North American Shipyard. Parish-wide participation is needed for the fight against litter in Lafourche Parish. Area Keep America Beautiful clean-ups are scheduled for the next few weeks, beginning with the city of Thibodaux this Saturday.

Litter-free Lafourche: The time is now!

By: Melanie Boulet

At 8:00 a.m. every morning, business owners and home owners along Highway 1 and Highway 308 get ready for their morning ritual: Picking up the trash that has been thrown onto their property the night and day before!

Well, land owners may be used to it, but that doesn't mean they don't hate it! Litter is an assault on our senses. It's an assault on our community. And it's an assault on our private property rights.

Last week, at a meeting of the Lafourche Parish Council, our parish leaders voted unanimously to lead in a parish-wide war against litter. In a proclamation presented by Les Reflections du Bayou's President, Melanie Boulet, the Council agreed to support efforts to clean up Lafourche, to provide for stronger enforcement of litter laws, and to promote a parish-wide publicity campaign against litter.

The project first calls for parish-wide participation in the upcoming Keep America Beautiful clean-ups being conducted in many of the towns along the bayou. The

held on Saturday, March 31. The Lockport, Larose, Cut Off, Galliano, Golden Meadow, and Leeville clean-ups will be conducted on Saturday, April 7, and the Raceland clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 28. These big clean-ups happen only once a year and are our chance to really clean up our parish. The Parish Councilmen voted to lead off these clean-ups, some of which will transpire as town walks and the town with the most volunteers will win the 2001 Town Pride Award; a plaque or billboard to be posted in the town. Participants may contact their councilman or the Thibodaux Chamber, Les Reflections du Bayou, or the Sheriff's Office (Raceland area clean-up).

Les Reflections du Bayou has also applied for a grant from Entergy to plaster Lafourche Parish with billboards, bumper stickers, litter barrels and T-shirts attacking litter. Thanks goes to Marty Dufrene in the Sheriff's Office, Joel Pierce at the Parish Council Office, Carolyn Cheramie at the Tourism Commission, and Cullen Curole at the Barataria-

Terrebonne Estuary Foundation for facilitating support letters for the grant. Also thanks to Ken Deshotel, Customer Services Manager at Entergy's Lockport office for his endorsement of the project.

Lafourche Parish is to win the war on litter, it will take everyone in the parish taking a stand against litter. Residents can start by participating in the upcoming clean-ups. Land-owners who would allow the posting of an anti-litter billboard on their private property along Hwy 1 or Hwy 308 should contact their councilman or Les Reflections du Bayou to let them know. Anyone with ideas on how to fight litter should contact the Thibodaux Beautification Coalition, the Lockport Beautification Committee, Les Reflections du Bayou, the Sheriff's Office, the Bayou Terrebonne National Estuary Program or Foundation, or their councilman. Together, these organizations and all parish residents can win the war and achieve a Litter-Free Lafourche!!! The time has come!

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Month of birding kicks off

By Katina A. Gaudet

Staff Writer

The phrase "for the birds" generally takes on a negative connotation.

Not so in Grand Isle.

Louisiana's only populated barrier island, Grand Isle is also the only barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico naturally dominated by live oak and hackberry forests, which serve as temporary refuge for birds migrating to and from Central and South America each year.

"Our community is nationally known as a premier area for viewing neotropical birds coming across the Gulf of Mexico during spring migration," said Jackie Siears of Grand Isle's Team City. "It is our hope that we can develop bird watching as an economic boost to our economy."

To that end, and others, Grand Isle's Sanctuary Group, an umbrella group of supporting organizations, is holding its fourth annual Migratory Bird Celebration this month and next.

"What we try to do is reach out to local residents so they more fully appreciate the natural qualities of their backyards," said Richard Martin, director of conservation programs at the Nature Conservancy of Louisiana.

"We also want to bring people from outside the area to enjoy what Grand Isle has to offer."

For migratory birds, Grand Isle offers a place to rest and feed.

"The birds travel the Mississippi flyway during the spring when they're coming from Central and South America north to nest in the continental United States and Canada," said Kay Radlauer, the event's coordinator.

"When they cross the Gulf of Mexico, Grand Isle is the first land they see.

When the birds are returning to the south in the winter, Grand Isle is again important because the birds rest and

fatten up before they journey across the Gulf again.”

While organizers want to continue to promote interest among local residents, they also want to promote interest from out-of-state bird watchers.

“We feel that Grand Isle can be marketed as one of Louisiana’s premier birding destinations,” said Martin.

An influx of tourists during the season could mean an influx of dollars.

“Communities such as Clearwater, Fla., have seen huge economic growth due to bird watchers,” said Siears. “And, according to a Wildlife and Fisheries report, bird watchers spend an average of \$100 million in each state. Grand Isle can reap these benefits.”

Additional dollars would not only help area businesses such as motels, restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations, but would also contribute to the protection and restoration of bird habitats.

All proceeds from the annual event go to the Nature Conservancy’s Sanctuary Fund, which is used to enhance migratory bird habitat on the island.

“There was once about 1,500 acres of woodland on Grand Isle originally. It’s probably less than 100 acres now,” said Martin. “We’d like to restore areas formerly forested and cleared for a variety of reasons.”

For the past few years, the Nature Conservancy has been working with private landowners – including some businesses that are replanting their once-forested land – to try to restore the island’s natural habitat.

Some businesses have also donated property to establish a bird sanctuary on the island. The Grand Isle Port Commission is also allowing the Nature Conservancy the use of 20 acres of port property.

Grand Isle locals are also welcoming the recognition of their island as a prime spot for bird lovers.

“In Grand Isle, much of the bird watching is done on privately owned land,” said Radlauer. “(Residents) are helping us put up Bird Watcher Welcome Signs so if someone is coming in and is not familiar with Grand Isle, they will know which backyards are welcoming them.”

For more information on event activities during March and

Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at 447-8092.

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Conservation effort is still expanding

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Lafourche Parish residents recycled about 2,000 Christmas trees in recent months to use in small-scale coastal restoration efforts.

Their reward: a project to protect from further erosion a 200-foot section of levee within the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project.

Located in Galliano west of Bayou Lafourche, the levee section, which is gradually eroding at its base, marks the newest site in Lafourche to benefit from the state's Christmas Tree Fence Program.

Begun by the state Department of Natural Resources in 1989, the program uses recycled Christmas trees stacked inside brush fences to reduce wave energy and capture suspended sediment in the hopes of stopping ero-

sion and allowing land to build over time.

The Lafourche Parish Office of Coastal Zone Management, which administers the program in Lafourche, has been trying to include the site for two years now, but has only recently been able to do so.

The Galliano site joins two others: a small marsh island in Floation Canal in Fourchon and the remnants of a marsh island along La. 1 in Leeville.

Each spring, volunteers including Future Farmers of America students place the trees on project sites.

Last week, more than 100 volunteers, including students and AmeriCorps on the Bayou team members, placed trees at the Fourchon and Leeville sites.

See TREES, 7A

April 4, 2001 / Daily Comet

Trees

Continued from 1A

"It's not so much a problem of adding a site, but of collecting enough trees to (accommodate) an additional site," said Grady Galliano, Lafourche CZM administrator. "During the past couple of years, we just haven't collected enough, but this year, we had a good collection."

Along with the approximately 2,000 trees within the parish, another 1,000 trees were collected in North Louisiana and transported to Lafourche.

"It's not an overnight problem, but if allowed to continue, it will become a problem," said Windell Curole, general manager of the South Lafourche Levee District.

Because much of the marsh once lining the levee is no longer there, no buffer exists for absorbing wave energy, which results in erosion of the levee.

"In areas where we have marsh

absorbing wave energy, we don't have to worry about this," said Curole. "But here, everyday wave action, (including that caused by) the wind blowing, eats up the edge of the levee."

FFA students at Central Lafourche High School have expressed an interest in constructing the brush fence for the project, Galliano said.

Afterwards, volunteers will place the recycled trees within the fence, which will be placed about 20 feet from the levee, to provide the levee with a wave barrier.

The remaining trees will be placed behind the barrier to facilitate marsh growth over time.

The Fourchon site might also contribute to marsh expansion as part of a Greater Lafourche Port Commission dedicated dredging project.

"We have a project in the vicinity of the (Fourchon site) where we would hope to utilize the Christmas tree project as an anchor to hold material so that we can rebuild marsh in that area," said Ted Falgout, executive director of the Greater Lafourche Port

Commission.

The project, which could begin this summer, would utilize 50,000 cubic yards of sediment to rebuild 15 to 20 acres of marsh in the area.

Though the Christmas tree project is not the cornerstone of the port's dredging project, Falgout said using the trees might prove to be a beneficial method in retaining spoil in marsh-building projects.

Although "massive" freshwater and sediment diversion projects are needed to save the state from ongoing coastal land loss, the recycled Christmas tree projects are worthwhile projects, said Curole.

"These projects won't make a big impact in stopping coastal land loss, but this project (at the newest site), even if doesn't help build any ground, will at least absorb the everyday wave action and help protect the levee," said Curole.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Money sought to fight saltwater intrusion

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District is continuing its search for funding sources to combat saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche.

The district's board of commissioners Monday unanimously approved a letter requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigate partially funding a proposed water control structure in the Company Canal.

Saltwater intrusion last November affected Bayou Lafourche, Lafourche Parish's drinking water supply, from the Company Canal.

Salt water from the Gulf of Mexico made its way to the Lafourche Parish Water District No. 1 intakes near Lockport through the Company Canal from both the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Houma Navigational Canal.

The corps constructed both waterways.

"Talking with some of the engineers at the corps, they seem to feel that since they built the intracoastal and the Houma Navigational Canal, they might be able to do something for the Company Canal as far as saltwater intrusion is concerned," said district Director Archie Chaisson.

The corps might be able to lend some funding through Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

"Basically what that says is that if the corps causes a problem to the environment, they have a fund they can go into and use to correct that problem," Chaisson said.

The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, Chaisson said, would serve as the non-federal sponsor for the corps' modification report, the project's plans and construction.

"We don't envision a Band-Aid project," said Hebert. "We

Page 2 of 2

simply want something to stop the salt water from coming up the Company Canal from the Gulf to the water plant."

The district, though, might not bear the sole brunt of the non-federal costs.

In February, the district voted to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Lafourche Parish Water District No. 1 and parish government to fund a study on water control structures that could help prevent saltwater intrusion.

"The corps is not sure about how much they can pay for," said Chaisson, "but this way everybody knows up front we might have to pay some money."

Once the corps comes up with actual cost figures, the district could sign a final agreement.

"If it's too much for us to afford at that time, we can either back out or find some creative financing to pay for it," Chaisson said.

In other business, district officials responded to recent accusations that their use of a tugboat to uproot hydrilla, an aquatic plant restricting water flow in Bayou Lafourche, has contributed to its spread.

The district began its tug boat operation last year.

Sidney Thibodeaux, Ph.D., a local botanist, contends the district's tugboat operation and mechanical harvesters are responsible for the spread of the plant from North Lafourche to Lockport.

A plant's cuttings can take root and grow, producing other plants.

District officials, however, point to a 1996 study conducted by David Schultz, an assistant professor of biology at Nicholls State University, and Deborah Schultz, formal education coordinator at the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, that, they say, indicates the hydrilla was present in the Lockport area in 1996 – before the district began cutting the species with its mechanical harvesters.

"It's a very good lawnmower," said district Chairman Alvin Hebert of the tugboat operation. "The harvesters work well, but they're too slow. If we didn't do these things, there wouldn't be any water at all in the bayou."

Thibodeaux recommended constructing a pipeline from Donaldsonville to serve the freshwater plants along Bayou Lafourche, but this, district officials say, is not cost-



District officials requested a report from GSE Associates Inc., their consulting engineer, on such a project. According to the report, such a project would cost about \$120 million – more than \$30 million more than the proposed Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Diversion project.


Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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A Rosy Afternoon

 April 19, 2001
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A roseate spoonbill flies around Lake Houma looking for a good feeding spot on a recent afternoon in Houma. Many other colorful birds can be seen throughout April during the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration as thousands of neo-tropical songbirds migrate north from South America. For information on the celebration and guided bird-watching tours, go to the Barataria National Estuary Program's website at www.btnep.org. DOUG KEESE/THE COURIER

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Budget cuts are expected

By **Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

Officials at the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program are anticipating budget cuts this upcoming fiscal year, though it is uncertain to what extent cuts will be made.

"We don't know the actual percentage, but we're expecting significant cuts," Kerry St. Pe', director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), told BTNEP's management conference members Thursday.

BTNEP, one of 28 national estuary programs in the United States administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), received a \$30,000 budget cut this fiscal year and will likely see more cuts next year.

BTNEP is funded through the state's general fund, which is administered through the state Department of Environmental Quality, and from the federal Clean Water Act.

Though Congress reauthorized the Clean Water Act last year, restructuring it so each national estuary program will receive \$1 million, the program has never been fully funded, said St. Pe'.

"We understand now that it will be difficult to get to the fully appropriated level," said St. Pe'. "The president's budget suggests \$1 million to the NEP portion of EPA."

Though federal funding guidelines keep BTNEP at a funding level of \$300,000, the anticipated cuts, coupled with lagging federal funds, could make it difficult for BTNEP to continue some projects.

The cost of projects on BTNEP's 2002 work plan, a list of programs to be funded during the upcoming fiscal year, is

about \$300,000.

The state's fiscal year begins in July; the federal government's in October.

The management conference approved the work plan, but did so knowing that some projects might be axed due to lack of funding.

"We're assuming right now the budget will be the same," said Windell Curole, BTNEP management conference chairman. "We'll leave it status quo, but in July, we'll see if we need to make any adjustments."

Projects to be funded either fully or partially under the 2002 work plan include:

- La Fete d' Ecologie, the ecology festival held annually at Peltier Park in Thibodaux. "We've been going year to year," said Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation president Earl Melancon. "Things may change for us a little bit, but as our volunteers grow, we're also hoping to increase our fund base from the various organizations sponsoring the festival."
- The program's Data Information Management System, to update and manage BTNEP's web page.
- Bayou Camps, Coastal Wetlands Workshops, Marsh Maneuvers, and Project STEPS, all aimed at getting teachers and students involved in estuarine ecology. "(Marsh Maneuvers) is 24 hours a day, a lot of fun, but the kids learn a lot," said David Bourgeois, a fisheries agent with the LSU AgCenter who works with the project. "I've received a lot of e-mails from students who have participated and have decided to go into some marine or coastal education."
- BTNEP's educational and technical information materials distributed throughout the country.
- Researching the feasibility of using sugarcane residue to eliminate the need for burning.
- Two programs to propagate woody species to try to reestablish these native plants in coastal Louisiana – on its barrier islands, as well as small-scale restoration projects.
- Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration for 2002.

In other business, the management conference:

- Heard a presentation from Jack Fredine, project manager with the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers for the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project, who said the project should be operational by August.

- Passed a resolution in support of the federal Hypoxia Action Plan, which aims to reduce the Gulf of Mexico's "dead zone" by half within the next five years.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Scientists awaiting recovery of marsh

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

GALLIANO - Scientists are waiting to see if saltwater marsh plants in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins affected by last year's die-off will recover.

In the meantime, researchers have been working to ensure a steady supply of seeds for replanting the area.

"The dying marsh covers such a huge area that we're searching for a method we could use to apply seeds to a huge area in a short period of time," said Kerry St. Pe', director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Gary Fine, manager of the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, said the seeds will have to be spread out from the air.

See MARSH, 9A

Marsh

Continued from 1A

"Most plants are taken out into the marsh and hand-planted," said Fine. "It's very labor intensive. We're trying to produce enough seeds to be able to fly back over the marsh to plant an acre in a few seconds."

More than 260,000 acres of smooth cordgrass have been affected so far, with about 17,000 acres already transformed into mud flats with little vegetation.

The Plant Materials Center and Louisiana State University are currently working to produce large supply of seeds for planting in affected areas and to determine the potential for recovery.

Plant Materials Center staff, Delta Service Corps South East Team and AmeriCorps on the Bayou members were out Tuesday transplanting smooth cordgrass - the most prevalent saltwater marsh grass and hardest-hit last year - into a three-acre pond. Three acres were also planted last year.

Delta team members decided to

this year, given the severity of the marsh die-off, said Rachel Somers, a member.

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"What I saw I would put in the category of 'alarming,'" he said. "There are still wide-open areas of open mud flats, which are of high concern because there are no plants to hold those sediments together. They're very vulnerable."

Those areas could be transformed into open water by storms.

"Once that happens, there's very little that can be done to bring them back," said St. Pe'.

Several remediation projects have already begun, including NRCS's aerial applications of smooth cordgrass seeds in sites in Lafourche Parish.

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Estuary program gets award

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

A local organization was among the recipients this year of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Stewardship awards.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Thibodaux, along with the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), received the Coalition's 2001 media award Friday at the Howard Johnson's in Thibodaux.

For six years, the coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Mississippi River delta and its neighboring Chenier plain, has honored people and organizations for promoting awareness of coastal concerns and addressing those concerns.

"Something that gives us hope is the people that we honor tonight and the commitments they've made (in) taking responsibility for that which is all our responsibility," said Mark Davis, executive director of the coalition.

BTNEP, USGS and CWPPRA received recognition Friday for producing "Explore Coastal Louisiana," an interactive CD-ROM bringing the Cajun Boudreaux into the 21st century.

Using the program, students can navigate through Boudreaux's swamp camp, accessing video clips, maps, quizzes and other educational resources along the way to learn about Louisiana's coastal wetlands and its native species. A companion teacher's guide is also available.

Last year, 12,000 copies have been distributed in Louisiana and at least 4,000 to educators attending the National Science Teachers Conference.

Other award winners at Friday's banquet include:

-- Ben Taylor, Citizen/Advocate Award, for advocating improved sewerage systems in areas surrounding Tangipahoa River, Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain to improve the health of those water bodies and organizing Swamp Sweep, a litter abatement effort in area wetlands. Within the last two years, 10.5 tons of refuse has been removed from the area.

-- Jefferson Parish, Organization Award, for the Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration, which has used more than 500,000 recycled trees since 1990 to curb land loss in 100 acres of wetlands.

-- Mark Ford, Bren Haase and Bryan Piazza, Educator Award, for Louisiana Blues on Sinking Ground at Capitol High in Baton Rouge. Educators designed a 15-week course on coastal wetlands and instructed students on 10 ecological topics. Students also had to maintain their own wetlands – tanks filled with dirt – and observed those wetlands as they treated them with various stressors.

-- Joseph Madere, Distinguished Achievement, for his part in developing and managing the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, thought to be the only urban wildlife refuge in the United States.

"Everything we're proud of in our communities started off as ideas," said Davis. "These are things that don't come from an agency or a program, but by people making them happen."

"Exploring Coastal Louisiana" is available through www.lacoast.gov.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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of Barataria

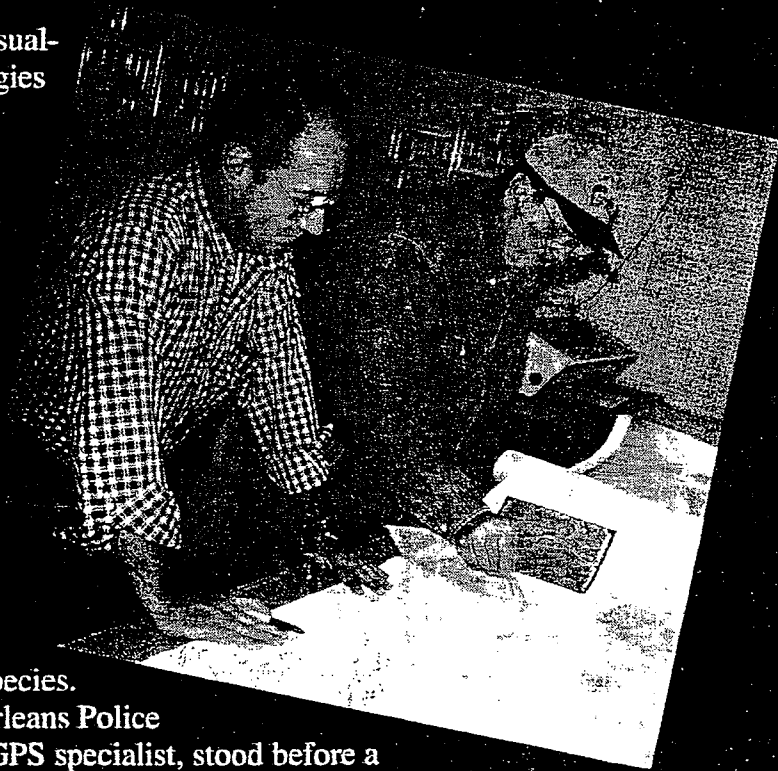
A multitude of islands and reefs no longer above the waterline are now magnets for fish that roam Barataria Bay.

By AL ROGERS

*I*n somber tones usually saved for eulogies and concession speeches, Paul Titus read the names of a few of the victims. Not people, but marsh and mangrove-infested islands, coves, points, reefs and flats — all claimed by an encroaching sea.

These areas were the key components in the Barataria Estuary. The endless structure and grass-filled marshes gave protection to the youngest of marine species.

Titus, a former New Orleans Police Department captain and GPS specialist, stood before a United States Geological Survey aerial map, circa 1927, lifted a black marker and began crossing off the names.



Photos by JOHN E. PHILLIPS (left) and AL ROGERS (right)

FT: The sunken islands in Barataria Bay continue to produce big trout.

SH: Tom Dunne and Paul Titus pore over an old map of Barataria Bay.

continued

1956 Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries

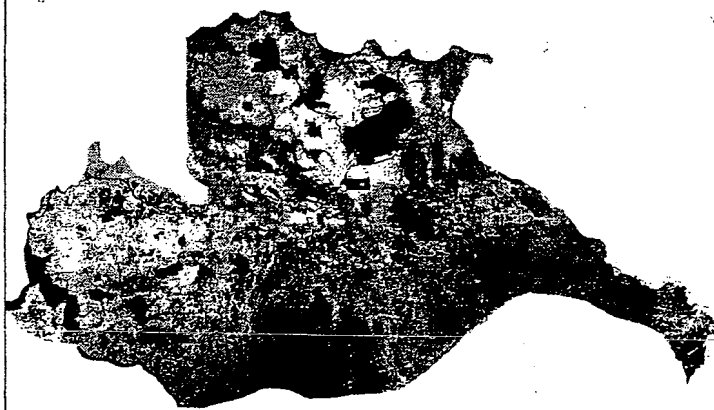


"Independence Island, Saturday Island, Bird Island, Crane Island — all gone," Titus said over sharp squeaks of the big felt pen. "There's nothing there. Nothing. Manquant Island — gone. Tresor Island — gone. Pavillon Island — all gone."

He then tossed several other

names into the "almost-gone" file. They included some of the most legendary fishing areas in Southeast Louisiana, such as the Shell Islands, the Cat Islands, Big Isle, St. Mary's Point and the extremities of Mendicant Island. The damage that these and other areas have sustained has been likened to

Projected 2030 Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries



that of an atomic bomb.

The vintage maps that were carefully laid out clearly illustrated a disturbing trend.

Titus cited a few examples. In the mid 1970s, a considerable land mass known as Grand Island (not the fishing village and home of the tarpon rodeo) separated Barataria and Cat

bays. Some of the old-timers and veteran anglers who frequented this area describe the fall of Grand Island as if they were discussing the death of an old friend.

Once several miles long, this Cat Bay island eroded gradually until about 1975, when the bottom literally seemed to fall out. By 1978, strong winds and tides cut a tiny gap through the middle of the island. During the next 20 years, the gap widened, and the land mass continued to collapse into the bay.

The island, now known as Grand Isle Point, has been reduced by nearly 75 percent of its 1975 size.

Barataria Bay has many other similar tales. Crane Island, which used to lie just to the east of Grand Isle Point, has also gone down. And the more than two dozen islands that comprised the Cat Island chain in 1977 have been reduced to five small islands of grass, mud and shell just north of Four Bayou Pass. The few that remain seem to shrink with each passing day and each passing tide.

Big Island, nestled between Barataria Bay and Bay Batiste, is now little more than a crue' misnomer. Less than 10 years ago, there was a lagoon nearly a quarter-mile across at the cen-

ter of Big Isle. It was a sanctuary for baitfish, and a place for anglers to get out of the wind and catch

noodling redfish and trout on high tides. Today, the entire southern end of the island is gone — the lagoon is now part of the bay, and Big Isle is not so big anymore.

Titus recalled a fishing trip he went on almost 30 years ago at the southeastern end of Barataria Bay. At that time, the area was composed of a system of water bodies that included Barataria Bay, Cat Bay and Bay Ronquille to the east. On the south, shielded from the Gulf by East Grand Terre Island, was Bay Melville and Bay Dispute.

"We had put so many fish on the boat that day, it was unbelievable," Titus said. "We had literally loaded it down with speckled trout, white trout and flounder."



Photo by TONY TAYLOR
Much of the man-made structure in the bay is still visible, but there are natural reefs all over that used to be parts of islands.

But it was something else that happened on that summer day in 1972 that stands out in his mind even more. Titus stood on the Grand Terre side of Bay Dispute as he watched a single wave from the Gulf break through the tiny barrier

of marsh. When it broke, thousands of baitfish escaped into the Gulf. He remembers the feeling he got in his throat.

One angler who remembers Barataria Bay even further back is New Orleans native Blaine Kern Sr.

Kern, also known as "Mr. Mardi Gras," began fishing the area with his father Roy Kern in the mid 1940s. He still owns two camps on Four Bayou Pass, and has spent so much time there that he has become sort of a fixture on Barataria Bay.

After travelling around the world three times, Kern says there's no place that he'd rather be than Barataria Bay.

"It's just so peaceful out there," Kern said. "There are times out there when the stars will glow so bright, it is amazing. It's been like that for as long as I can remember."

But the changes on the surface, Kern said, have been astounding. Kern recalls massive marsh areas and an extensive system of bayous in many parts of the bay. The area that stands out in his mind the most is a small camp community in the southeastern part of the bay near Bay Ronquille, still known as LaRocca's.

"I had a camp there with Dr. Henry LaRocca," Kern said. "I remember a lot of land. There were fig trees and mangroves, natural oyster reefs."

Kern said he would fill hampers up with fish, using only hand lines off the dock. He also remembers watching in awe at the big tarpon rolling on the surface in the bay.

Capt. Phil Robichaux of Lafitte has similar feelings about Barataria Bay. Robichaux still believes Barataria Bay is the perfect interior estuary system for speckled trout, redfish and flounder. He says it has all of the vital elements — marsh banks and bayou systems to the north, an abundance of oil and gas platforms throughout the bay, grass islands, sandy flats, and several major, coastal passes to the south.

But in the little more than a decade that Robichaux has been fishing the bay, he said he

continued

Barataria Bay

has seen enough land loss to last a lifetime. Not just in the scope of the damage, but the accelerated rate that the land had gone under.

"The areas we fish out there don't change year-to-year," he said. "They change month-to-month. We lose part of it every day."

In the early 1800s, the expansive system of marsh islands, coves and cuts in Barataria Bay were dense enough to provide cover for the smuggling ships of Jean Lafitte, the alleged pirate. For many years, Lafitte evaded federal lawmen (and taxes) as he smuggled goods into the New Orleans area for retail sale.

Some conservationists believe that it is only a matter of time until the bay is gone, and it will be called the Gulf of Mexico.

Officials with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program say these concerns are

"Everything is sinking so fast, I'd never leave the dock without my GPS. There's so much change that sometimes you can't recognize what's left of those islands from one month to the next."

CAPT. MIKE KODRIN

well-founded. Losing more than 22 square miles a year, Barataria and Terrebonne bays are two of the fastest-eroding areas in the world. Each loses about 11 square miles a year — the equivalent, officials say, of a football field every 45 minutes.

Kerry St. Pe, a native of Port Sulphur, spent much of his childhood in an aluminum flatboat exploring Barataria Bay from Lake Grande Escaillie to

the Cat Islands. St. Pe is acutely aware of the changes. Today, as director of the estuary program, those losses are particularly hard for him to accept.

"That's where I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s," he said. "Today, I don't recognize the place. I couldn't navigate my way through it if I had to."

Capt. Mike Kodrin, also a native of Port Sulphur, agrees. He remembers a time not long ago when all you needed was a

compass to navigate from the upper reaches of Bay Batiŝte west to St. Mary's Point, south to Queen Bess Island, and back east to the Freeport Sulphur Mines in Lake Grande Escaillie. Today, he said, is a completely different story.

"Everything is sinking so fast, I'd never leave the dock without my GPS," Kodrin said. "There's so much change that sometimes you can't recognize what's left of those islands from one month to the next."

Almost everyone here agrees that a GPS may soon be necessary for anyone who fishes Barataria Bay.

That's where Tims and his associate, Tom Dunne, come in. They don't see the sunken areas as gone forever, but as hidden treasures.

Although these islands and reefs are no longer visible, these areas are still havens to fish. The key is finding these

continued

Barataria Bay

places, and new technologies in GPS systems, maps and marine electronics have made it easier for everyone.

When Titus and Dunne realized that erosion would eventually affect anglers in every coastal area of the state, they went to work. Their plan was to create maps that would highlight underwater features, particularly the areas in regions that have recently gone under.

They could refer to a wealth of material from the archives of the New Orleans Map Company, which was founded in 1926 by Dunne's grandfather, William E. Boesch.

Between Dunne's maps and Titus' extensive knowledge of the GPS, the maps would give coordinates for many of the old areas that could not be found with only a keen eye and a fair sense of direction.

When researching for their first Hidden Treasure map, the pair referred to old maps dating back to the late-1920s. After several months of painstakingly comparing and etching each change by hand, their first map was produced — the Hidden Treasures of Black Bay.

Shortly afterward was the Hidden Treasures of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to Mitchell Key; their third is the Hidden Treasures of Barataria Bay.

But unlike their two previous maps, Dunne and Titus faced some unexpected challenges with the Barataria Bay series.



Photo by ANDY CRAWFORD

The marsh islands that remain in Barataria Bay still produce fish, but they are well-known and heavily pressured.

"Our first reaction when we started to compare the old (maps) with the new maps was, 'Where has all the land gone?'" Dunne said. "There used to be so many more features on the surface in Barataria. Those places are still there — they're just underwater."

Starting at the north end of the map in the upper reaches of Barataria Bay, the map indi-

cates the vast changes that have occurred to St. Mary's Point. At GPS coordinates 29 25.665N and 89 56.426W the map contrasts the position of the peninsula some 50 years ago, with the current point much farther inland. While the point once extended nearly a mile out into Barataria Bay, it is now a productive underwater reef.

The map also shows sunken

areas in Mud Lake, Bay Jimmy and Bay Batiste, including the former Fish Island, la Tache Island and the Tresor Islands (29 25.415N and 89 51.858W) and (29 25.105N and 89 51.444W).

To the south, Hidden Treasures maps out Big Isle (29 24.735N and 89 52.730W) and Grand Isle Point (29 22.430N and 89 54.070W), as well as two coordinates that indicate a massive depression (29 22.124N and 89 56.673W on the east end and 29 22.344N and 89 55.162W on the west end) in the middle of Barataria Bay.

Some of the other sunken islands in the middle of the bay include Manquant Island (29 23.708N and 89 51.068W), Crane Island (29 22.967N and 89 52.643W) and Isle deJour, along with several oyster reefs south of Grand Isle Point.

Other areas that have seen significant land loss are the Cutlass Islands in the extreme eastern part of Barataria, the Hook Islands east of Bay Ronquille and the Isle des Bateaux just north of Bay Melville. It also shows two oil-field canals above Melville and Bay Dispute, which likely contributed to the demise of the areas surrounding these two bays.

To the east, Independence Island (29 18.615N and 89 56.172W) is shown as a tiny shoal east of Queen Bess Island

continued

in southwestern Barataria Bay. Other prime areas include Bassa Bassa (29 21.634N and 89 59.413W) and some former islands including Bird Reef, Shell Reef, Boundary Reef, Pelican Island, Beauregard Island, as well as several platforms south of El Cid.

On the western end of Barataria Bay is Manila Village (29 25.668N and 89 58.600W), as well as the site of the old Manila Village platform, Plat Islands in Hackberry Bay and the islands in West Champagne Bay. In Caminada Bay, the Hidden Treasures map shows the former Eric Island, Andre

Island and Porte Island.

Robichaux explained that there are three basic habitats that you have to master to be successful in Barataria Bay — islands, platforms and oyster reefs. All will hold speckled trout, and this month, he said, is prime time.

"We'll head out there in the late spring and summer. But June is probably the best month to fish Barataria Bay."

CAPT. PHIL ROBICHAUX

"We'll head out there in the late spring and summer, starting in about mid-April,"

Robichaux said. "But June is probably the best month to fish Barataria Bay."

The Cat Islands, one of the most popular areas in Barataria Bay, can be found in the southeastern part of the bay. With the diminishing land masses in Barataria, it is often difficult to define the boundaries of the smaller bays and lakes nearby. The few islands that are left are concentrated just north of Bay Ronquille and extend to the west to Grand Isle Point. The islands will run northward to Big Isle.

Many of the guides in this area will hop from island to island, working the grass lines, cuts and pockets with plastics and topwater plugs.

"I'm not sure, but I think there are about five islands left in the chain," Robichaux said. "I don't even know the names of them. But we fish them all quite a bit."

Opinions and techniques on fishing the Cat Islands will vary, depending on who you talk to. Robichaux prefers an incoming tide, with a range between .8 and 1.2 feet. Any sustained winds in this open water will stain it quickly. His theory is that an incoming tide brings clean water, higher salinities and baitfish in from the nearby major passes of the Gulf.

Also, an incoming tide tends to concentrate the baitfish to the points and cuts along these islands. And where there are baitfish, Robichaux said, predators will not be far behind. The structure of the point attracts

baitfish by attracting food in the form of tiny organisms and crustaceans. The points also provide trout with an ambush spot.

"When there's very little or no tide, the baitfish are going to be scattered," Robichaux said. "But when you see a school of mullet around one of those points on the islands, nine out of 10 times there's going to be trout underneath them."

Like other veterans, Robichaux runs the island shorelines on his trolling motor. But he's not afraid to ease the anchor out when he locates a school of fish.

His best advice in good to fair water conditions is to locate the schools by tight-lining plastics and moving frequently. On slower days, Robichaux may pick up two or three fish in one area, and then he will move on, catching two or three more.

However, there are days when he may limit out in one stop

For most anglers, whether they are motoring in from Lafitte, Grand Isle or Port Sulphur, the Cat Islands are about a 20- to 30-mile run out.

Because anglers are often forced to fish in less-than-perfect water conditions, making your baits more visible to the fish is one option.

"There are times when a trout will prefer a vertical bait to a horizontal-running bait," Robichaux said. "I've seen it happen before. And as much as I don't like fishing with popping corks, I'll do it if it works."

Speckled trout are attracted to the sight and sound of the popping cork. In stained water, Robichaux suggests shortening your leader from the standard 16 to 18 inches to one as short as 8 inches. This will put the bait in closer proximity to the trout's mouth, increasing your chances of a strike.

He prefers "slightly cloudy" water over gin-clear conditions.

continued

Barataria Bay

Robichaux's favorite plastics are H&H cocahoes in a multitude of colors, including glow, smoke/chartreuse, purple with glitter/white tail, avocadō/red flake and the old standard white beetles that he says are great in any kind of water conditions.

Fishing the platforms presents a whole new gambit of challenges, habitat and conditions. Barataria Bay is filled with oil and gas platforms from Mud Lake to Bay Batiste and south to Grand Terre.

June is a great month to target big trout around these shallow-water structures.

"A lot of people think you need to be at a big platform to catch fish," he said. "Not so."

Anglers may want to tie off or anchor, using the wind, tides and baitfish to their advantage. Robichaux said to concentrate on schools of baitfish, jigging or bouncing plastics off the shell-pad bottoms of these structures to catch larger trout.

One trick that Robichaux has learned over the years is to fish the platforms that have lights — even in the daytime.

"This is a good rule of thumb. The platforms with lights are going to attract the fish at night," Robichaux said. "These fish are going to be already familiar with the area, and will likely set up shop there in the daytime."

The other major habitat to master in Barataria is the oyster reefs that, like the platforms, are literally scattered from one end of the bay to the other.

Finding schools of birds working over the reefs is one method, but another is simply cutting your outboard and drifting across the reefs, bouncing or jigging a plastic over the oyster shells.

Titus and Dunne realize that the surface structure on Barataria Bay will be gone one day, but they say they will be on the water with their maps and GPS, bringing up the hidden treasures of Barataria Bay. ■

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Scientists watch for any recovery in marsh die-off

By KATINA A. GAUDET NYT Regional Newspapers

April 25, 2001

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GALLIANO – Scientists are watching to see if saltwater marsh plants in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins affected by last year's die-off will recover.

In the meantime, researchers have been working to ensure a steady supply of seeds for replanting the area.

"The dying marsh covers such a huge area that we're searching for a method we could use to apply seeds to a huge area in a short period of time," said Kerry St. Pé, director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Gary Fine, manager of the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Plant Materials Center in Golden Meadow, said the seeds will have to be spread from the air.

"Most plants are taken out into the marsh and hand-planted," said Fine. "It's very labor intensive. We're trying to produce enough seeds to be able to fly back over the marsh to plant an acre in a few seconds."

More than 260,000 acres of smooth cordgrass have been affected so far by a die-off last summer and fall, with about 17,000 acres already transformed into mud flats with little vegetation.

The Plant Materials Center and Louisiana State University are currently working to produce a large supply of seeds for replanting affected areas and to determine the potential for recovery.

Plant Materials Center staff, Delta Service Corps South East Team and AmeriCorps on the Bayou members were out Tuesday transplanting smooth cordgrass – the most prevalent saltwater marsh grass and hardest-hit last year – into a three-acre pond. Three acres were planted last year also.

Delta team members decided to make this project the organization's signature project this year, given the severity of the marsh die-off, said Rachel Somers, a member.

"I wanted to get my team more aware of and intimately involved with coastal erosion and to help if they could," said Somers, who has been working with B-TNEP for the past two years.

Anna Brand, a Delta member, said the team was anxious to participate.

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"What I saw I would put in the category of 'alarming,' " he said. "There are still wide-open areas of open mud flats, which are of high concern because there are no plants to hold those sediments together. They're very vulnerable."

Those areas could be transformed into open water by storms.

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Projects trying to determine the causes of the die-off and recovery potential will begin shortly.

**April 20—22: BIRDWATCHING:
Grand Isle Migratory Bird
Celebration, Grand Isle, La.**—For
many migrants, the little sliver of land
known as Grand Isle represents the first
patch of dry land upon which to rest a
weary wing after crossing hundreds of
miles of open sea. To celebrate the
significance of this, the Grand Isle
Sanctuary Group will host a Migratory
Bird Celebration. Birdwatchers, Grand

Isle residents and others with a soft spot
for wild birds are invited to help celebrate
recent efforts to protect habitat for
migratory birds on Grand Isle.

Throughout the weekend, tours will
visit the best places for birdwatching on
the island. Speakers and field trip leaders
will help participants to appreciate fully
the amazing Spring migration event.
Special events begin on Friday evening
with "Gardening for Birds," a slide
presentation by Bill Fontenot. Other
highlights include:

- On Saturday, two birdwatching tours
begin the day at Fouchon Road (La.

Highways 1 and 3090) For families with
children and newcomers, The Nature
Conservancy of Louisiana will lead tours
of Lafitte Woods Preserve at 9:30 am and
2 pm. Additional tours will be repeated
morning and afternoon.

- "Planting for Birds" tours will show
participants how to attract birds to their
own backyards.

- Late afternoon, those interested in
shorebirds will be treated to a tour
designed to clarify how to identify Grand
Isle's many shorebirds.

- On Sunday a boat tour of Barataria Bay
will bring you to Queen Bess Island to
view nesting pelicans (Cost: \$10 donation
to the Sanctuary Fund).

For a brochure, information, or to

sign up for tours, call the Barataria
Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at (877)
378-8279 or visit www.btef.org

Country Roads
St. Francisville, LA
April 2001

elected its full slate of 2000-2001 officers.

Foundation officers for the coming year are:

lPresident Earl Melancon Jr., professor of biology at Nicholls State University.

lFirst Vice President Claire Creppel, owner of Columns Hotel.

lSecond Vice President Lynn Schonberg, a Metairie consultant.

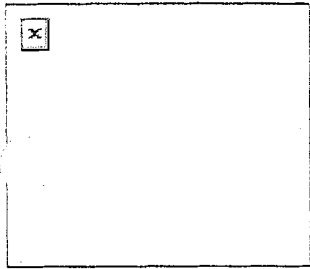
lSecretary/Treasurer Vince Cottone, a Texaco environmental specialist.

Board members serve two terms and volunteer their time and effort to foundation projects such as La Fete d'Ecologie and the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration.

For more information on the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation or to volunteer call 447-8092.

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May 29, 2001

Foundation elects officers

From staff reports

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation recently re-elected six of seven board members to guide it during the coming year.

The foundation's primary purpose is to aid the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in implementing its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The practice of re-electing board members is not an uncommon one for the organization.

The experience board members gain serving the organization helps it, said Administrator Cullen Curole.

Filling the seventh spot on the board is Donaldsonville resident and former Mayor Harold Capello, who has been involved in community efforts including the Donaldsonville Heritage Museum, the Sunshine Festival and the Donaldsonville Chamber of Commerce.


Capello replaces Houma environmental manager Pat Bergeron of ES&H, who stepped down after two years on the board.

"When vacancies occur, we look to fill them with dedicated individuals from all parts of the estuary," said Donna Lombardo, a Foundation board member from St. Charles Parish. "Mr. Capello is our first board member from Ascension Parish. With the Bayou Lafourche Initiative, his knowledge of the northern Bayou Lafourche community will be important."

The Bayou Lafourche Initiative is a plan for highlighting the historical, cultural and environmental aspects of the waterway by having individuals and organizations along the bayou working together. Once the plan is established on Bayou Lafourche, organizers are hoping to extend it to other waterways within the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.

At its quarterly meeting, the foundation's board also re-

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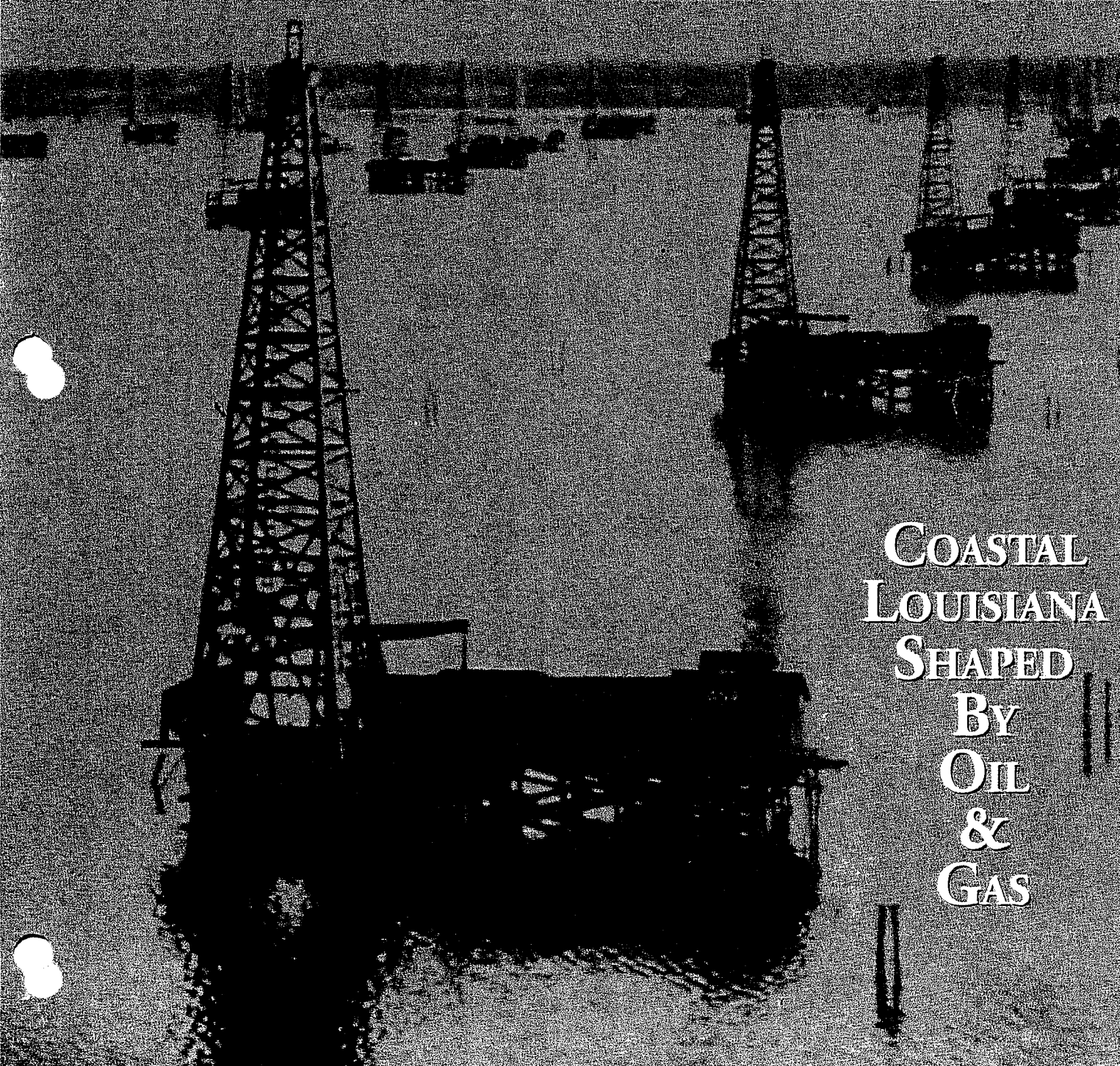
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COAST & SEA

FALL 2000

An aerial, black and white photograph of several offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. The rigs are silhouetted against the lighter water. One large rig is in the foreground, with others receding into the distance. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

COASTAL
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&
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We want our children to be scientifically literate citizens who are concerned about their environment, but how do we develop this kind of citizen? Sea Grant is striving to answer this question by fostering programs that encourage students to learn about their environment and to become good stewards of our coastal and marine resources.

Louisiana Sea Grant's most recent marine education program is the Coastal Ecosystem Stewardship Project. Its purpose is to provide students with background information on wetlands management issues, to train them in basic water quality monitoring methods, data collection, and manipulation, and to give them the opportunity to participate in a restoration project related to the basin in which their water quality monitoring project is taking place.

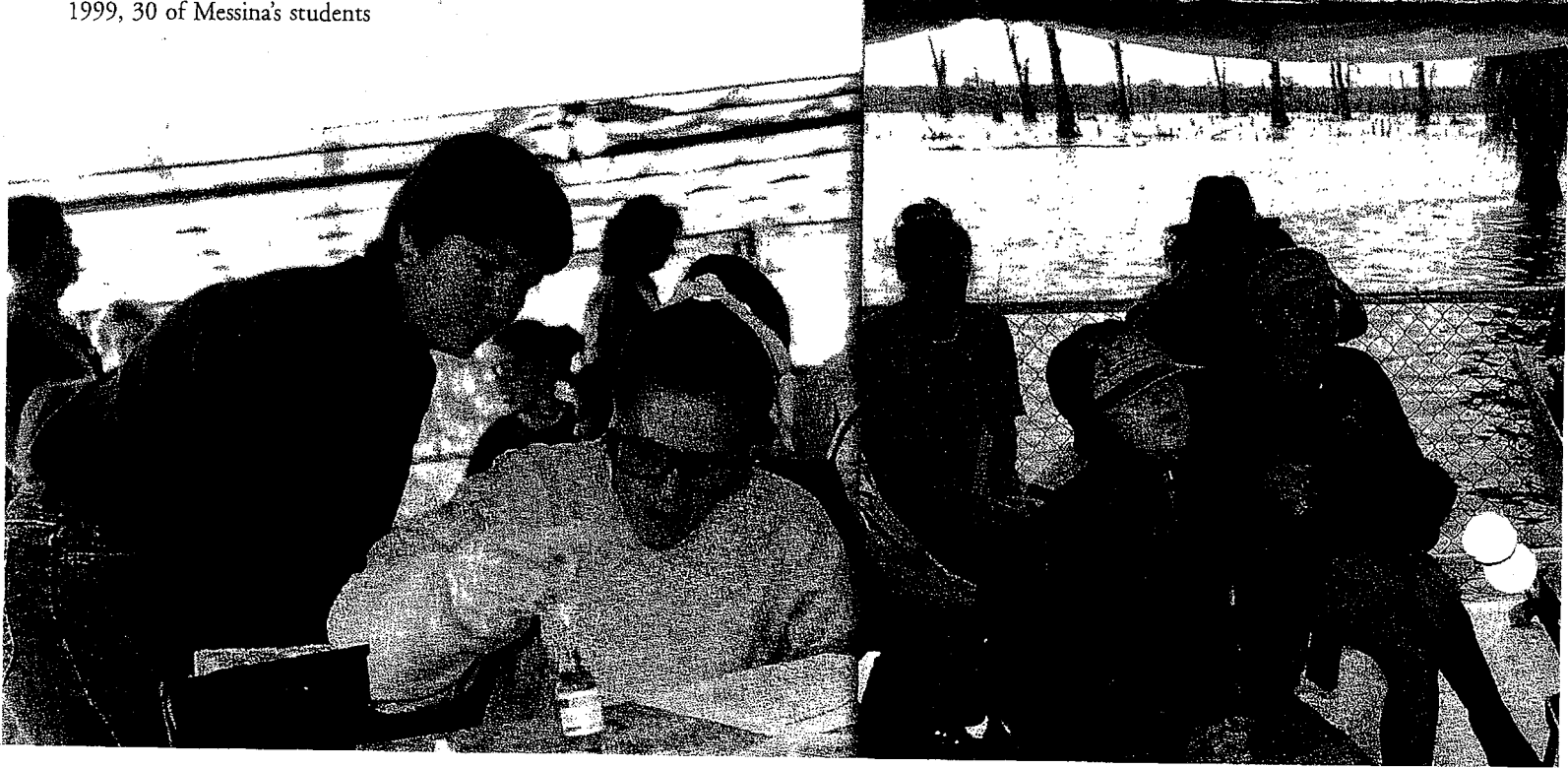
The project began with a request from a high school teacher, Linda Messina of St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge, who wanted a "real-world" project that her biology students could participate in. In October 1999, 30 of Messina's students

attended a half-day workshop, at which scientists from the LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute, Sea Grant marine extension agents from the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, and speakers from Alligator Bayou Tours and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation gave presentations on various aspects of wetlands history, management, and stewardship. The students then participated in a half-day water quality training workshop at Alligator Bayou where they learned and practiced the procedures for collecting water quality information.

Messina's students are still collecting water quality data every other weekend and have trained other students in the Biology I classes at St. Joseph's Academy to participate in the project also. Messina has also enrolled them in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Water Watch Program, where the data they collect on Alligator Bayou is entered into a large water quality

SCIENCE

By Pam Blanchard, Louisiana Sea Grant Marine Education Coordinator



MATTERS

Louisiana Sea Grant's Coastal Ecosystem Stewardship Project

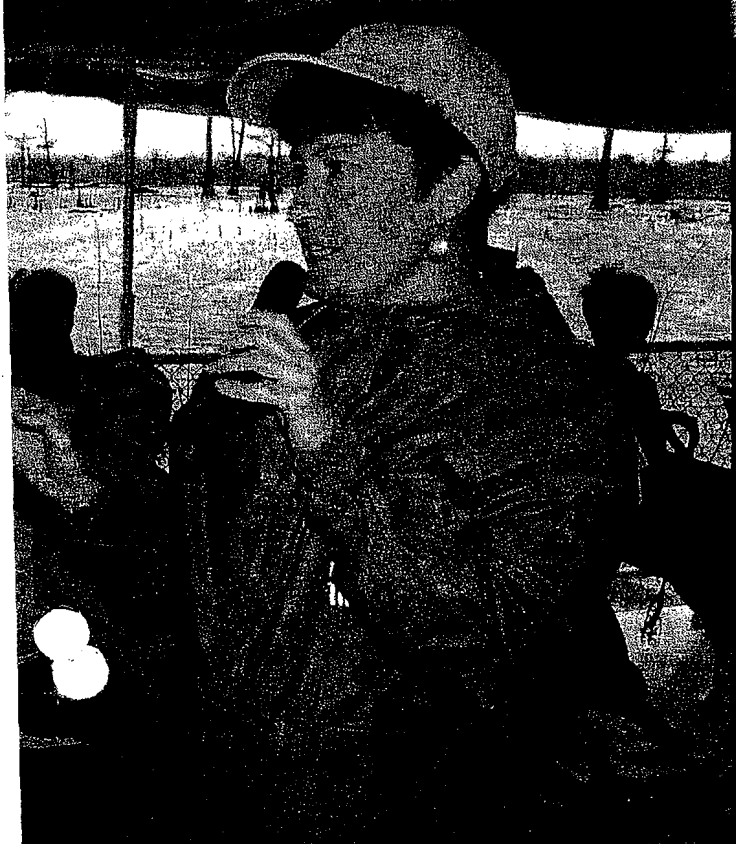


database. In the culmination of the Coastal Ecosystem Stewardship Project, students planted cypress seedlings donated to the project by the Louisiana Plantsmen Nursery (Baton Rouge) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

This teacher's initial request for a hands-on experience in the real world has had wonderful results. For instance, three science fair projects based on data collected from the Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Project won first, second, and third places at the Louisiana Regional (Capital District) Science Fair. In July 2000, Messina and several of her students assisted in mentoring students through water quality training at the Louisiana Youth Environmental Summit, held at Chicot State Park. In October, St. Joseph's students will sponsor an exhibit

at LSU-Louisiana Sea Grant's Ocean Commotion. Plans are being made to rework the Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Project so that students can do water quality testing with both wet chemistry and graphing calculators and probes.

Well on its way toward implementation is a project in which students learn to grow their own cypress trees and other coastal plants to use in restoration projects. Louisiana Sea Grant, in collaboration with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, will establish six seedling nurseries at schools within the BTNEP region. This program will be called appropriately, Coastal Roots. In a separate effort, Messina has already obtained grant funds from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to begin a cypress seedling nursery for her students at St. Joseph's. ~



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Foundation holds weekend drive

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation will be trying to drum up new support this weekend.

The non-profit organization's annual membership drive meeting will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

The meeting will take place in the Plantation Room in the Donald G. Bollinger Memorial Student Union at Nicholls State University.

"Our members are basically our best source of volunteers for our projects," said foundation Administrator Cullen Curole. "They are an elite group of people who are challenged to become stewards and make a difference in their estuary."

Created in 1995, the foundation aids the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in implementing its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Although Curole said he was pleased with last year's membership drive, with several new members also coming on board at the year's end, he hopes the foundation will see its membership rise to 300 by the year's end.

A second membership drive will be conducted around the time of La Fete d'Ecologie, the area's annual ecology festival, which the foundation – with the help of sponsors – organizes each year.

This year's festival falls on Sept. 29.

Another annual project the foundation takes part in is the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, which wrapped up late last month.

Prospective members will have the opportunity to learn more about these and other foundation projects Saturday, as well as ways they can participate.

"Saturday we're going to review the projects that we've been working on, including the festival and the Migratory Bird Celebration, and other efforts we will be involved in," said Curole. "We're going to describe the organization to newcomers who might not be familiar with where we are and how we got there."

The public will also be given the opportunity to meet with staff and board members, preview the foundation's strategic plan and voice opinions about foundation projects.

"We're going to solicit everyone's participation with regard to what we've been doing in the community and what things we might be able to do better," Curole said.

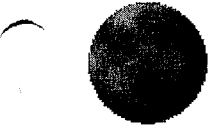
On Monday, new board members and officers will be elected. That meeting will take place in Luling at the West St. Charles Parish Library.

For more information, contact the foundation at 447-8092.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.


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Alliance could help people, environs

By Katina A. Gaudet*Staff Writer*

Fostering collaboration between public agencies can work to benefit people and the environment.

With this in mind, representatives of the Federal Management Emergency Agency (FEMA) and several of the national estuary programs throughout the Gulf states gathered in Thibodaux Tuesday, searching for ways to improve coastal environments and reduce vulnerability to flooding.

The discussions are part of a three-day workshop sponsored by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

Local governments and other agencies can implement mitigation programs using federal funds such as:

!The National Flood Insurance Program, helping people purchase insurance from floods or flood-related erosion.

!The Flood Mitigation Assistance, which tries to reduce the risk of flood damage to insured structures. The cost-share agreement is 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal, 12.5 percent of which can be in-kind work. Projects can include acquisition, elevation or relocation of insured property.

!The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which helps implement hazard mitigation measures after disaster is declared.

“When an event happens, this money might become available, but communities should think about how to get it and how to use it before that to make projects at the local level more efficient,” said David Thomas, FEMA mitigation directorate in Washington, D.C. The cost-share agreement is 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal.

Using these and other FEMA programs can help the nation’s estuary programs address many of their individual action plans, said Rod Emmer, a Louisiana FEMA

representative.

Reducing development in flood-prone areas through "buy outs" can contribute to public safety and the restoration of coastal environments.

"Within the National Flood Insurance Program, we're looking to identify floodways, which are areas normally next to water," said Emmer. "Those areas can serve as buffer strips."

They would provide improved water quality and wildlife habitat, two issues national estuary programs seek to address.

"This provides habitat because it simply provides open space in a wetlands-type environment," said Emmer. "It can also establish a corridor between areas within an NEP so that wildlife can move from one area to the next."

Using floodplains as buffer zones can also help reduce non-point source pollution and convert developed areas into wetlands.

Tina Sanchez with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission said her region has done well using FEMA programs. Over the past few years, the City of Mobile has purchased more than 30 properties and is in the process of buying out 16 more. Those properties can never be developed again.

"What this is telling us is that the homeowners have such a problem with flooding that they'll take the 25 percent loss on the home," said Sanchez.

Project Impact is another FEMA program from which communities can benefit, officials say, though that program might not receive funding in 2002.

The program provides incentives and technical assistance to communities so they can employ risk-reducing practices, such as building at higher elevations, in long-range community planning to better prepare for hurricanes and other flood-related events.

"The communities that are taking the aggressive approaches are the ones that are getting the grant dollars," said Windell Curole, chairman of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. "This is another angle where NEPs can maybe get involved."

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at

story

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Monday, April 30, 2001

Daily Comet

50¢

Thibodaux, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

Volume 113, No. 20

Estuary program gets award

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

A local organization was among the recipients this year of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Stewardship awards.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Thibodaux, along with the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), received the Coalition's 2001 media award Friday at the Howard Johnson's in Thibodaux.

For six years, the coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Mississippi River delta and its neighboring Chenier plain, has honored people and organizations for promoting awareness of coastal concerns and addressing those concerns.

"Something that gives us hope is the people that we honor tonight and the commitments they've made (in) taking responsibility for that which is all our responsibility," said Mark Davis, executive director of the coalition.

BTNEP, USGS and CWPPRA received recognition Friday for producing "Explore Coastal Louisiana," an interactive CD-ROM bringing the Cajun Boudreaux into the 21st century.

Using the program, students can navigate through Boudreaux's swamp camp, accessing video clips, maps, quizzes and other educational resources along the way to learn about Louisiana's coastal wetlands and its native species. A companion teacher's guide is also available.

Last year, 12,000 copies have been

Continued from 1A
distributed in Louisiana and at least 4,000 to educators attending the National Science Teachers Conference.
Other award winners at Friday's banquet include:
● Ben Taylor, Citizen/Advocate Award, for advocating improved sewerage systems in areas surrounding Tangipahoa River, Lake Maurepas and Lake Ponchartrain to improve the health of those water bodies and organizing Swamp Sweep, a litter abatement effort in area wetlands. Within the last two years, 10.5 tons of

● Jefferson Parish, for the Jefferson Parish Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration, which has used more than 500,000 recycled trees since 1990 to curb land loss in 100 acres of wetlands.
● Mark Ford, Bren Haase and Bryan Piazza, Educator Award, for Louisiana Blues on Sinking Ground at Capitol High in Baton Rouge. Educators designed a 15-week course on coastal wetlands and instructed students on 10 ecological topics. Students also had to maintain their own wetlands - tanks filled with dirt - and observed those wetlands as they treated them with

ing and managing the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, thought to be the only urban wildlife refuge in the United States.
"Everything we're proud of in our communities started off as ideas," said Davis. "These are things that don't come from an agency or a program, but by people making them happen."
"Exploring Coastal Louisiana" is available through www.lacoast.gov.
Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

See AWARD, 9A

Oyster reefs anchor of coastal ecosystem

State wetland managers discuss reef restoration

By **MIKE DUNNE**

Advocate staff writer

Oysters not only taste good, they improve water quality and reduce coastal erosion, experts said Wednesday afternoon during a meeting of the Association of State Wetlands Managers.

In recent years, Louisiana and other states have begun to restore oyster reefs, which "have been called the cornerstone of the coastal ecosystem," Megan LaPreye of the U.S. Geological Survey said during the meeting at the Radisson Hotel. The event concludes today.

Reefs provide marine habitat, improve water quality and help reduce erosion, she said.

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program, based in Thibodaux, is one group trying to encourage reef restoration and improve conditions for oyster farming.

"About 13 million pounds of oysters are harvested each year at a dockside harvest

value of \$20 million to \$45 million," said Eddie Landrum of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary program.

"At least 1.1 million Louisiana oysters are eaten daily," he said.

Louisiana produced 42 percent of the nation's oysters in 1998, he said.

LaPreye said the reefs provide feeding grounds, nursing grounds and refuge to fish and other marine life. Research shows more than 79 fish species and 18 divisions of the animal kingdom called phyla use the typical oyster reef.

Oysters feed by filtering water for microscopic organisms and also consume excess nutrients in the water. "In one hour one oyster can filter 24 liters of water," or about 6.3 gallons, LaPreye said.

Shell reefs can reduce wave energy and stabilize marsh edges. "A lot of people are looking at this as ways to protect marsh edges," LaPreye said.

Landrum said the real threat to oysters are malfunctioning sewer systems and

stormwater runoff.

"Nearly half of the waters in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary are closed to oyster harvests at one time," Landrum said.

There are 260 stormwater pumps in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary area, Landrum said.

"We are promoting the redirection of stormwater discharge" into adjacent marshes rather than in canals that shoot the water straight out to where oyster reefs are often located, Landrum said. The wetlands will use up the nutrients and filter the water before it gets to oysters, nourishing the wetlands as well as protecting the shellfish.

Chesapeake Bay on the mid-Atlantic has a similar story, but is already seeing some success in restoring reefs, said Rich Takacs, a restoration coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Annapolis, Md.

"It took 100-plus years to get to where we are today and we are not going to restore it overnight," he said.

☐ See OYSTER, Page 2B

Oyster

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

In places where oyster reefs and bars have been restored, submerged aquatic grasses — important fish habitat — are reappearing, Takacs said.

But while success means more oyster reefs, it will also require balancing competing interests, Takacs said. Commercial fishermen will want to

harvest more; conservationists will want more oyster reefs restored as sanctuaries and off-limits to harvesting by fishermen.

When people see the benefits of restoring reefs, they usually support the idea of reef restoration, Takacs said.

Advocate
June 2001

A new place to see in our estuary

By **ROD EMMER, Ph.D.**

Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation

In a previous column, I described several places where you could actually walk into the coastal wetlands. For many people who grew-up in a city, these paths, boardwalks, canoe trails and boat trips offer a safe and informative way to see our beautiful coastal wetlands and barrier islands. I want to add one additional location to visit, the Lafitte Woods Preserve and associated lands on Grand Isle.

A birding site has been in the talking and wishing stage by several organizations, including the Orleans Audubon Society. It all came together in late 1998 when the Nature Conservancy received approximately 10 wooded acres on Grand Isle from B&G Crane Service. The Conservancy recently added three acres of live oak and hackberry forest. These woods serve as a vital refueling stop for the colorful birds before and after their long migration flights across the Gulf of Mexico. Collectively, these 13 acres form the core of a several properties known as the Grand Isle Birding Trail.

This Birding Trail will be part of a larger trail through Barataria-Terrebonne and later across Louisiana. The project sponsored by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program with the help of many partners will promote ecotourism. The Nature Conservancy maintains a parking lot on La. 1 between Coulon Rigaud Lane and Grand Isle Parkway for visitors to the

Last year, volunteers from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary, the Nature Conservancy, the Orleans Audubon Society, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation and others planted more than 5,000 trees on 10 acres of the former Exxon Grand Isle camp.

Lafitte Woods Preserve.

The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the Orleans Audubon Society, Exxon-Mobile, local supporters such as B&G Crane Service Inc. and the Grand Isle Port Commission, are working to restore the natural live oak and hackberry forest and will provide habitat for migratory songbirds. For example, the Port Commission has set aside 20 acres of marsh and uplands for conservation and replanting trees and will be replanting trees "for the birds."

Last year, volunteers from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary, the Nature Conservancy, the Orleans Audubon Society, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation and others planted more than 5,000 trees on 10 acres of the former Exxon Grand Isle camp.

For information on the opportunities for birding on Grand Isle or on visiting the sites, contact Jean Landry at the Nature Conservancy Office on Grand Isle (504-787-2514), Richard DeMay, Barataria-Terrebonne

National Estuary Program (800-259-0869), Kay Radlauer, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (225-923-1437), or the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation (877-378-8279).

It really is worth your time to visit this beautiful barrier island habitat.

ESTUARY INFORMATION

I often hear people complaining about not knowing what is happening in the estuary or who to talk to about coastal issues. Let me recommend one source that should keep almost everyone informed about what is happening in our estuary.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources maintains a Web site at <http://dnr.state.la.us> that has a tremendous amount of information. The home page provides an overview of coastal related information that is immediately accessible. For example, if you need driving directions to the Natural Resources building in Baton Rouge, click on "Topics" in the upper left corner and open the line for directions. In this same grouping (Resource Finder), if you open "Natural Resources Links," you can

visit the Web sites of other state agencies and the federal agencies.

Local governments will want to keep up-to-date on the Coastal Impact Assistance Program because this program makes money available for coastal restoration projects.

DNR news releases and information from the Office of Conservation, Mineral Resources and Coastal Management Division are available.

Through the Web Central, you can connect to the Office of Coastal Restoration and Management and read the Coastlines newsletter or find out about coastal use permits.


Teachers, students and kids have a section of the Web site designed specifically for them and has materials for their use. And finally, want to know about energy, mineral leasing or employment opportunities with the department? Then visit the Web site and see what is available.

This is a great resource that will save you unbelievable blocks of time, effort and telephone calls. If you don't have a computer or cannot reach the Internet, your local library has a computer and Internet connection you can use. If you are unsure how to work on the Internet, the library can help you navigate through this new system.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program office can be contacted at 447-8092, (800) 259-0869, or P.O. Box 1336, Thibodaux, LA 70302, or via e-mail at sandra_k@deg.state.la.us.

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary

By Deborah Schultz,
Formal Education Coordinator and
Kerry St. Pé, Program Director



Where the bayous and rivers of Southeast Louisiana meet the salty waters of the Gulf of Mexico lies America's best-kept secret: the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary. The name itself is exotic, with "Barataria" referring to the impenetrability encountered by early explorers, and "Terrebonne" giving away the heavy French influence in the naming of "the Good Earth." This 4.2 million-acre land of vast marshes, swamps, and bayous lies nestled between the mighty Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, with the one-hundred mile long Bayou Lafourche separating the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. It is a land of abundant wildlife, including alligators, bald eagles, furbearers, waterfowl and other migratory and resident birds. It has for thousands of years been a nursery ground for fish and shellfish. It is currently home to "Cajuns," Islenos, African Americans, Vietnamese, Germans, French and a host of other groups who have formed a "gumbo culture" that has thrived on the rich natural resources of this delta. It is also a land in peril, a unique and irreplaceable corner of the world that is disappearing before our eyes.

What is the National Estuary Program?

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary is one of 28 estuaries nationwide that have been deemed nationally significant and have come under the umbrella of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program (NEP). This innovative program recognizes that environmental problems encountered in watersheds are interconnected and cannot be treated in isolation from the others; and that the most effective means of restoring degraded or threatened estuaries and their watersheds is to use a holistic approach. This holistic approach utilizes the expertise of a wide variety of individuals and experts when looking at seemingly separate environmental problems. It also incorporates input from residents from all sectors of the watershed in creating and implementing a management plan for the area. Decisions are made through consensus, meaning that discussion takes place until a decision is reached that everyone can live with. Annual

funding for this program is provided by the EPA, and the individual program is required to contribute a 25% state or local match. The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), located on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, is administered through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The 25% match to the EPA grant is provided by the State of Louisiana General Fund.

Problems of Barataria-Terrebonne

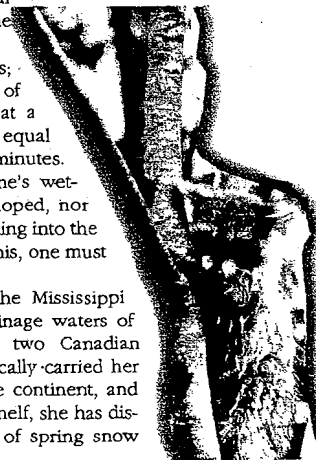
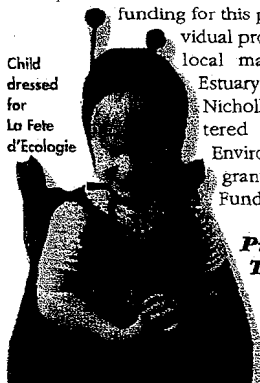
In order to become a part of the NEP, a nominated area must be proven both nationally significant and threatened. Barataria-Terrebonne had no trouble proving either.

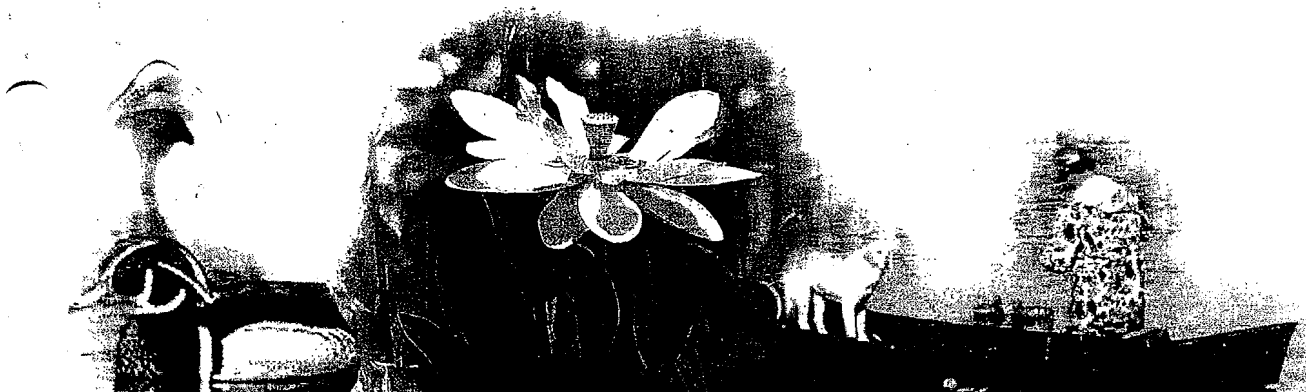
Estuarine systems, where freshwater from land meets and mixes with salty ocean waters, are known to be among the most biologically productive systems in the world, and Barataria-Terrebonne is no exception. Nearly one-fifth of the nation's estuarine-dependent fisheries, and thousands of resident and migratory birds rely on the diverse habitats of Barataria-Terrebonne. With substantial finfish, oysters, shrimp, and crabs, and annual commercial fisheries landings of more than \$220 million, these wetlands and bays are a mecca for both commercial and recreational fishermen alike, and they help to feed Louisiana and the nation. In addition, oil and gas-related industries located in the basins provide billions of dollars to the nation's economy. Agricultural activities, dominated by sugar cane, are also extremely important to the local economy.

The threats to this area are numerous; the foremost is land loss. The wetlands of Barataria-Terrebonne are disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year. That is equal to a football-field-sized area every 45 minutes. Unlike other regions, Barataria-Terrebonne's wetlands are not being filled in, not developed, nor paved over. They are subsiding and eroding into the Gulf of Mexico. In order to understand this, one must understand how this area was created.

Barataria-Terrebonne is a gift of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi receives the drainage waters of two-thirds of the United States and two Canadian provinces. The "Big Muddy" has historically carried her cargo of water and sediment across the continent, and upon reaching the shallow continental shelf, she has dispersed her load. In the annual cycles of spring snow

Child
dressed
for
La Fete
d'Ecologie





melt, her northern tributaries would swell her load to uncontainable limits, and she would rush toward the Gulf, spilling nutrient-rich waters and rich earth sediments over her banks, and across the land, layer by layer. Every few thousand years, she would alter her course, taking a new route to the sea, replenishing areas she had previously abandoned. That is what built Barataria-Terrebonne. Human tampering with that dynamic and powerful system is what threatens to destroy it.

With the 1927 flood weighing heavily upon the minds of the nation, the demand to ensure that no such catastrophe would strike again was met by the construction of hundreds of miles of levees. With that act, the "Mother River" was confined to her banks, keeping South Louisiana safe in the short term, but ultimately threatening to destroy that which we sought to save. Without the natural cycle of flooding, we have sent the river's bed-load of sediments, an average 200,000 metric tons annually, cascading off the edge of the continental shelf, into deep ocean waters, rendering this building and nourishing material useless. Ironically, we have also made ourselves frighteningly vulnerable to destruction by flooding from gulf storms because as our buffer of wetlands recedes, we receive more of the undampened fury of storm surges which are an ever-present threat from hurricanes.

Without the Mississippi's annual nourishment, our wetlands are sinking, subsiding into the gulf. We have exacerbated the rate of demise by crisscrossing our vast marshes with canals -- both for navigation and oil exploration. These wounds do not heal, but slowly enlarge from wave action, bringing salt water to intrude far into the system, and eventually converting marshland to open water.

Barataria-Terrebonne is plagued with water quality problems as well, with frequently high levels of herbicides, other pesticides, nutrients from fertilizers and sewage, and sewage-related bacteria from poorly operating or non-existent sewage treatment. These problems threaten fish populations and public health, and require oyster beds to be closed to harvesting. Being blessed with an abundance of oil and gas, we also have our share of accidental oil spills from the harvesting and transport of these resources.

These problems have resulted in habitat degradation. This degradation, as well as the introduction of exotic species, threatens our native and migratory populations of fish and wildlife. When these resources are threatened, the people of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary who have made a way of life centered on wildlife resources, are threatened as well.

History of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

After its admission into the NEP in 1990, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program was given five years to produce a management plan, called the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). This was a very busy five-year period in which hundreds of people, representing not only federal, state, and local government, but fishermen, farmers, educators, scientists, representatives from oil companies and environmental groups and many others came together to form the governing body, or BTNEP "Management Conference". Committees within this body oversaw the identification of seven Priority Problems, and the production of a series of highly

technical reports that are still widely used by resource agencies and researchers. This group also oversaw the development of the CCMP management plan that was completed in 1996. This plan contains 51 separate strategies called "Action Plans" that outline procedures for addressing the seven Priority Problems and preserves and restores the unique culture of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary which evolved around the now threatened resources. These 51 actions provide the framework for the projects the program oversees, covering issues as diverse as habitat management to water quality to education and cultural preservation and sustainable economic development. Interwoven throughout these plans is an emphasis on coordinated planning between agencies and individuals and the value of partnerships in effectively and efficiently making positive changes.

What has been done to Implement the BTNEP Management Plan?

Because the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is made up of many partners, implementation of the management plan is not limited to the Program Office, and in fact occurs in a variety of ways. Projects and initiatives of established local, state and federal government programs that have agreed to take on a lead role are one of the vehicles for Action Plan implementation. Another avenue is through projects, often completed through contracts, which are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), guided by the Management Conference, and which the program office staff in Thibodaux oversee. In addition, implementation occurs through the efforts of individuals or groups who work either independently, or in cooperation with Program Office staff.

Land Loss

Three of the seven Priority Problems are intricately linked to the issue of wetland loss in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary -- hydrologic modification, reduced sediment flows, and habitat loss/modification. A considerable amount of energy from the regional natural resource community has been allocated to these issues, and many Action Plans in the CCMP identify strategies to address these problems.

One principle mechanism to address wetland loss is coastal restoration, and includes activities such as the effective use of dredged material, revegetation, placement of Christmas tree structures, freshwater/sediment diversions, and shoreline protection. These coastal restoration activities have been applied to interior marshes, bay and bayou shorelines, and barrier islands. Many Barataria-Terrebonne partners, including the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration (CWPPRA) Task Force are involved in implementing coastal restoration projects in the estuary. Thousands of acres of wetlands and miles of bay and bayou shorelines have benefited from these activities. Other efforts include Coast 2050, a collective effort among the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Authority, the CWPPRA Task Force, and the Louisiana Wetland Conservation and Restoration Authority. Using the multi-stakeholder approach first proven in Louisiana by the BTNEP, the Coast 2050 plan for restoring Louisiana's entire coast was completed in 1999.

The BTNEP Program Office staff is currently working with representatives from the EPA, the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, and other members of the CWPPRA task force to investigate strategies for introducing more fresh water into the Barataria and Terrebonne basins. With the recent severe to moderate stressing of nearly 2/3 of the salt marsh in these basins, the Estuary Program is being asked to take a strong role in convening working groups to respond to this emergency.

Individuals are also working to protect the estuary. The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce has sparked an initiative that has blossomed in South Louisiana. Project S.O.S (Save Our Soil) is a broad part-

Continued on page 14

nership of local organizations, teachers, principals and school children. Using educational materials produced primarily by BTNEP and the Terrebonne Parish School Board, teachers were given the information needed to inform and motivate students to action. This resulted in a massive letter-writing campaign in which nearly 40,000 letters were written over a three year period to President Clinton, Governor Foster, congressional leaders, and major media outlets, requesting national assistance with the land loss problem in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary. This year, Cable News Network (CNN) several of the participating schools.

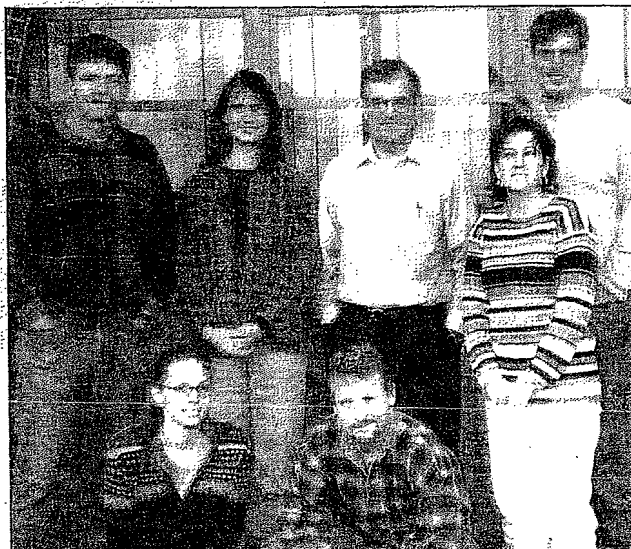
Another private effort is that of a nature-based tourism business in the community of Marrero, whose stated mission is to preserve the Barataria-Terrebonne ecosystem. Mr. Bill Quenan, of Cypress Swamp Tours, provides all his boat captains and other employees, as well as the general public with information about land loss in the Estuary. Speaking with 2500 visitors per week about these issues, his employees are doing their part in spreading the word to the rest of the nation.

Water Quality

In the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, land and water are inextricably linked. Estuary residents live their lives close to the estuary, and interact with it for food, employment, and recreation. Life in the estuary is essentially water-based and the range of human activities on land and in the water directly and immediately affect water quality. Water quality is important not only for the health and livelihoods of estuary residents, but also for public acceptance of freshwater diversions of river water into the estuary for restoration. Three of BTNEP's seven priority problems - eutrophication, pathogen contamination, and toxic substances - threaten water quality in the estuary. Several BTNEP Action Plans address these Priority Problems, and the Barataria-Terrebonne Partnership has put significant amounts of energy and resources towards these threats.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) has been active in eliminating discharges of raw sewage from residences and camps in Barataria-Terrebonne. Many approved onsite sewage systems have been installed in estuary parishes since 1996. In addition, BTNEP has partnered with DHH and the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program to produce a video called "Dilution is not the Solution". DHH has also played a lead role in the BTNEP Management Conference Action Plan team in guiding a BTNEP project, which has the potential to reduce pollution in coastal areas. With funding from the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program, this BTNEP project - the Marsh Upwelling System, was developed by engineers at Louisiana State University. It works by pumping sewage effluent beneath coastal marshes, where the freshwater effluent then percolates up through the denser salt water, using the natural ecosystem as a filter to remove nutrients and pathogens. This low-tech system was one of many alternative technologies outlined in the BTNEP publication Performance Survey of Alternative Sewage Technologies. It was selected by the BTNEP Management Conference as the most promising new technology to demonstrate in coastal areas.

BTNEP has on board a full-time staff person working on sewage related issues through funding from the Gulf of Mexico Program's Shellfish Challenge. The Shellfish Challenge seeks to increase harvestable shellfish beds in the Estuary and Gulf wide. Four projects have been prioritized, three of which contribute to the reduction of sewage pollution. These projects include installing new pump out/dump stations at marinas



Left to right, top to bottom-Eddie Landrum (Shellfish Challenge Coordinator), Deborah Schultz (ES II), Kerry St. Pé (Program Director), Dean Blanchard (ES III), Rachel Somers (Delta Service Corp. Member), Matt Phillips (DIMS Contractor), Sandra Helmuth (Program Analyst II). Not shown: Andrew Barron (ES III), Richard DeMay (ESC), Alaina Owens (Student Worker)

throughout the estuary, connecting poorly operating individual wastewater treatment systems in Terrebonne Parish to an existing wastewater treatment plant, and rerouting storm water away from oyster growing beds through wetlands, using the natural ability of wetlands to filter sewage pollution.

Rachel Somers, a member of the Delta Service Corps is also stationed in the BTNEP office. Among many education and outreach projects she is involved in, Storm Drain Marking is among the most popular. Using funding from the DEQ Nonpoint Source program, Ms. Somers designed and produced a custom marker for applying to community storm drains. This sporty marker boasts the Estuary Program mascot, Clawdette the Blue Crab, and a message, which reads "Dump No Waste, Drains to Estuary". Somers has worked with many, volunteer groups including 4-H and Girl Scouts, their parents, teachers, and members of a local Americorps group to mark many



Children "dance the shrimp" at the La Fête d'Ecologie festival.



BTNEP: A Unique Habitat

drains in the Thibodaux-Houma area. While conducting their storm drain cleaning projects, volunteers also hand out a fact sheet on storm drains and point source pollution. This activity is a real eye-opener for both children and adults as they also survey and record the trash they observe around storm drains.

Fish and Wildlife

The Barataria-Terrebonne estuary is habitat and feeding ground for an abundance of living creatures – fish, shellfish, and other wildlife. Over 600 species of vertebrates are known to live within the estuary; it is also home for more than ten species listed as threatened or endangered. One of the seven Priority Problems affecting the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary involves a decline in living resource populations. This decline is linked to both wetland loss and water quality degradation in the estuary. The Barataria-Terrebonne Partnership has attempted to address adverse changes in living resources – both a decline of native species and introductions of damaging non-native species such as nutria and hydrilla.

One of the major success stories for the estuary is the return of the brown pelican, which had virtually disappeared from Louisiana by 1963 because of pesticide poisoning. Efforts by a BTNEP partner, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, have successfully reestablished a thriving population of these birds.

One of the Estuary Program Action Plans calls for the Barataria-Terrebonne Partnership to protect habitat for migratory and resident birds, and specifically mentions the purchase of an area known as the Grand Isle Woods. This patch of live oaks in the town of Grand Isle, the only populated barrier island in Louisiana, is recognized by national birding interests as a premier area in which to view neotropical migrant birds. Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands are the first land masses encountered by these birds following their migration from South and Central America across the Gulf of Mexico, and are thus vitally important habitat for these weary travelers. After a 10-year effort by the Orleans Audubon Society to create a bird sanctuary on Grand Isle, the Nature Conservancy of Louisiana has purchased land now known as the Lafitte's Woods Preserve. BTNEP has worked with The Nature Conservancy and local birding groups to enhance habitat on Grand Isle, and to produce an annual celebration called "Bird Celebration Day." BTNEP has produced a large, beautiful, two-sided poster which demonstrates the importance of Barataria-Terrebonne's varied habitats to both migrant and resident birds. An accompanying video is also in the works. These tools and events are critical for informing and inspiring local people about the ecological value of the habitat in which they reside, as well as the tremendous economic potential from eco-tourism by international bird watchers. They are also instrumental in informing the nation of the ecological adventures that await them on their visit to Barataria-Terrebonne.

Citizen Involvement and Education Programs

The Estuary Program has produced and is producing many educational products, including an award-winning documentary by local filmmaker Glen Pitre entitled "Haunted Waters, Fragile Lands." Relying heavily on historical footage, Mr. Pitre relates the story of how this land was sacrificed, through clear-cutting of our vast stands of enormous virgin bald cypress trees, to the excavation of major navigation channels and the leveeing of the Mississippi River to feed the "American Dream." This video was followed by a sequel, "Rescuing the Treasure," also by Mr. Pitre, which outlines some of Louisiana's restoration efforts. Contrasting these early productions with the Program's most recent video, "America's Vanishing Treasure," by Craig Gautreaux, one can see the evolution of our response to the dilemma of land loss. What began as a characterization and analysis of the problem has given way to a much more serious tone. "America's Vanishing Treasure" is a grave warning that without the help of the nation, the marshes, the swamps, the habitat, the seafood, and the rich culture of this estuary will disappear into the Gulf of Mexico. It is a warning that this treasure, which we call Barataria-Terrebonne, could be lost forever.

Recognizing the critical value of both formal classroom education, and education for the general public, the Program office funds a number of education and outreach projects. These include educator workshops such as WETMAAP (Wetlands Education Using Maps and Aerial Photography), a program originating from Chadron State College in Nebraska. Through this workshop, teachers learn a variety of map-reading skills, including interpretation of topographic maps, infrared vegetation signals, and physical structures. Participants are also afforded an opportunity for intensive analysis of a specific site, through aerial photographs from three different time periods. The site that was chosen to

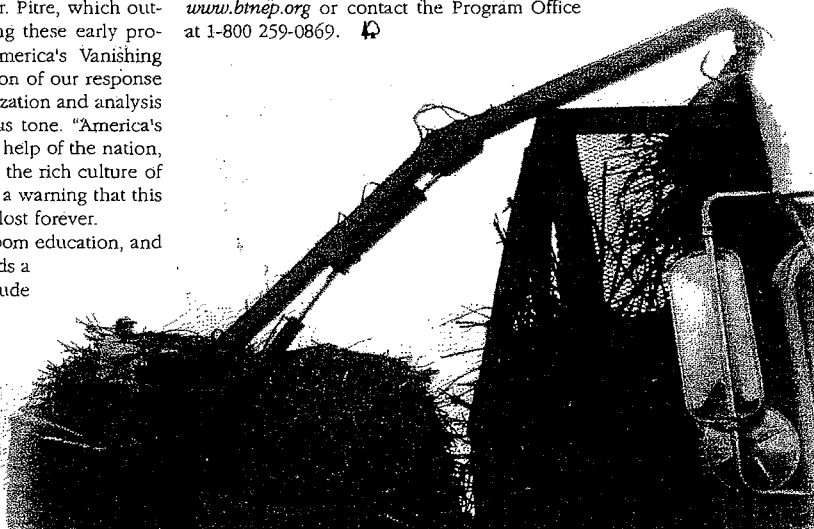
focus on is Golden Meadow, so named for the once ubiquitous goldenrod flower. Golden Meadow is located just inside the end of the southern-most hurricane protection levee on Bayou Lafourche, the town where many of the survivors of the hurricane of 1893 settled after the devastation of their Cheniere Caminada community. Teachers are encouraged to study and interpret the changes observed between 1956 and the present. What they observe is that what was once a continuous carpet of marsh between Golden Meadow and the Gulf has now been reduced to a vestige of the former cover, with gaping holes of open water resembling a skeletonized leaf. The changes are striking and they sound a warning alarm to the residents of this community that they are increasingly more vulnerable to hurricane storm surges and threats to drinking water supplies.

Each fall the BTNEP Program Office hosts an ecology festival known as La Fete d'Ecologie. La Fete is not only an opportunity to educate our citizenry about our issues, through information booths from natural resource agencies, community groups, and individuals, but a celebration of our unique heritage as well. The sounds of Cajun and swamp pop music and the smell of jambalaya and étouffée infuse the air, as children dressed as estuarine animals throw beads while they parade through the festivities. Traditional dancers from Native American, Cajun, Italian, Islesnois, Philippine, African, Croatian, and Irish backgrounds remind us of the rich blend of ethnicities that have formed the gumbo of our culture. Demonstrations take place of palmetto hut building, cypress baskets, blow guns, traditional boat building, and "Dancing the Shrimp" – a reenactment of the art of dancing away the hulls from shrimp dried on large platforms in the sun before the days of refrigeration. These activities remind us that we are a people who have historically made a living by being entirely dependent on this estuarine environment. Decoy carving, cast net throwing, and duck calling contests remind us that we still are.

The BTNEP has provided funding and other assistance to a number of projects, which serve to educate the public about coastal issues, through "hands-on" education. These projects include two annual Coastal Wetland Workshops produced by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service series of five Marsh Maneuvers Camps, and a series of Bayou Camps, produced by the Bayou Camp Foundation. These workshops and camps allow participants to interact with the estuary environment, an experience that leaves them enriched and open to learning more about this fragile land. They become sensitized to the fragile beauty and importance of the coastal environment. They begin to recognize what Louisiana and the nation stands to lose as this great gift we have been given disappears.

Other outstanding efforts include those of Americorps on the Bayou, a service group under Les Reflections du Bayou that is dedicated to preserving and beautifying South Louisiana, and teaching others about the pressing issues. Working closely with BTNEP, the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program, and the other federal and state agencies, this group has planted thousands of plants for coastal restoration on barrier islands and bayou borders. They have also given hundreds of presentations to schools and other groups on land loss and nonpoint source pollution issues, and assisted with several storm drain marking projects. This group, and others like it, epitomize the level of action that is necessary by all the stakeholders of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary if this "Good Earth" is to be saved.

For more information, visit the BTNEP website at www.btnep.org or contact the Program Office at 1-800 259-0869.



Daily Comet June 13, 2001

Center would be a resource

The food of South Louisiana is an incredible thing, with few rivals anywhere.

The music of South Louisiana is known and loved across the globe.

The hunting and fishing of South Louisiana is legendary. People in other parts of the country can only marvel at the opportunities that exist here.

And the people of South Louisiana have a well known and well deserved reputation as some of the greatest folks you ever want to meet.

Together, along with a colorful history and its own language, these things form the cultural and ecological heritage of Bayou Lafourche.

Unfortunately, as we look around, we see many signs of this unique culture in trouble.

The Cajun language, all but forsaken by our school systems, is in danger of becoming a thing of the past within a generation.

With each passing year, the gulf encroaches on the precious wetlands that maintain our abundant wildlife.

But the news, of course, is not all bad. Cajun music is enjoying a renaissance, of sorts, with fans all over the place. And Cajun food ... well, the near-disappearance of the redfish says people must be keeping that tradition alive.

And there is also a recent development that aims to give some institutional protection to the culture of the area. A group of non-profit organizations have joined together to form the Bayou Lafourche Alliance.

The alliance is hoping to build a Cajun cultural center, which will be located at the Larose Regional Park and Civic Center on three acres of land donated by the Bayou Civic Club.

Once it's built, the center will be a home for nearly a dozen groups, including the Cajun Heritage Festival, Les Artistes du Bayou, the Center for Traditional Boat Building at Nicholls State University, Les Amis du francais de Lafourche, Cheniere Hurricane Centennial, the Biloxi-Chitimacha Tribe, KLEB, Cajun Country Music Inc., CODOFIL, the Larose Regional Park and Civic Center and the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation.

We hope the effort allows increased access for people who want to learn about the cultural heritage of the area. Currently, many of these groups have no permanent place and their volunteers are working out of their own homes.

In the long run, the folks behind the alliance envision a center where children and adults can come for instruction in French and other subjects, as well as a place where the entire community can come together for arts and crafts competitions, workshops and scholarly conferences. There will be classrooms, a language lab and a library and archive, as well as display areas.

All in all, it sounds like a fantastic idea that could be an invaluable resource almost immediately.

It's a shame no such institution exists already, but it is welcome news that these hard-working volunteers are making it a reality.

Editorials represent the opinions of this newspaper and not of any one individual. As such, editorials are unsigned. Signed columns represent the individual opinion of the columnist and not necessarily of this newspaper.

odwaters cause University to shut down

By Sheneé Gros
Copy Editor

Nicholls campus was hit hard by the record-breaking rainfall from Tropical Storm Allison last week.

An emergency response committee, chaired by Mike Naquin, along with Dr. Donald J. Ayo, was in charge of determining the closure of the campus.

The campus was closed Thursday and Friday due to high standing water and no electricity.

"This is an extraordinary occurrence. I've been here for almost seven years, and I've never seen anything like this," Michael Delaune, director of University Relations.

"Both Gouaux and Peltier Halls had approximately three to four inches in them on Thursday morning."

"The water in Babington Hall was as high as 14-15 inches," Delaune said.

Although there was no harm done to the mainframe computer, the main server for the University's web site suffered some damage.

Larry Howell, director of Institutional Research, said he feels the server should be up to full run-

ning capacity by or before next week.

According to Dr. Eugene A. Dial, dean of student life and head of University Police, city pumps were used to remove water from man-holes in order to relieve stress on sewerage systems. The sewerage may have been filled with water, causing the overflow to emit an unpleasant aroma around campus.

"We had a lot of damage, but we were also very lucky that it wasn't worse, and that the rain stopped when it did. Had it kept up for another hour, probably every building on campus would have had water," Dial said.

An approximated \$7 million in damage was done to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary on the first floor of North Babington Hall. Dial said the federally funded program will be filed on a separate insurance claim from that of the campus.

Several activities were postponed because of the unusual circumstances.

Finals for students taking intersession classes were taken on Monday instead of Thursday.

See FLOOD, page 3

Nicholls worth
June 14, 2001

FLOOD

cont. from page 1

Therefore, summer school, which was scheduled to begin on Monday, was not able to begin until Tuesday. Also, summer registration was extended to yesterday.

Michael Davis, director of purchasing, said the newly built electrical substation received water despite its housing and raised elevation. A retaining wall will be built around the substation to prevent future power outages caused by flooding.

He also said the campus drainage system was restructured within the last two years. However, the system could not handle the enormous amount of rainfall.

As maintenance personnel and electricians continue attempts to restore the University to full

capacity, there will be two power outages today in the Southern part of campus at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Only estimates of the dollar amount in damage have been given, while insurance adjusters reviewed the damage on Monday.

"Our damage is probably going to exceed \$1 million" Davis said.

All members of the University have been affected by the damage suffered from the storm, some both personally and professionally.

Despite the inconveniences, overall attitudes from staff and students regarding the situation has been greatly appreciated, Howell said.

"Everyone worked real hard when it came to cleaning up and getting back on track."

Houma, LA

THE COURIER, THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

Wetlands program budget cut by La.

A program that conducts research and education programs on area wetlands loss has lost something of its own: state money.

The state budget approved by the Legislature during the session that ended Monday cuts \$115,000 from the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, based at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux.


Last year, the program received \$420,000 from the state. It was able to use that money to match a \$330,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The current budget figure will not provide a sufficient match for the 2002 EPA grant," said Cullen Curole of the program's foundation. "We'll either need to find other sources of local funding or lose the parts of the EPA monies."

The Barataria program sponsors the yearly LaFete d'Ecologie and Migratory Bird Celebration in Thibodaux and has done research used to curb coastal erosion.

Curole said the Legislature is sending a mixed message about coastal erosion.

"Our delegation is calling for more federal support for our coastal wetlands, and at home we are cutting environmental programs," he said.



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News
June 22, 2001

Wetlands program hit by state budget cuts

By KATINA A. GAUDET
NYT Regional Newspapers
June 22, 2001
[Email this story.](#)

THIBODAUX -- The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program has fallen on hard times.

The program, on the Nicholls State University campus, fell victim to heavy rain from Tropical Storm Allison, taking in more than 7 inches of floodwater through its doors.

The program, which aims to draw local and national attention to the plight of the vanishing Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary, also suffered a state budget cut of \$115,000. That's about 28 percent of the program's budget.

Last year, the program received \$420,000. The new budget allows for only \$305,200.

"The state is sending mixed signals when our delegation is calling for more federal support for our coastal wetlands, and at home we are cutting environmental programs," said Cullen Curole, administrator of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps the program with its action plan.


The program's largest federal grant now requires a 50 percent match, up from 25 percent last year.

Since the current state cut, the program will not be able to cover that match and could lose some federal money as a result.

In April, Director Kerry St. Pe' informed board members that the program could likely face significant cuts.

The program also continues to wait for \$1 million designated to each national estuary program by Congress.

St. Pe' said the state cut will force the program to use some of its federal money on office essentials and staff salaries, as well as cut some planned projects. They include the annual La Fete d'Ecologie and Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, as well as the Coastal Roots program, which allows junior- and senior-high school students throughout South Louisiana to grow native wetland plants from seedlings to use in hands-on coastal-restoration projects.



Free Games!
[Use your Headbone!](#)

The program is one of a few efforts trying to replant about 250,000 acres of saltwater marsh in the estuary affected during last year's marsh die-back. About 17,000 acres now lack vegetation, making them more susceptible to coastal land loss.

The cuts also give the program fewer resources to rebuild after the flood.

"We're going to have to rebuild our printed-materials inventory, and that's going to be pretty tough with these budget cuts that we have to endure," St. Pe' said.

The program is now in the process of relocating temporarily to another building on the Nicholls State campus so that the damaged floor tiling can be removed.

Though the program might have lost eight computers – it's not yet certain whether they can be salvaged – the data stored on those computers has been saved. That was the program's main concern.

"We've managed to save our hard drives. We were very surprised by that, but very pleased," said St. Pe'. "We dried them very carefully and have tested them and do have them back as far as we can tell."

The program was not as lucky when it came to other items.

"We've lost a lot of furniture. Everything that was flooded is swelling, and we've totaled about \$100,000 of equipment that we're going to file a claim on through the Office of Risk Management," said St. Pe'.



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Bayou Camp is a hit with youngsters

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Though school is out, many students are back in the classroom this week.

But they're not complaining.

Those students are among campers at Nicholls State University participating in Bayou Camp, a four-week, hands-on exploration of wetland environments.

"We focus on the environment and stewardship, the (camper's) role in the environment and in the estuary," said Kim Lewis, Bayou Camp coordinator.

Bayou Camp is sponsored by the Bayou Camp Foundation, Dow Chemical Co., Nicholls State University and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. In its eighth year, Bayou Camp was founded in Assumption Parish by St. James Parish science teacher Elvis Cavalier, the camp's director. It is designed to help children foster an appreciation for the environment and a strong stewardship ethic,

as well as develop the understanding that human actions often have harmful effects on the environment.

But camp organizers make sure campers have fun learning as well.

"We take them on different field trips, on air boats or on swamp tours," said Billy King, one of the camp's instructors. "Each year, we try to change it up."

Camp organizers and instructors plan activities based on the field trips they will take campers on, and they plan all arts, crafts and other activities for the four-week camp ahead of time by instructors, during a training session at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium in Cocodrie.

Many campers said they found the events educational and enjoyable, but that their favorite was the field trip.

"I liked going feed the ducks (along Bayou Lafourche at Nicholls State) and feeding the alligators marshmallows," said Abbie Degruise, 5, of Thibodaux, who is attending Bayou Camp with her sister Taylor, 8.



Staff photo by Abby Tabor

Bayou Camp attendees build birdhouses Monday morning on the Nicholls State University campus. The camp for area youth is held every summer at the university.

During the first session, campers trekked to Kraemer for a visit to Zam's Swamp Tours, and for campers like Grant Naquin, 5, of Thibodaux, that trip to Zam's marked their first.

"When we first got there, we didn't see any alligators, only turtles and birds," said Naquin.

"But when we went into the backyard, we saw a lot of alligators," said Reagan Langford, 7, of Thibodaux.

"We got to hold the (baby) alligators," chimed in Cody Deroche, 6, of Schriever.

See CAMP, 7A

Daily Comet JUNE 22, 2001

Camp

Continued from 1A

"There was one big alligator that looked like he wanted to eat us."

Campers learned about alligators and other species, as well as the marine environments in which those species reside.

Campers also learned about fresh water and salt water and what species can live in which environment. They

will soon embark on water quality testing in Bayou Lafourche, testing for oxygen levels, different minerals and chemicals.

All area children ages 5 to 14 can participate in Bayou Camp.

The cost per student is \$55 for one week or \$100 for two weeks, which includes all instructional materials, transportation to and from field trip areas, admission and swimming fees, take-home items and a camper shirt.

Openings are available for next

week, and registration for the second session, July 9-12 and July 16-19, begins at 8 a.m. July 9 in Room 135, Beauregard Hall at Nicholls State.

Parents can register their children for any or all sessions.

For more information, call (225) 474-0417.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

Budget cuts deep into BTNEP program

With the legislative approval of HB-1, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) budget for fiscal year 01-02 has been cut by approximately \$115,000. In the previous fiscal year, the program was financed at a level of \$420,000 over matching approximately \$330,000 of federal EPA dollars dedicated through the National Estuary Program (NEP). The approved budget designates \$305,200 in funding for the Estuary Program, representing a cut of nearly 28 percent to the estuary program's General Fund appropriation.

"The current budget figure will not provide sufficient match for the 2002 EPA grant," said Cullen Curole of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. "With reduced levels of state funding, we'll either need to find other sources of local funding or the program may lose parts of the EPA monies."

In April, BTNEP's Management Conference tentatively approved a work plan including \$300,000 of projects that would be funded through the FY 2002 EPA grant. Projects include the sponsoring of

BTEF's LaFete d'Ecologie and Migratory Bird Celebration, Bayou Camps at Nicholls State University, LSU Cooperative Extension Service's Marsh Maneuvers/Youth Camp and Coastal Roots School Plant Nursery Program, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Wetlands Workshops, and other efforts. The work plan also includes research projects to improve the effects of cane residue on sugarcane production and agricultural runoff and another to identify, select, propagate and test woody plant species that have wildlife value and are tolerant of our coastal conditions. These projects are to be included in BTNEP's grant application to EPA.

"With the approved budget, project funding may be reduced from the annual \$300,000 to a little over \$155,000." According to Curole, "The state is sending mixed signals when our delegation is calling for more federal support for our coastal wetlands and at home we are cutting environmental programs."

In 2000, Congress reauthor-

Budget

continued page 7

Budget

continued

ized the National Estuary Program, increased its funding authorization and increased the local match requirement to 50-50. The congressional increase in the NEP authorization will likely not result in more federal dollars this year, but it is anticipated federal funding levels would increase in future years.

"We are working on our annual grant application now to EPA for funding in the upcoming fiscal year", said Kerry St. Pé, BTNEP Director. "With the current reduction in the state budget, we will need to use some of our federal monies to pay salaries and other administrative costs. I explained to the Management Conference that, unfortunately some of the approved projects would have to be dropped from the work plan if we could not find other sources of funding."

BTNEP's Management Conference will meet to review necessary changes to the project work plan and EPA grant application.



The First Sunday
of Every Month:

2-6 p.m.

The Jean Lafitte

Wetlands Cultural Center

Presents:

LA Bayou Music Series



Performance Line-Up

July 1, 2001 - Paul Daigle and Cajun Gold

*July 29, 2001 - Marc Savoy

Sept. 2, 2001 - Shawn Ardoin -n- Zydekool

Oct. 7, 2001 - Kristina Balfa and Geno Delafosse

Nov. 4, 2001 - Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys

Dec. 2, 2001 - Terry Huval w/ Jambalaya Cajun Band and
special guest D.L. Menard

Jan. 6, 2002 - Feufollet

Feb. 3, 2002 - Creole Zydeco Farmers

Mar. 3, 2002 - Tout Les Soir

Apr. 7, 2002 - File

May 5, 2002 - Sunpie and the Sunspots

June 2, 2002 - Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys

* Due to a conflict with the Thibodaux Playhouse's schedule, the August 5 performance will be held on July 29, 2001.

LA Bayou Music Series is co-sponsored by:



The Thibodaux

Service League



For more information, call: (985) 448-1375

Sixth Annual Coastal Stewardship Awards Banquet Friday, April 27, 2001, Thibodaux, Louisiana

Thanks to all who joined us at the Coalition's Stewardship Awards ceremony to celebrate individuals and organizations continuing to make significant contributions to save Louisiana's coast. Each award recipient received a hand-carved native Louisiana bird crafted by Irvan Perez.

Keynote speaker John Barry presented his vision for the National Center for the Mississippi River, a proposed museum and research center for New Orleans. The project initiative is a partnership of university, agency and private interests and was sparked by Barry's book, "Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America."

Sponsors of this year's awards banquet:

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Ben Taylor received the Citizen Advocate award for more than ten years of volunteer work to protect the wetlands, swamps and waterways near his home in Hammond, including the Tangipahoa River, Lake Maurepas and Lake Ponchartrain



Award Recipients for 2001



Joe Madere received the Distinguished Achievement Award, presented by Kathy Wascom. Mr. Madere was instrumental in the creation of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, the nation's only urban wildlife refuge, and continues to play a vital role in it's management and education efforts.



The Educator award went to the team of Bryan Piazza, Mark Ford, and Bren Haase for creating "Louisiana Blues...On Sinking Ground," an education project designed to introduce National Honor Society students at Capitol High School in Baton Rouge to Louisiana's coastal wetlands and provide hands-on experimental research.



The Media Award went to "Explore Coastal Louisiana," a CD-ROM produced by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force; Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and USGS's National Wetlands Research Center. More than 12,000 copies have been distributed across the state and nationally. Scott Wilson, with USGS, and Deborah Schultz and Kerry St. Pe' of BTNEP accepted the award.



The Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs received the Organization Award for their Christmas Tree Marsh Restoration Project. Since 1990, Jefferson Parish has diverted more than a half million Christmas trees from the Parish landfill to be used in fenced "cribs" to not only help protect marsh, but reestablish hydrology in abandoned canals. The project enjoys the support of nearly five hundred volunteers each year and creates partnership for businesses and government agencies. Jason Smith and Marnie Winter Maxwell accepted the award for Jefferson Parish.

Digital images by Greig Olivier

More photos can be found at

<http://www.btr.quik.com/go/webevent/>

Continued from page 6
Self-Guided Education TOURS

been distributed at educator workshops and conferences or through telephone requests to the office. Feedback from educators has been very positive. The guide is useful to a wide audience, including formal educators, scouting and church groups and individuals. Because a number of additional museums and coastal restoration activities have been developed since the guide was written, the Estuary Program will soon be updating the guide, providing the public with an additional five or ten trips to choose from.

Self-Guided Tours of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary

An example of what you will find in the guide to help plan your trip.

TRIP 2:

Naomi Siphons
Hwy 23 at Naomi, Louisiana

CONTACT:

Plaquemines Parish Government
Coastal Restoration
(504) 682-0081

CATEGORY:

Hydrologic Modification
Guided tour of freshwater diversion project

ENVIRONMENT:

Mississippi River
Levee trail between freshwater swamp and canal/swamp.

GROUP TYPE:

Grades 5-12 to adult. The trail along the levee is a wild area and exhibits scat of many animals, including alligator.

DISTANCE:

16 miles on Hwy. 23 from the West Bank Expressway to the Naomi Siphon

TIME:

1 1/2 hours on site, including discussion time

COST:

Free

EQUIPMENT:

Wear enclosed shoes or boots. You will be in a wild area. Camera, binoculars, sampling and water quality testing equipment, plastic bag for scat collecting. Field guide to birds.

DESCRIPTION:

This trip begins at the Naomi Siphons on the Mississippi River levee. Arrange ahead of time to meet your guide by calling the contact number. The guide is a representative of Plaquemine Parish who can give a history of land loss in the area, as well as explain the two freshwater diversion projects at West Point a la Hache and Naomi. He or she will further explain the problems of saltwater intrusion into wetlands and land-loss from subsidence and salt-stressed plant death. The guide will also talk about the hope that the freshwater being siphoned into the swamp and marsh beyond will push back any salt water coming in and deposit land-replenishing sediments to combat subsidence.

The Naomi Siphons, which became operational in 1993 and is managed by the State Department of Natural Resources, diverts water from the Mississippi River through large pipes which travel over the levee and under the highway emptying into a freshwater outlet on the opposite side of the highway. Mississippi River barge traffic may be seen on the river at this point. When you cross the highway, you can view the outflow of the siphons into a man-made canal. With your guide, you will walk along a levee which leads you to the wetlands which are the focus of the project. You may catch a glimpse of a raccoon, opossum or deer on the levee or at the swamp's edge, and you may hear the loud splash of an alligator as it dives for cover at your approach. Waterfowl and wading birds are common here.

ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct a scat hunt on the levee. Animal droppings abound here. Try to determine who was eating what, based on what you see in the scat. A basic food web chart can be constructed later, based on your field discoveries. Look for other signs of wildlife here and record your observations for later discussion.

- Combine this trip with a morning trip to the Oil Recovery Station at Fort Jackson (see trip information, page 8). There are picnic tables and room to run in the shade at the Fort (50 miles further south on Hwy 23).

- For Plaquemines Parish residents only: combine this trip with a 30-minute bus tour of the BP Alliance Refinery in Naomi. Call (504) 656-7711, public relations department for details.



Self-Guided Education Tours in the Bayou

Imagine that you are a sixth-grade classroom teacher, living in South Louisiana. Your students have been studying the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary and its 4.2 million-acre watershed which lies between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Through reading Self-Guided Tours of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, and other educational products produced by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, you and your students have learned that this rich deltaic system was formed by the flooding of the Mississippi River, and is one of the most productive areas in the world.

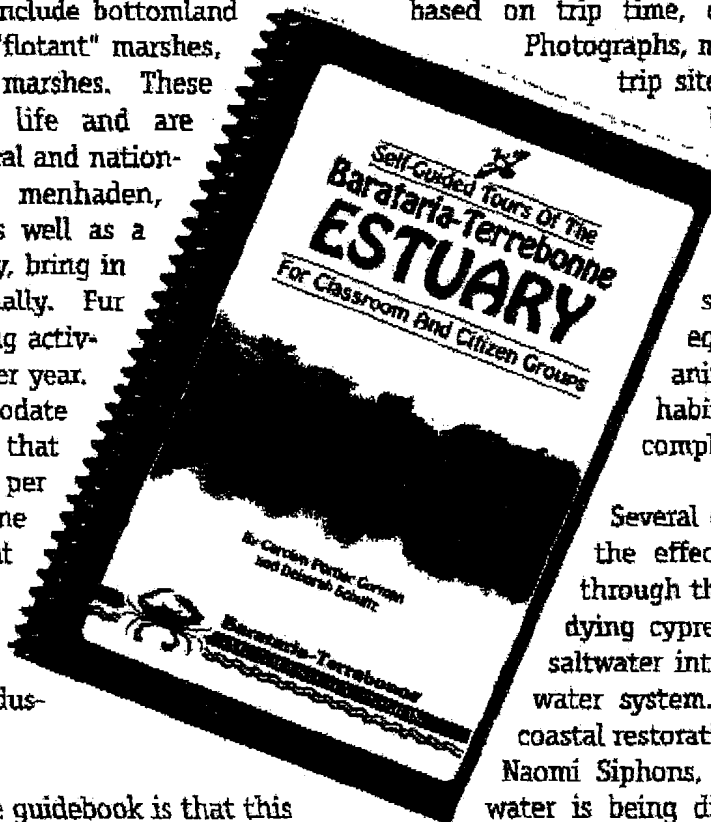
The wide variety of habitats include bottomland hardwood forests, freshwater "flotant" marshes, barrier islands, and vast salt marshes. These marshes are teeming with life and are extremely important to the local and national economy. Fisheries for menhaden, shrimp, oysters and crabs, as well as a booming sport fishing industry, bring in more than \$540 million annually. Fur and alligator hides and hunting activities yield over \$170 million per year. The rich delta soils accommodate sugarcane and other crops that generate over \$600 million per year. The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary is home to abundant wildlife, including neotropical migratory and resident birds and alligators, which encourages a thriving ecotourism industry.

One of the key messages of the guidebook is that this area is plagued with severe environmental problems. The worst of these is the loss of 13,500 wetland acres per year, or an area the size of a football field, every forty-five minutes. The problem is largely due to flood protection levees on the Mississippi River, which prevent the river from annually nourishing the wetlands with fresh water, nutrients and sediment carried from the drainage of two-thirds of the nation. Other environmental problems include nutrient enrichment of inland waterways and the Gulf of Mexico, and pathogens and toxins which threaten human health

and fisheries production. As the land and water quality degrades, both fisheries and wildlife habitat is lost. As the habitat declines, so also does the coastal culture that is entirely dependent on the wealth of natural resources.

Now that you and your students have learned a bit about the geology and ecology of the place you live, it is time to go out and experience it. The guide contains a total of twenty self-guided field trips with accompanying maps to guide the reader. Included in the guide is information designed to help the visitor choose trips to study specific topics, or to choose trips based on trip time, cost and trip features.

Photographs, maps, and descriptions of trip sites form the body of the listing, followed by relevant activities and other places to note or visit while in the area. A resource list, sources for water testing equipment, and plant and animal lists for the varied habitats within the estuary complete the guide.



Several of the trips demonstrate the effects of coastal land loss through the landscape of dead and dying cypress trees - the result of saltwater intrusion deep into a fresh water system. Other trips highlight coastal restoration activities such as the Naomi Siphons, where Mississippi River water is being diverted into a degraded wetland. The tour book includes a visit to a world-class marine research facility in the salt marsh, complete with boat tour and laboratory activities. Students and other groups can also visit an oil spill response recovery ship, a swamp tour, state and national parks, or the Old River Control Structure, where the Army Corps of Engineers guards against the capture of the Mississippi River by its sister river, the Atchafalaya.

More than 3,000 copies of the "Self-Guided Tour" have

Continued on next page

GRAND ISLE AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF LOUISIANA

by: Jean Landry, Project Manager of the Grand Isle Field Office

Take a walk through the past 8 months with me to discover the adventures I've had with The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana as the Grand Isle Field Office Project Manager. TNC's Lafitte Woods-Grilletta Tract in the middle of the Island has seen some improvements: a parking lot with split-rail fence and an information kiosk, cleaning up of the woods, hiking trails improved, and a boardwalk over low areas. Residents as well as visitors are welcome to enjoy the beauties of nature at this site.

TNC worked with Exxon/Mobile to plant new forests. In January, 2001 over 40 volunteers from Grand Isle to Baton Rouge met at the old "Humble Campsite" to plant more than 2500 trees. This hackberry, live oak, and red mulberry forest will extend the life of Grand Isle and host millions of migratory birds.

Now is a good time to thank those Chamber members who helped make our Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration Month (March 22-April 22) a huge success. The community spirit

of Grand Isle Shipyard, Breaux Petroleum Products, SWDI, LLC, National Beverage Company, Inc., The Town of Grand Isle, The Grand Isle Port Commission, Landry House Bed & Breakfast, and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and Foundation, Martin Advertising, Richard's Conoco, Gulf Stream Marina, Pirate's Cove Marina, The Bayou Lafourche Americorp Group sponsored by Les Reflections du Bayou and Grand Isle School is tremendous.

Other programs in progress are: cooperative agreements with the Grand Isle Port Commission to build a walkway over salt marsh tidal ponds to develop a hiking trail through their property and with Louisiana State University to develop off street parking, picnic, and hiking areas on their Grand Isle properties.

There are good things happening, all to "Save the Last of the Great Places". If you would like more information about The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, please call 985-787-2514.

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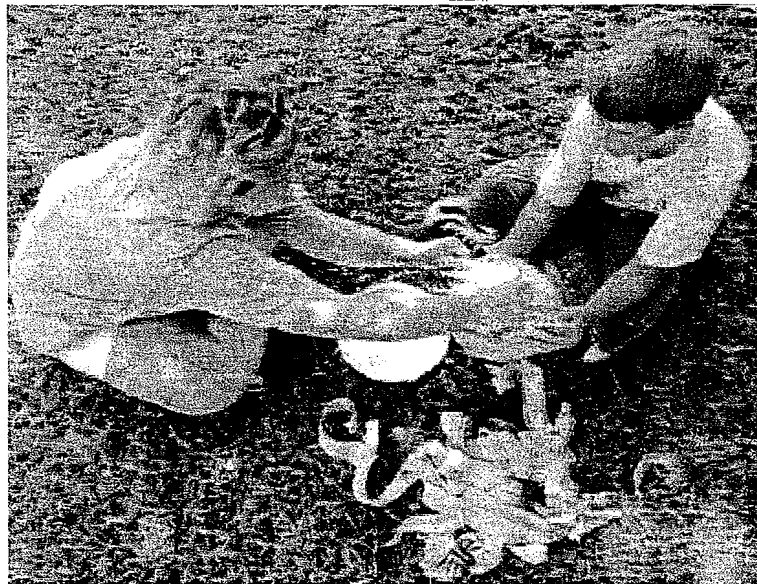


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Tuesday, July 10, 2001



NYTRNG photo by Doug Keese

Putting it to paper

Bayou Camp counselor Angelia Arcement helps Jacob Miller, 10, cover a balloon with papier-mâché Monday at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. The campers plan to use the molds to make face masks. Bayou Camp is funded by the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program and focuses on teaching children about the local environment and how to protect it.

LUMCON Executive Director Mike Dagg was unavailable for comment as of press time today.

Though staff look forward to working with LUMCON and its staff, they are having some difficulty in saying goodbye to DEQ, which has supported the estuary program for more than 10 years now.

For others, the connection with DEQ predates the estuary program.

"I've worked for DEQ and some wonderful people for 28 years, so there's some sadness in leaving this agency that has supported this program from the beginning," said St. Pe', a former coordinator of DEQ's regional office. "DEQ pursued designating this area as a National Estuary Program and successfully did so."

Since then, DEQ has administered the funds the estuary program receives from a federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Through the years, the department has also provided BTNEP with support in a number of ways, such as absorbing the program's administrative costs, doing its payroll and purchasing and providing legal advice and computers – all at no cost to the estuary program.

The approval of HB 1 not only allowed for the administrative transfer of BTNEP, but also cut the estuary program's budget by more than \$100,000, leaving BTNEP in jeopardy of not meeting its federal \$330,000 grant match with non-federal funds.

The Board of Regents, however, has agreed to provide LIMCON with \$30,000 to cover administrative costs, allowing BTNEP to meet its non-federal match.

"Our total costs to administer the program each year is about \$447,000," said St. Pe'. "To keep the office going at the previous level, we had to find approximately \$142,000, and we did that by cutting (two) of our projects, as well as printing (of educational materials)."

The estuary program is also in discussions with officials from other agencies who have offered funding to offset the estuary program's printing loss. BTNEP's office will still be located on the Nicholls

this time," said Kerry St. Pe', BTNEP director.

The move is the culmination of a two-month process in which program

staff, members of BTNEP's management conference, DEQ, the Board of Regents and LUMCON officials, the governor's office, area legislators and local business leaders took part.

The move became official July 1, the result of two amendments to House Bill 1, the state budget: one withdrawing BTNEP from DEQ; the other, joining it with LUMCON.

"We discussed this with DEQ, and they agreed that we might fit better under an entity that was not regulatory," said St. Pe'. "We involve economic, cultural, educational and ecological issues equally. To have community-level acceptance of major life-changing projects intended to restore a complex system requires an enormous, holistic approach. The university setting is the most promising platform from which to implement this progressive 'out-of-the-box' approach."

DEQ's legislative mandate is to regulate water quality, hazardous and solid wastes and air discharges. The move to LUMCON, a marine research facility and association comprised of state universities, will better enable BTNEP to implement its comprehensive conservation management plan, officials said.
DEQ Secretary J. Dale Givens agreed.

"The BTNEP program is an important program, and we have been the stewards for the management of dollars and working with various committees since the program's inception," said Givens. "DEQ is primarily a regulatory agency, and a lot of the things the management (conference) wants to do is more in the neighborhood of outreach and research. LUMCON seems like a good fit because universities are tuned to research. I think it will work great."

The estuary program is also hoping its new administrator will benefit from the move.

"We think we'll be able to provide LUMCON with an immediate connection to a broader community of business leaders, state and federal agencies, local governments, agriculture interests -- all the people of the Barataria-Terrebonne system," said St. Pe'.

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LUMCON to take over estuary program

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

Staff members at the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) are working to make themselves at home – at least temporarily – in a new setting.

The program, housed in North Babington Hall at Nicholls State University, is now claiming space inside the new nursing building, to be dedicated as Betsy Cheramie Ayo Hall, until repairs of flood damage from Tropical Storm Allison are complete.

But BTNEP is also working to orient itself in the wake of another move.

Program officials have announced a new administrative partnership between BTNEP and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) in Cocodrie, which, under the Board of Regents, will now administer the estuary program.

The state Department of Environmental Quality had administered BTNEP since the program's inception in 1990.

“Because (BTNEP's) action plans in the program's management plan cover a broad range of ecological, fish and wildlife, educational and cultural issues, LUMCON seemed like the best match as a state host for the program at

07/10/2001



itage. "The thinking is that if we can create interest in the music, we can create interest in the cultures that the music comes from," said Rathle. "And that's what we are all about," she added.

During the months of July, August, September, December, and January, concerts will be held inside the Center's 250-seat theater. All other concerts will be held outdoors on the Center's boardwalk along Bayou Lafourche rain or shine. For outdoors concerts, picnicking is encouraged.

The year-long series, which will run from July 1 through June 2, 2002, is being kicked off with a performance by Paul Daigle and Cajun Gold.

Paul Daigle was born in 1958 in the map dot of Point Noir, near Church Point, Louisiana, otherwise known as the epicenter of the Cajun music scene.

Growing up in the 1960s and 70s, Daigle recognized that he was born into a unique musical tradition and decided that he wanted to carry on that tradition which seemed on the verge of extinction.

Daigle won his first music award in 1973, when, at the age of 15, he won an accordion contest at the first annual "Cajun Day" festival in Church Point. Ten years later, accompanied by the immortal Dewey Balfa, Daigle recorded his first single, and hasn't looked back yet.

Paul Daigle and Cajun Gold played across the country through the 1980s. However, juggling the grueling schedule of a musician's life on the road and maintaining their day jobs proved too difficult, and the group more or less disbanded, giving up touring.

SEE BAYOU MUSIC, p.8

Bayou Music (cont'd from page 5)

Now, Paul Daigle and Cajun Gold play together when they feel the desire to step up on stage, and energize a club or a theater with their unique sound and electric presence.

This great band is only the first of what Rathle describes as an extremely strong line up, featuring Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, Terry Huval, with special guests D.L. Menard and Cajun Band, the Creole Zydeco Farmers, Sunpie and the Sunspots, as well as Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys.

These acts and more will be filling the bayouside in Thibodaux with the sounds of red-hot accordions and fiddles the first Sunday of every month from 2-6 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$8 for adults under 62 to \$6 for students, children and senior citizens 62 or older at the door. Season tickets and group rates

are also available at discounted rates.

Additionally, corporate sponsorships are available. Sponsorships offer a variety of benefits, from season tickets to recognition in concert programs. Also, sponsors are allowed to donate their season tickets to underprivileged school children who otherwise would not be exposed to the arts.

Individual concert and season tickets are on sale at the Center now. For more information, call (985) 448-1375, fax (985) 448-1425, or email Jela_Wetlands@nps.gov.

The Center is located at 314 St. Mary St. in Thibodaux and offers a museum, theater, gallery and boardwalk. It is open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Fridays through Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local park presents 'La. Bayou Music Series'

Joni Blanchard
For The Grapevine

Beginning Sunday, July 1, the Jean Lafitte Wetlands Cultural Center in Thibodaux will be giving area residents and visitors a whole new reason to keep their dancing shoes, lawn chairs and ice chests in "pass a good time" condition.

The "LA Bayou Music Series" will feature nationally known Cajun and Zydeco musicians performing the music that is unique to the Bayou Country the first Sunday afternoon of every month from 2-6 p.m. at the Center.

The music series is being made possible through a grant by the LORIO Foundation, a Thibodaux non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural, economic, and tourism landscape of the Thibodaux region through grants and endowments.

Additionally, the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, is partnering with the Center to bring the series to fruition.

"The LORIO Foundation was kind enough to give us a one-time grant to start the series. This way, all of the money made from this year's ticket sales and sponsorships will be used to fund next year's series. So basically, if we don't do well this year, there might not be a

next year," said Angela Rathle, the Wetlands Center's Site Supervisor.

Rathle first had the idea for the series two years ago and has been working ever since to find a way to get it funded.

"By seeing the success of the programs at the Liberty Theater in Eunice, I thought our place could do something similar, and I think our location is ideal for that," said Rathle.

According to Rathle, the series offers Thibodaux both economic and cultural benefits. "The economic benefits are obvious. But the cultural benefits are more subtle. The hope is that this series will spark interest about the music in both locals and tourists, thereby sparking interest in the cultures of this region," Rathle said.

But aside from the benefits to the region, the music series offers great music and loads of fun for all who attend. "We are offering first-rate Cajun and Zydeco concerts every month. When the shows are outdoors, we will offer great music along Bayou Lafourche in a fun, family picnic sort of environment. Indoor concerts offer an intimate, comfortable venue with great seating," Rathle added.

According to Rathle, the music series is a concerted effort by the Center, the LORIO Foundation, the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, and the Thibodaux Service League to revive interest in this area's musical her-

Grapevine July 2001

Bayou Lafourche Bank Stabilization and Habitat Project

*Information provided by the
Barataria Terrebonne National
Estuary Program*

If you happened to be driving along Hwy 308 in Golden Meadow this past week in between the rains, you may have seen some commotion going on right along the water's edge. What you saw was a project called the "Bayou Lafourche Bank Stabilization and Habitat Project" aimed at stabilizing newly-dredged material from the bayou with a salt resistant plant that creates habitat for local species like mullet and crabs, while holding the soil in place. The project is a partnership project initiated by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, implemented by Les Reflections du Bayou's AmeriCorps members, and funded by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana through a national

partnership between NOAA Fisheries' Community-Based Restoration Program and Restore America's Estuaries. Who helped to coordinate this complex partnership? The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation's Bayou Lafourche Initiative!

The Bayou Lafourche Bank Stabilization and Habitat Project is a perfect example of what the Bayou Lafourche Initiative seeks to do: to focus attention on the bayou itself as our cultural, economic and health lifeline and to identify, support, and forge partnerships between various organizations along the bayou in order to improve the quality of life for all residents. The initiative is funded by a grant from EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program.

AmeriCorps on the Bayou members worked diligently between rains for four days to plant 9,200 oyster grass plugs along approximately

two miles of bank.

The members were trained in transplanting by Gary Fine, director of the U.S.D.A. Plant Materials Center. The Harbor Police assisted in transporting plants to designated areas. Les Reflections du Bayou's project supervisor, Joycelyn Grammer, supervised the planting project.

Three days after the final plantings, the plants looked good and are expected to have a high survival rate. Once they grow, they will act as a fringe marsh—a thin line of marsh along a coast—attracting an array of marine species. They will also bolster the newly-dredged material that now forms the bayou's banks between Galliano and Golden Meadow.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the project and to all project partners and funders!

Insight June 28, 2001

Port wants to enhance ecosystem, tourism in area

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The hobby of bird watching has taken root in Lafourche and nearby parishes in recent years, given the area's role as a feeding and resting stop for migratory birds.

The Greater Lafourche Port Commission is now proposing a project to bolster the dwindling habitat for migratory birds.

"Our intention, ultimately, is to create a world-class birding area, hopefully, providing a birding trail and, in the long-term, an educational center

where people can learn about the many plants and animals that are in this ecosystem," said Ted Falgout, the port's executive director.

To begin the effort, the Port Commission proposes, in three phases, a maritime forest north of the port's mitigation area for its northern expansion on property it purchased about 18 months.

Port officials have submitted a permit application for the project's first two phases, which involve rebuilding a 400-foot-wide area currently underwa-

ter. That area will be elevated to 4 feet above sea level, and once it dries, the commission will excavate 100 feet on each side, reducing the area to 200 feet wide. Placing dredge material on that area will result in an increased elevation of about 7 feet.

"We'll end up with 100 feet on each side of marsh which right now is open water," said Falgout. "The marsh elevation will end up at an elevation of 2 feet above sea level."

In all, commission wants to re-create about 12,000 linear feet of ridge using dredge material.

The length of the levee will be rated into segments of 1,000 feet with a 50-foot section between each to allow for tidal movement.

The Port Commission also plans to construct a boardwalk between ridge segment, which would close to La. 1 north of Port Four-

Port officials estimate the project will cost more than \$1 million.

The project is not part of the Commission's required mitigation an extension of its 3,000-acre w-

See BIRDS, 7A

Birds

Continued from 1A

sanctuary on port property north of Floation Canal earlier this year.

Officials have been working closely with others, including consulting groups such as the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), its migratory bird team, state and federal agencies and bird watching groups.

Those involved say the project is worthwhile and will benefit a variety of species of wildlife.

"The Port Commission has a very strong environmental consciousness and certainly recognizes (itself) as being in a unique place," said Kerry St. Pe', BTNEP director, who said the port project ties in with many of BTNEP's, particularly its woody plant species project. That project involves research into growing woody species to try to re-establish native plants, such as black mangrove and live oak, on coastal Louisiana's barrier islands.

Once completed, port officials will plant the ridge with native vegetation.

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved \$100,000 for the Port Commission's effort.

DNR saw the project as a good opportunity, said Greg Ducote, a project manager with DNR's coastal management division.

"There has been a loss of maritime forests, and it's an important type of habitat in coastal ecosystem," said Ducote. "We have some of that habitat in western Louisiana and did have considerably more of it in the area around Fourchon and Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes when those che-

nier ridges there were still forested and not as many folks and so much development."

The DNR funds will be used to plant the ridges.

Port officials are also awaiting word on a \$75,000 grant application from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Proponents of the project say it would provide a hurricane protection barrier and additional habitat for birds migrating to and from Central and South America each year.

"While migrating, these birds need to find appropriate habitat types, especially when flying across the Gulf, to rest, feed, find fresh water and be fairly well protected from (predators)," said Richard Demay with the U.S. Geological Survey, who also works with BTNEP's migratory bird team.

A "huge list" of migratory birds that would benefit from the proposed project includes varieties of herons, warblers and others.

Birding enthusiasts say they are excited about the proposed project, one they believe will bring more birders and ecotourism dollars to the area.

"If you enhance the area to attract birds, it's going to bring out birders to the area, who will spend money in the area," said Lisa Robichaux, president of the Terrebonne Bird Club. "It attracts more tourists to the area."

Louisiana is now in the process of developing its own birding trail, and this project will complement that effort, some say.

"This (project) will fit in very nicely with that, especially in conjunction with Grand Isle, which is one of the premiere spots in the nation for migratory bird watching," said David

Coignet, a past president of the Terrebonne Bird Club and a board member of the Houma-Terrebonne Tourist Commission. "There are more and more birders coming down to bird watch from other parts of the country and other parts of the world, and we're very encouraged to see that."

The Port Commission is hoping to receive support from other groups who have a stake in the project.

"We all recognize the potential of this project," said Falgout. "We want as many people involved as they want to be."

For BTNEP, the project also serves a larger purpose.

"Birding is an enormously popular activity and is practiced throughout the nation, (but) this project goes well beyond the simple creation of habitat for birds," said St. Pe'. "We're trying to illustrate the importance of our (estuary) system and the importance of restoring it to our own people, as well as the nation."

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Bigger issues sought by panel

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

The management conference of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program could soon implement governing procedures to bring bigger estuary issues to the table for discussion.

Windell Curole, chairman of estuary program's management conference, asked the conference Thursday to consider creating an executive committee to which management conference officers could turn on significant issues.

The discussion comes in the wake of a major move for the estuary program.

Since its inception in 1990, the state Department of Environmental Quality administered the program. On July 1, the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) in Cocodrie took over that role.

Because the management conference meets only quarterly, and because its officers and local legislators wanted to push the transfer through this past legislative session, they were unable to consult the full management conference.

"It was a fast-moving event, and the whole time I tried to think about what the management conference would prefer, but I did not feel comfortable (with making the decision to transfer)," said Curole. "I would have felt a lot more comfortable if we had had some type of executive

07/13/2001

committee that I could have discussed it with.”

Curole said the executive committee would be made up of management conference members, representatives of local, state and federal agencies, as well as representatives of the agriculture, fisheries and oil industries and private landowners.

“We do think it’s vital that the executive committee be balanced,” said Kerry St. Pe’, BTNEP director. “We can’t just have agency people on it, but a subset of everyone on the management conference.”

The executive committee would discuss current projects and those under consideration by the management conference. The executive committee would submit a report on projects to the management conference, which would then vote on the issue at hand.

“That’s how most organizations work,” said Curole.

Those interested in various issues and not on the management conference could also lend their voices to the executive committee. Though they would not have a vote, they could serve as ad hoc members of the committee if the management conference approves the committee, said St. Pe’.

Setting up an executive committee would free up more meeting time for discussion of larger issues affecting the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary, Curole said.

“Most of our meeting time (consists of) us sitting down discussing contracts, but because of our budget constraints, we talk a lot about relatively small amounts of money that don’t affect the big issues in the estuary.”

Some of those issues, said Curole, involve the area’s problems with saltwater intrusion into Bayou Lafourche and the reintroduction of Mississippi River water into the estuary through Davis Pond.

“We do seem to spend an inordinate amount of time dealing with details,” said Len Bahr, Gov. Mike Foster’s coastal advisor and a management conference member. “I think we would trust the program office in dealing with some of those issues.”

The management conference is expected to take action on the proposed executive committee after discussion at the

next meeting Oct. 16.

In other business, program staff updated the management conference on the budget.

The program needs more than \$418,000 for fiscal year 2002 to cover administrative costs, but was allocated only \$305,000.

The more than \$113,000 shortfall, they say, will be made up by dropping a \$60,000 project from its work plan and by reducing the estuary program's printing of educational materials by nearly \$53,000.

Program officials, however, say they are looking at other funding sources to rebuild the supply of educational material, much of which was lost to floodwaters last month.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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LaRose, LA

Sunday, July 22, 2001 THE LAFOURCHE GAZETTE

Estuary Foundation calls for summit participation

Representatives of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation are calling on community leaders from Pointe Coupee to the Gulf to participate in Governor Foster's Coastal Summit 2001. The Summit will take place August 15 at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge.

Federal and State officials need to see the interest and support from the business community and local leaders from the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary. Addressing land loss will take the concerted support of all sectors of the community as federal and state officials spread sparse dollars across a fragile coast.

Chris Hallowell, author of the recently released "Holding Back The Sea", will be the featured luncheon speaker during Governor Foster's Coastal Summit 2001.

Hallowell's effort looks at the disastrous effect of man's attempt to mold nature, specifically the Mississippi River to human needs and, now, the struggle to correct the damage. Three centuries of leveeing, flood control efforts, canal dredging, and the introduction of exotic flora and fauna have resulted in the potential for en-

vironmental catastrophe.

Themed "Reaching To The Future", the summit will provide updates on the state of the Louisiana coast and Coast 2050 - the blueprint for a sustainable coast. In addition to the updates, concurrent sessions in the afternoon will address federal, state, local and non-governmental roles in coastal restoration and the effect of Louisiana's coast on the rest of the nation.

Louisiana loses 25 to 35 square miles of wetland loss every year with two-thirds of this loss occurring in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuary. The scale of wetland loss could potentially cost the State of Louisiana and its residents not only their homes and livelihoods, but billions of dollars in commercial and recreational fisheries harvest, mineral revenues, waterborne commerce, and protection from the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms.

Registration for the Summit begins at 7:30 a.m. with the opening remarks beginning at 8:30 a.m. The conference will adjourn at 4:00 p.m. For registration and detailed Summit information, contact Kyle Rodriguez in the Governor's Office at (225) 342-3968.

FROM POINTE COUPEE TO THE GULF

Mississippi River diversions having positive effects on estuaries

By ROD E. EMMER, Ph.D.
Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation

I recently had a chance to discuss Mississippi River diversions with Chuck Villarubia, a scientist with the state. He described the interesting studies he has been conducting on diversions and what he has documented. I thought the readers of From Pointe Coupee to the Gulf would like to hear from him, so I asked him to share some of what he has learned. Villarubia shares his observations in his own words in the following piece.

"So this is what it used to be like before the levees. With the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion flow at 6,500 cubic feet per second, the marsh and brown water merged. The airboat driver had no trouble negotiating the flooded marsh. When we stopped the marsh seemed alive. Birds and frogs were singing. We had

even seen a coyote on a ridge and a river otter frolicking in the canal. This is what the diversion is about, land, wildlife and fish.

The connection between the river and the marsh is clearly evident from aerial photography. Numerous old channels and crevasses can be seen snaking through the landscape. Before the levees, these channels provided the nutrients and sediment that the marsh needs to survive. The mixing of fresh and salt water create the conditions which make the estuary so productive. To be sure, the levees are useful.

They provide flood protection and efficient navigation allowing us to live along the river. But it has come at a price to the marshes.

"Caernarvon started operations in 1991 as an attempt to restore a more historical salinity pattern to the Breton Sound Estuary. Its goals are to enhance marsh and reduce marsh

loss, and promote commercial and recreational fish and wildlife productivity. The project is largely accomplishing those goals. Historically, marshes in the estuary were composed of fresh marsh in the upper estuary grading into brackish conditions in the middle to saline marsh in the lower estuary. Lack of freshwater input has, over time, allowed more brackish and saline conditions to prevail in the estuary. Freshwater diversion at Caernarvon has reversed the trend to a saltier estuary and restored more fresh conditions in the upper basin. The fresh marsh that is returning to the estuary helps provide a more diverse set of habitats for fish and wildlife populations.

"To offset the natural sinking of the marsh in our estuaries and sea-level rise, marshes need to grow faster than the subsidence rate. It's a constant battle but sediment input and a high growth rate for the marsh plants

help the marsh stay above water. The river supplies the nutrients and sediment for the marsh to stay in the fight. In just three years of operations, a sample area of around 2,300 acres of land showed an 18 percent increase in marsh areas which amounted to 406 acres. This increase is largely due to marsh growing faster due to salinity reduction and sediment and nutrients from the river. Studies, funded by the Department of Natural Resources at Louisiana State University and University of Louisiana at Lafayette confirm the marsh in the upper basin is responding to the diversion, growing faster and keeping up with the subsidence in the area.

"The effect of the diversion on fisheries is a complicated process. In addition to the flow of the diversion, many factors unrelated to the diversion affect fish productivity and distribution. A freeze can increase shrimp populations by reducing speckled

trout, which eat shrimp. Another complication is that fish species that prefer saltier conditions have moved inland as the estuary salinity patterns changed prior to the diversion. Fishers have become accustomed to harvesting shrimp and oysters in the more inland parts of the basin which place them in conflict with coastal restoration efforts.

"The current thinking regarding fisheries and diversions is that the diversion will move or displace harvesting seaward, as opposed to the inland movement that has occurred since the levees were built. With time, however, the productivity of the basin should increase: more nutrients, more vegetation, more shrimp food, more shrimp, more fish. Shrimpers, and to a lesser degree, monitoring data suggest that a seaward movement of harvesting has occurred since Caernarvon has opened. However, monitoring data also indi-

cate that juvenile white and brown shrimp use salinities below five parts per thousand as nursery grounds. So critical nursery habitat for shrimp is expanding with the diversion.

"Overall, productivity of the basin seems to be increasing. Commercial landings for shrimp are about the same prior to and after the diversion. Most finfish species monitored showed similar or higher post-diversion catch rates. Alligators, muskrats, and waterfowl have also increased. A major rebound in the bass fishery has occurred and gained national recognition."

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program office can be contacted at 447-8092, (800) 259-0869, or P.O. Box 1336, Thibodaux, LA 70302, or via e-mail at sandra_k@deq.state.la.us.

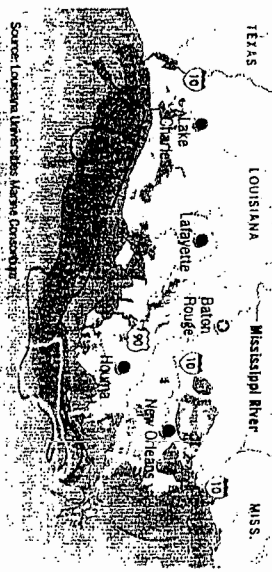
Friday, July 27, 2001

Times - Picayune

Gulf's dead zone has gone Godzilla, expert says

DEAD ZONE BIGGEST EVER

After sinking in 2000 because of drought and wind conditions, the dead zone has fattened back up this year following a wet spring and summer.



STAFF MAP

Oxygen-deprived area reaches record size

By Mark Schellstein
Staff writer

The Gulf of Mexico's largest-ever dead zone, an 8,000-square-mile blanket of water devoid of sufficient oxygen to support life, has formed along the floor of the Gulf coast line from the Mississippi River to an area west of Sabine Pass in Texas, a Louisiana scientist reported Thursday.

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium researcher Nancy Rabalais, who heads a team of scientists that has measured the low-oxygen area for 17 summers, blamed the growth on nutrients carried into the Gulf by spring flooding along the upper Mississippi River and on increased rainfall along the river's watershed this summer.

The heavy rains this year followed two years of drought conditions, during which time fertilizer applied by farmers in the Midwest built up on land and in streambeds.

Agricultural fertilizer and nutrients from industry and sewage treatment plants in the 32 states that form the river's watershed stimulate the growth of algae in the warm Gulf of Mexico waters. When the algae die, they sink to the ocean floor and use up oxygen as they decompose, creating a condition called hypoxia.

Oxygen is not replenished at that depth because fresh water from the Mississippi can't penetrate the heavier, saltier water in the Gulf.

Two extremes

Last year, Rabalais' research

See DEAD ZONE, A-5

DEAD ZONE, from A-1

cruise measured its smallest-ever zone of hypoxia, only 1,700 square miles and stretching only halfway from the river's mouth to the Texas border.

Rabalais said the zone this year actually might be larger than the 8,006 square miles she measured, but her cruise aboard the research vessel Pelican was unable to continue west along the Texas coast because of time constraints.

And although the low-oxygen zone covers only the bottom-most layer of water in many places in the Gulf, Rabalais said there was no available oxygen at all in the lowest 60 feet of water at several spots where the water was only 100 feet deep.

At some of those spots, she said, crabs that normally live on the Gulf floor were spotted on the surface, a probable effect of the stress caused by lack of oxygen.

Scientists think that shrimp and fish swim away to avoid

low-oxygen areas if they can, but organisms living on and in the bottom sediments are killed. Rabalais said she thinks a recent fish kill at Grand Isle might have resulted from low-oxygen conditions just offshore.

Rabalais said this year's results allow her to comply with a playful request of federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, former governor of New Jersey. It seems Whitman didn't appreciate that Rabalais was in the habit of equating the size of the dead zone with the size of New Jersey and wanted her to stop. "Well, now the hypoxic zone is bigger than New Jersey," Rabalais said. "It's the size of Massachusetts."

Hypoxia task force

This year's dead-zone measurements come as environmental groups struggle to get a cautious Congress and the Bush administration to act on recommendations made by a task force appointed by President

Clinton to reduce the nutrient loads in the Mississippi that cause the low-oxygen conditions.

The task force recommended a variety of voluntary programs for farmers to reduce the amount of fertilizer they use, planting of filter strips along fields, rebuilding wetlands along rivers and tributaries that are part of the Mississippi system, and restoring wetlands along the Louisiana coast as a means of removing nutrients.

Doug Daigle, hypoxia program director for the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, said environmental groups and agricultural agencies in Louisiana are urging congressional support for Agriculture Department budget requests that would pay for parts of the plan involving agricultural land.

Meanwhile, staffers for U.S. Sens. John Breaux and Mary Landrieu, both D-La., are pushing to add \$2 million to a Commerce Department appropriations bill that would let the hypoxia task force con-

tinues its nutrient-reduction research.

Robert Wayland, director of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, said his agency is moving ahead with at least one pilot program aimed at identifying ways to reduce nutrients along the Ohio River, a major tributary of the Mississippi. EPA also will finance the development of an action plan for lower Mississippi River states to deal with their nutrient problems, he said.

"I don't want to put words in the mouths of Bush people here, but I know Administrator Whitman is aware of and concerned about the problem," he said.

Wayland said this year's results confirm that last year's much-smaller dead zone was an anomaly.

"I think it points up our need to be looking at long-term averages and not a one-time event," he said. "There were some people who, after seeing last year's results, felt that our dead-zone

problems were solved."

Problems in Midwest

In the Midwest, several localities found out this spring that high levels of nutrients can cause problems much closer to home.

In Des Moines, Iowa, officials with the city's Water Works recorded the highest-ever nitrate level in the Raccoon River, the source of the city's drinking water, in May. At 17.5 parts per million, the nitrates were well above the 10 parts per million allowed by federal drinking-water standards, forcing the city to switch to the Des Moines River and increase its treatment efforts.


"I think somebody needs to really sit down and look at the data and say, 'What is this telling us?'" Water Works manager

L.D. McMullen told the Des Moines Register.

Wayland sees a silver lining to such concerns.

"I think it certainly will help if people recognize a need to respond to these problems in their own watersheds," he said. "It's always been a challenge to get people to accept that their agricultural practices in Wisconsin or Illinois result in these problems in the Gulf of Mexico."

Mark Schellstein can be reached at mschellstein@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3327.



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Telling the story of south La. oil

By **KATINA A. GAUDET**
NYT Regional Newspapers
 July 31, 2001
[Email this story.](#)

South Louisianans know a few things about the oil and gas industry.

Whether working the rigs, providing services to them from shore or waiting for family members to return home from their seven days on, residents have become intimately acquainted with the ways of the wells.

As the state nears its 100th year as a player in the oil and gas industry next month, the federal agency that oversees oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico is sponsoring a years-long study into the evolution of the oil and gas industry in Louisiana and its impact on residents and their communities.

"We were always captured by the idea of how this industry grew up and how significant this unique geography was to not only the way the industry developed, but to all the various service companies that developed around the oil and gas industry," said Diane Austin, an anthropologist with the University of Arizona.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has contracted with researchers from the University of Arizona, Louisiana State University and the University of Houston to explore these and other facets of the evolution of the industry.

For now, the study – an extension of an earlier study researchers with the University of Arizona conducted beginning in 1997 – will focus on Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary and Iberia parishes.

Those with stories to tell should contact the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at (877) ESTUARY, any branch of the Lafourche Parish library or e-mail researchers at oilhist@u.arizona.edu.

They are now expanding the scope of their research efforts. Arizona researchers will begin gathering community-focused oral histories in September from residents about their experiences with the industry.

They will train residents, primarily teachers, in interviewing techniques. Those residents will then collect oral histories from those who have both worked in the industry or been affected by it.

Researchers will gather histories from industry pioneers, managers and entrepreneurs – those people who created the organizations and

necessary technology for the development of oil and gas – from workers, family members, community leaders and others whose lives have been shaped by the industry; and finally, from government and political leaders who developed the regulations that govern the industry.

Researchers will begin conducting interviews with those people who have knowledge of the earliest period of the industry's development, the 1930s to 1960s.

"One of the realities is that if we don't capture these stories now, we're not going to get them," said Austin. "This is a case where bringing oral history into the more traditional documentary history is critical because there's a lot of this that's never been documented."

In the second year of the study, researchers will be expanding the project even further, moving into the later years of the industry and into other areas of the state.

Locally, researchers will be working with project partners, including the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. Program officials say they hope the project will aid in the restoration of the estuary system.

"There are few things more important to us as individuals than our cultural heritage," said Kerry St. Pe', director of the estuary program. "Their experience and stories might encourage understanding for a new generation charged with restoring the estuary amidst the current offshore activity."

Other project partners include the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, Louisiana Technical College-Young Memorial Campus, Nicholls State University and local libraries and school districts.

Austin, likewise, said the histories will play a central role in the project, the direction of which will be dictated by residents and their stories.

"The oral history is going to play a major role in understanding the overall story," said Austin. "We'll be expanding as we're directed by people in the community. We want to take advantage of all the local knowledge ... and have (people) help us identify what stories need to be captured."

The overall story also includes the industry's relation to not only the coastal culture and society, but also its landscape and economy.

University of Houston researchers will be busy examining the corporate side of the industry, while LSU researchers will work with the Minerals Management Service and U.S. Coast Guard to track down the history of industry regulations.

The project is being financed under a cooperative agreement between the Minerals Management Service and LSU's Center for Energy Studies.

Claudia Rogers, a social anthropologist in the Minerals Management Service's regional office in New Orleans, said the study is necessary because of the changing nature of the industry.

"The whole complexion of the oil and gas industry is changing so much because of mergers and globalization," said Rogers. "There are new demands on people who work in the industry. It's not the same bang for the buck as it once was ... We're expanding our understanding of what happens to the human face of the industry."

Those with stories to tell should contact the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at (877) ESTUARY, any branch of the Lafourche Parish library or e-mail researchers at oilhist@u.arizona.edu.



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Oil and gas history to be studied

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and its Foundation will be assisting the U.S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is sponsoring a project to examine the historical evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry and its effects on Louisiana's coastal culture, economy, landscape, and society. MMS, which manages offshore oil and gas exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico, is interested in capturing and synthesizing information from three main perspectives.

The first perspective is that of the industry's pioneering engineers, managers and entrepreneurs who created the organizations and technology required to produce oil and gas, some hundreds of miles from land in thousands of feet of water.

The second perspective is that of workers, family members of workers, community leaders and others whose lives have been shaped by the offshore industry. The third perspective is that of the governmental and political leaders who developed the strategies and laws that are used by MMS to regulate and manage the development of offshore resources.

There are a few things more important to us

as individuals than our cultural heritage. Our elders have much to teach us about the natural system we live in," according to Kerry St. Pe, Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

"Their experience and stories may encourage understanding for a new generation charged with restoring the estuary amidst the current offshore activity."

In addition to assistance from Barataria-Terrebonne, researchers from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Nicholls State University, Louisiana State University, the University of Houston, and the University of Arizona are working together on this project.

The University of Arizona researchers, led by Diane Austin and Tom McGuire, are responsible for gathering the community-focused oral histories that are a central part of the project. They will train and employ local residents, primarily schoolteachers, to work as project partners.

The university and community researchers will conduct interviews with people who have worked in all aspects of the oil and gas industry and who have been affected by the industry. They will talk with local entrepreneurs,

workers, family members, community and others who can share information on how this industry developed and evolved. Interviews will be recorded and archived if they are available within the community researchers and scholars.

Photographs, diagrams, and other information will also be gathered, copied and archived.

The community component of this project will begin in the spring and summer of 2001 and is expected to continue for several years. During 2001, the researchers will work in Iberia, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Lafourche Parishes.

They will focus first on the earliest stages of development, from the 1930s to 1960s. They will work to capture the stories of the people who were involved in the industry at that time.

"We are looking for people who have stories to tell," says Cullen Currole, Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. "Please pass along the word about this project. If you, a family or friend would like to participate in this project, please notify us at 877ESTUARY, that's 1-877-378-8279."

Daily Comet
August 2, 2001

Students maneuver in marsh

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

GRAND ISLE -- Louisiana's coastal restoration advocates have been trying for years to get their message out to the rest of the nation.

But that often proves difficult, some say, when many of the state's own residents are unaware of the rapid decline of the state's marshlands -- and how its coastal problems affect its non-coastal areas.

Some, however, have been working to change that.

Sixty-four 4-H students from around the state this summer are taking part in Marsh Maneuvers, a series of four, four-day summer camps emphasizing marine education. Begun 13 years ago near Vermilion Bay and now conducted at Grand Terre Island northeast of Grand Isle, Marsh Maneuvers often brings together students from opposite ends of the state.

"We try to mix kids from North and South Louisiana. It's neat to see kids from Caddo and Lafourche parishes find out what each other's world is about," said Rex Caffey, an extension specialist with the LSU AgCenter and the LSU Sea Grant College Program, both sponsors of the educational effort. "What they realize, despite their differences, is that they're both losing their heritages for various reasons, whether through (increased) farming or fishing regulations."

"We get to experience what people around Grand Isle do for a living like commercial fishing," said Noni Miller, 18, a recent high school graduate from Breaux Bridge. Miller and other participants said an interest in not only the local culture, but in the state's fight against coastal land loss led them to Marsh Maneuvers.

This summer, participants are from Lafayette, St. Martin, St. John the Baptist and Rapides parishes.

Each year, 4-H students from four parishes participant in Marsh Maneuvers.

For some of them, coastal land loss is something they have heard of, but not something they have to face daily, as many students in South Louisiana do.

"I knew about the problem before, but they told us how much land we were losing each year, and I didn't know it was going that fast," said Randall Thiels, 17, a senior from Alexandria.

"Where we live we don't really realize that the coast is eroding," said Ryan Albert, 17, a senior from St. Martinville. "But when you get down here, it becomes a reality."

That realization is a main topic of discussion for those taking part in Marsh Maneuvers. Marsh Maneuvers is a cooperative effort between the LSU AgCenter and the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The LSU Sea Grant College Program and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program also help sponsor the camps, and staff from the various agencies help with student curriculum and instruction.

Students receive extensive education in coastal ecology, in both classroom- and nature-based settings.

August 3, 2001

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Project will be fascinating

When people in the rest of the country think about South Louisiana, they probably picture marshes, alligators and Bourbon Street. But to people here, the economy can be summed up in even fewer words: oil and gas.

Before the arrival of the gambling industry a few years ago, few people could live and work in these parts without having some contact with the industry that supplies the nation's energy.

Next month will mark the 100th anniversary of the state's involvement in oil and gas. Coinciding with that event will be the kickoff of a study co-sponsored by the Minerals Management Service and LSU's Center for Energy Studies.

Together, the groups will try to create a history of this region as it relates to oil and gas. Also involved are the University of Arizona, the University of Houston, the Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the Louisiana Technical College-Young Memorial Campus, Nicholls State University, and local libraries and school districts.

Obviously, oil and gas have affected many aspects of our history – culture and society, the landscape and environment, as well as the economy.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer of the people who were directly involved in the development of the industry are still around to share their knowledge. That's why the groups are eager to get started.

They are planning on conducting interviews with many of the folks who were involved in the oil and gas heyday from the 1930s to the 1960s.

To do so, they will train teachers in the art of interviewing and send them out to gather oral histories from those who know the material the best – the industry pioneers, the managers and the entrepreneurs, as well as workers, family members, community leaders, government officials and political leaders.

For now, the study will focus on Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary and Iberia parishes. Gradually, the scope of the study will widen.

In the end, if the project is done carefully and thoroughly, it should be a fascinating look at one of the most important historical influences on our area.

We wish the researchers well as they embark on this important study.

Editorials represent the opinions of this newspaper and not of any one individual. As such, editorials are unsigned. Signed columns represent the individual opinion of the columnist and not necessarily of this newspaper.

On Wednesday, students traveled to Grand Isle to learn of its significance as a barrier island and to Queen Bess Island, which, in the 1960s, was one of only three pelican rookeries in the state.

After having been reintroduced in the state from Florida in the early 1970s, the brown pelican now flourishes on the island.

Students will also collect and learn to identify various marine species, as well as take part in stewardship exercises on Grand Terre Island.

There, students will plant native trees to help stabilize certain areas of the island, using native plants grown by other students participating in Coastal Roots, a project that allows junior and senior high school students to use the native plants they grow in greenhouses in coastal restoration projects, which is another topic about which students will learn a good deal.

"The big thing is to let them know there are a lot of stakeholders (affected by coastal restoration projects), from fishermen to landowners to environmental lobbyists," said Caffey.

To emphasize the difficulty in reaching consensus among all these parties, students are assigned those and other roles and then weigh both the short-term and long-term pros and cons of a "hypothetical" restoration project – the Davis Pond Fresh Water Diversion project in St. Charles Parish, which will be operational later this year – and, ultimately, decide whether that project will "live or die."

"They'll have to use the concepts they learn to make their case," said Caffey.

"What they don't know is that there will be a lawsuit either way."

Wildlife and Fisheries agents will summons the students, who will again have to present convincing arguments to make their case.

All in all, camp instructors say Marsh Maneuvers has left an impression on its participants, and this week's participants, many of them new restoration advocates, seem to agree.

"I think something needs to be done about this," said Shelley Martin, 15, a sophomore from Lafayette who said she really had no knowledge of the state of Louisiana's wetlands prior to Marsh Maneuvers. "We need to be serious and invest more money and not just sit around."

Students interesting in participating in Marsh Maneuvers must be 4-H members. For more information about becoming a member, students should contact their local LSU AgCenter office.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Corps to open Davis in fall

Jack Fredine gave an enlightened talk on the progress and purpose of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project, which he is managing for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to the St. Charles Rotary Club Wednesday.

It is now scheduled to go on line this fall, only a slight delay from the originally scheduled spring opening.

Considering that the project was authorized by Congress in 1965, the delay is just a drop in the bucket. But it was not until 1993 that the Corps got the participation of the La. Department of Natural Resources. That's when the state became real serious about saving its coast.

The benefits of the project are obvious. And the biggest is economic.

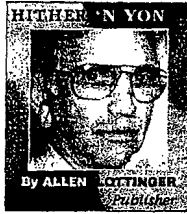
If the coast disappears, so will the nursery waters where 40 percent of the commercial fish pro-

duced in the country are born. Half of that is right here in the Barataria Basin which the Davis Pond project will nourish. But it is expected to prevent only 10 percent of the expected erosion in the basin, which indicates how much more we have to do.

Safety is also a main reason to save the coast. Our wetlands serve as a buffer when storms approach.

If we act fast, Bayou Des Allemands and Lakes Cataouaichie and Salvador will be open water from the Gulf by the year 2040. That would bring storm surges right to our doorsteps.

Also on the list of benefits is



recreation. With almost every other carport in St. Charles harboring a fishing boat, it is obvious how much pleasure we get from the wetlands that surround us.

Authorities are scheduled to start negotiating this month on the relocation of oyster leases that will be affected by opening of the project. The fresh water flowing from the Mississippi River will not hurt oyster production in the basin overall. In fact it could improve it. But it will push the production further south as the fresh water from the river pushes the brackish water where oysters grow away.

That factor put a kink into the operation of the Carnarvon diversion project downriver from New Orleans when oyster producers got a judgement of \$40 million from

the state for damages to their oyster beds. The state and Corps do not want that to happen again.

A Davis Pond advisory committee will be formed to monitor the effects of the diversion once it is opened. Included will be representatives from parish governments in the area, Barataria-Terrebonne estuary program, commercial fishermen, landowners and state and federal agencies.

Plans for the large Bonnet Carre diversion project which would have helped freshen up Lake Pontchartrain and wetlands east of the river have been put on hold, Fredine said. Opposition arose from people who thought there would be too much of a deleterious effect on the lake from algae growth and fish kills.

Fredine said that consideration is being given to two smaller diversions, one of them at Bonnet Carre and one above LaPlace. Those two projects plus reducing the depth of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet in St. Bernard Parish would produce benefits similar that which the original Bonnet Carre project would have brought. In fact some people would like to see many smaller diversions along the river which would not have the impact of the larger diversions but would spread the fresh water over a larger area.

Perhaps if we had envisioned the erosion that would result when we built the river levees, we would have allowed for such diversion to keep the coast intact. And we would not be facing such a problem today.

The future of Louisiana's coast could rest on what Congress does this year on the proposed Conservation and Reconstruction Act. It would give Louisiana up to \$300 million a year for 15 years to save its coast. It is expected to cost at least that much to keep what we have.

The bill passed the House overwhelmingly last year but failed to even make the floor of the other chamber where senators did not want to give up the power of appropriating that much money each year.

Cong. Billy Tauzin, who is introducing it into the House again, says the key to passage will be strong support from President George W. Bush. Without it, he expects it to flounder again in the Senate.

The money at stake comes from some \$4 billion in federal offshore oil revenue, most of which comes from off the Louisiana coast. And a lot of the destruction of our wetlands came from that production.

So doesn't it figure that we should get enough back to keep them intact?

Maybe if we changed the name of our wetlands to the Louisiana Everglades, we would have a better chance. It seems nothing is spared to save that Florida enclave of wildlife and fauna.

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Program is a good lesson

There is a common problem that faces those who want to save Louisiana's coastal wetlands: Many people are completely unaware of the critical problems facing our environment.

Unfortunately, that problem is not limited to people in the rest of the country. People around here are also often uninformed about the disappearing wetlands.

So, before we can hope to do anything about the problems, we have to educate people about them.

The LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries helped spread the word to a group of 64 4-H members from around the state this week through Marsh Maneuvers.

The program, which this year includes students from Lafayette, St. Martin, St. John the Baptist and Rapides parishes, gives the students an up-close view of our precious wetlands through four, four-day summer camps emphasizing marine education.

Set on Belle Terre Island near Grand Isle, the camps give students who might otherwise have limited access to real Louisiana wetlands the chance to see them for themselves.

The camp has gotten rave reviews from participants and this year is no exception.

"I knew about the problem before, but they told us how much land we were losing each year, and I didn't know it was going that fast," said Ryan Albert, a 17-year-old high school senior from Alexandria.

In addition to the state agencies, the LSU Sea Grant College Program and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program help sponsor the program, so there is no lack of qualified instructors to help teach the lessons.

The program gives the students extensive lessons in coastal ecology, using classrooms and nature. The students plant native plants to help stabilize certain areas of Grand Terre, and learn about the island's significance as a barrier.

Now in its 13th year, the program seems to be a good way to give our students a lesson in something all Louisianans ought to know: the perils facing our wetlands and some of the possible solutions. That has to be a good thing.

Editorials represent the opinions of this newspaper and not of any one individual. As such, editorials are unsigned. Signed columns represent the individual opinion of the columnist and not necessarily of this newspaper.

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AUG - 8-01

Plight of erosion to be publicized

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Officials with the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act task force agreed Tuesday to spend \$63,250 to entice visiting media to hear, see and spread the story of Louisiana's disappearing coastline.

The effort is being spearheaded by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, ground zero for wetlands loss, and a local foundation that helps finance the program. The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation has agreed to spend \$7,500 to help in the effort.

"On Jan. 27, the world's eye will be on New Orleans," said Lynn Schonberg, who is coordinating the publicity campaign for the estuary program. "This is an opportunity to reach a national and international audience without leaving home."

Schonberg said she's already gotten the New Orleans Host Committee for Super Bowl XXXVI to cooperate, and has received preliminary approval from NFL officials to have a table in the official media center and at both the international and national media parties during the week before the game.

Officials will contact the media between now and January to offer reporters tours of wetlands damage and restoration projects. The idea is to get the information contained in stories reporters may produce on Louisiana and New Orleans while here for the football extravaganza.

"On Jan. 27, the world's eye will be on New Orleans. This is an opportunity to reach a national and international audience without leaving home."

Lynn Schonberg, publicity coordinator for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Persuading Fox's on-air personalities to talk about wetland loss during the game would be the lagniappe that would make the effort a resounding success, Schonberg said.

Schonberg's staff also will produce a 30-second public service announcement to run on televisions in the media center and at the parties, spots she hopes to persuade local TV stations to run during Super Bowl week.

Also Tuesday, the wetlands task force agreed to consider only a dozen requests for financing during the 12th year of the Breaux Act, as the wetlands restoration program is known.

That would mean only four or five new restoration projects would be started in 2002. In previous years, the task force has sifted through as many as 120 different projects before deciding on starting construction of between 10 and 20 projects.

The projects have ranged from planting wetland grasses to building siphons in levees along the Mississippi River to allow silt

and fresh water to build new wetlands in open bays. The task force has approved projects or parts of projects totaling \$389 million, and completing all the projects will cost an additional \$700 million to \$800 million.

Army Corps of Engineers Col. Thomas Julich, chairman of the task force, said it's time to determine which completed projects work and why, and to find ways to speed construction of new projects.

One task Julich hopes to accomplish during the fall is to develop a plan to relocate oyster beds that lie in the path of proposed Breaux Act projects. Often, the cost of buying out oyster leases has made it too expensive to build some of the most-needed restoration projects, officials say.

The task force includes representatives of the corps, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Advocate 8/8/01

Task force debates its focus

New wetlands plans or self-evaluation?

By MIKE DUNNE
Advocate staff writer

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Task Force debated Tuesday whether to focus on more projects or spend some time glancing over its shoulder and evaluating its effectiveness during the past decade.

The question arose during a discussion of the planning budget for the coming year for the program that pumps about \$40 million to \$45 million annually into Louisiana from federal and state funds for combating the 25 square miles of coastal wetlands lost each year.

In the first 10 years of the program, 108 projects were approved and now "there was some thinking it's time to take stock of where we are at ... to see if we are on the right path," said Col. Tom Julich of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, chairman of the task force.

"We need to look at monitoring results and see what has been working and what has not and why" and decrease the time it takes to get projects built before adding a whole lot more, Julich said.

Jim Burgess, of the National Marine Fisheries Service, agreed.

Burgess said he has had problems getting good monitoring data to determine the effectiveness of his agency's projects. A shift from planning to evaluating effectiveness might allow the task force agencies to "spend some time debating the true impacts of our

Focus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

work," he said.

"We need a thorough understanding" of what the program's impact has been, Burgess said at the end of the meeting, his last representing his agency.

Randy Hanchey, assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, also urged looking at the projects' approval process.

"We have committees upon committees" which makes the project evaluation and selection process time-consuming. "I think we need to have some serious discussions on what we are going to do," Hanchey said.

The task force is "looking at evaluating fewer projects" for the coming year, Julich told the audience at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on Quail Drive. One proposal, Julich said, is to approve three projects in each of the four planning regions that would be winnowed to six to eight projects for funding in the coming year.

The task force also needs to work on better targeting its project selection, said Mark Davis of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

There is no requirement to pick a list of projects each year and "there is no right that our individual basins get a project each year," Davis said. The task force should be working to implement the overall master restoration plan, "Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana."

No decision was made, Julich said, but the discussion was to guide the task force's Technical Committee, which will bring a recommendation to the task force in October.

The task force also approved money for planning and engineering work on two projects it has deemed as "complex."

It approved \$5.199 million for a plan to divert Mississippi River water into the swamps around Lake Maurepas in the Gramercy area, mimicking nature's annual overflow nourishment of the dying marshes.

But Burgess of the National Marine Fisheries Service said the total price tag of \$47.7 million may be more than the program can afford and other "funding partners" are needed.

The task force also approved putting up \$9.9 million to help pay part of the \$18.9 million rebuilding effort on the beach at Holly Beach area of Cameron Parish and to change and enhance breakwaters that have been blamed for erosion.

It will include pumping sand from offshore back onto the shoreline.

The task force's restoration program is paying for half of the cost with one-quarter coming from a special federal appropriation to the state this year to help pay for the impacts of oil and gas drilling on the outer continental shelf. The other quarter is coming from the Louisiana Wetlands Trust Fund.

Lynn Schonberg of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program Foundation also outlined plans to tap into the media that will be in New Orleans in January for the National Football League's Super Bowl.

Hopefully, some of them can be convinced to write or broadcast stories about Louisiana's land loss problems, she said.

"Louisiana loses a football field of land every 30 minutes," Schonberg said of the hook that will be used. "We want to get the 'wow' factor" to attract media and then show them the problem, she said.

The task force approved \$63,500 to aid the effort.

See FOCUS, Page 2B

A play-by-play on wetlands loss?

*Federal and state
officials sure hope so*

By Mark Schleifstein
Staff writer

"That 24-point lead disappeared as quick as an acre of Louisiana swamp," announcer Chris Collinsworth might say.

"Actually, Chris, Louisiana loses a football-field-size patch of wetlands every 30 minutes," Terry Bradshaw would say in correcting his partner.

That's the play-by-play banter federal and state officials hope will be broadcast around the world during January's Super Bowl in New Orleans.

Officials with the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act task force agreed Tuesday to spend \$63,250 to entice visiting media to hear, see and spread the story of Louisiana's disappearing coastline.

The effort is being spearheaded by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, ground zero for wetlands loss, and a local foundation that helps finance the program. The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation has agreed to spend \$7,500 to help in the effort.

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Army Corps of Engineers Col. Thomas Julich, chairman of the task force, said it's time to determine which completed projects work and why, and to find ways to speed construction of new projects.

One task Julich hopes to accomplish during the lull is to develop a plan to relocate oyster beds that lie in the path of proposed Breaux Act projects. Often, the cost of buying out oyster leases has made it too expensive to build some of the most-needed restoration projects, officials say.

The task force includes representatives of the corps, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

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Times-Picayune
August 8th, 2001

The
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Weekly

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AUG - 9-01

4-Hers attend wetlands camp at Grand Terre

Marsh Maneuvers is an innovative learning adventure designed for high school 4-H members involving hands-on environmental education activities. This wetland educational camping program is a joint effort of the LSU Agriculture Center's Cooperative Extension Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

The camp was held at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Marine Lab on Grand Terre Island (one of Louisiana's eroding barrier islands). Access to the island was only available by boat.

Campers were involved in a wide range of exciting activities including wetland restoration, marine fisheries sampling, cast netting, sport fishing, crabbing, water quality testing, seafood handling (food safety), nature viewing, and fish and wildlife identification.

Iberville 4-H members who attended the Marsh Maneuvers Coastal Environmental Camp this summer include: Johnathan Hymel, Travis LeGlue, Cheyenne Nichols, Matthew Ramagos, Marcus Roy, and Ann Sanchez.

For more information about the 4-H Youth Development Program and other 4-H camping opportunities, call the Iberville 4-H Office at 687-5155.



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Foster calls for 'holy war' against erosion

By KATINA A. GAUDET
NYT Regional Newspapers
August 16, 2001
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BATON ROUGE – Louisiana needs to make an impassioned case to the nation for a \$14 billion proposal to save Louisiana's coastline from eroding into the Gulf of Mexico, Gov. Mike Foster says.

"We're either going to pay now and save the coast or pay later in monstrous dislocations that are going to affect the state and the nation," Foster told more than 300 people Wednesday at the 2001 Coastal Summit.

"We should have a jihad, a holy war," Foster said. "We've got to explain to them the frightening consequences of doing nothing."

Each year, the state is losing 25 to 30 square miles, and local officials have said Terrebonne Parish, unprotected from Gulf wave action, is losing wetlands more rapidly than anywhere else.

"If that rate of loss continues as it has been projected, and we take no action, we will lose 1,000 square miles of wetlands, and if we lose that, we'll have lost a third of this system," said Len Bahr, the governor's coastal advisor.

The state has lost more than 1 million acres of coastal wetlands over the past 100 years.

In 50 years, studies show, as many as 20 coastal communities – including Golden Meadow and Dulac – could be surrounded by water or disappear, and much of the wetlands used as nursery areas for the Gulf Coast's commercial fisheries would be gone.

Officials say the time to begin reversing that rate of loss is now because of several factors, including the completion of Coast 2050, the comprehensive plan to save the coast, estimated to cost \$14 billion in the next 30 years.

The state's restoration plan now operates on about \$50 million a year from the state's wetlands trust fund and the federal Breaux Act.

"Coast 2050 is an ambitious plan, but its aim is to save 80 percent of the coast," said Jack Caldwell, head of the state Department of Natural Resources.



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Though the state has already begun 53 Coast 2050 projects, at a cost of more than \$700 million – money the state doesn't have – it has yet to scratch the surface, he said.

If work started now, the effort would take \$400 million to \$500 million a year.

Foster said his Global Positioning System maps, powered by satellite technology, show that some areas where he fishes were land only three or four years ago.

Foster said he will convene a summit with the state's congressional delegation to make sure they understand the state's commitment to finding a way to pay for the proposal, which was drafted in 1998 and called Coast 2050. He said a similar meeting is planned with state business leaders.

Some conference participants said Louisiana may have difficulty establishing credibility with the nation's politicians and voters because of what they characterized as the state's poor record on environmental matters.

Jim Tripp, a spokesman for Environmental Defense, a national organization, pointed to Sen. John Breaux's support of oil drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge and his stance that oil and gas production in Louisiana have caused little damage – a matter of debate in environmental circles.

The Coast 2050 plan includes a variety of projects aimed at restoring lost wetlands, protecting the remaining ones and building new wetlands. Its projects include building barrier islands to protect inland wetlands, diverting Mississippi River water and sediment to restore and build wetlands, and constructing barriers to stop salt water from moving inland.

Each project would need to be authorized by Congress under the Water Resources Development Act, and each would cost more than \$50 million.

"We are now at a point where the actions of the last six years convince most of us that, yes, the coast can be saved, but it can't be done on the cheap," Foster said.

Foster said he intends to use his upcoming term as chairman of the Southern Governors Association to push coastal restoration as a national issue, and he already has begun lobbying President Bush to support Coast 2050.

"The president really does not have a good understanding" of coastal erosion, Foster said. "We're hoping he'll put the same importance to funding this effort as there is for restoration of the Everglades and the Chesapeake Bay."

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Levee boards unite to combat erosion

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

GALLIANO – Two local levee districts have officially formed a joint advisory committee to help combat coastal land loss in the parish.

Ronald Callais, president of the South Lafourche Levee District, informed commissioners Monday of the status of that committee.

In early May, the commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District, which includes parts of Lafourche, Assumption, St. James, St. John the Baptist and St. Charles parishes, voted to establish the committee so the districts could identify coastal restoration projects for the lower Barataria Basin.

The districts share jurisdiction in certain areas south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and the committee, made up of representatives of both districts, will advise the Lafourche Basin Levee District on how best to spend its money in that area.

Earlier this year, the Levee District settled a years-long dispute with Texaco for environmental damages to district property in the Hackberry Bay area in Lafourche Parish.

Of the \$10 million settlement, the district has earmarked \$2 million for mitigation of that area, though it is not yet certain if mitigation is possible, given the extent of the damage.

“The main purpose of this committee is to look at the best coastal projects to use the mitigation money from Texaco,” said Windell Curole, general manager of the South Lafourche Levee District and secretary of the Joint Coastal Restoration Projects Advisory Committee.

The districts met officially to form the committee, with both appointing members.

Lafourche Basin President Aubrey Gravois will serve as the committee's chairman, and Callais will fill in should the chairman be absent from a meeting. Members of the committee are South Lafourche Levee District commissioners Joe Leonard and Roy Gisclair and Lafourche Basin Levee District commissioners Kenneth Peltier and Carl Bourgeois.

Curole and Randy Trosclair, administrative manager of the Lafourche Basin Levee District, will serve as ad hoc committee members and will act as alternate voting members should any members be absent.

The committee will meet quarterly.

Curole said the committee is gathering information and photographs of the area to see what, if anything, can be done to restore the area.

The committee, said Curole, is also looking at engaging others in the effort, including Denise Reed, a geologist at the University of New Orleans, who helped the Lafourche Basin Levee District prepare its case against Texaco, and the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management office and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and Estuary Foundation.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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September 2001

Inside the Chamber

Ecology Festival Salutes Estuary's Culture

On September 29, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program will host the annual Fete d'Ecologie at Peltier Park in Thibodaux.

The public is invited to attend the event that will begin with an estuary parade at 10:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to dress as a wetlands or wildlife creature.

The daylong event is guaranteed to have dancing, plenty of food and booths designed to educate and entertain children and adults as well as a silent auction. Scheduled events include a visit from the Audubon Institute's Bug Mobile, a duck calling con-

test, a cast net throwing contest and much more.

Ethnic dancers are scheduled to perform from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Dancers will include Native American, Cajun, Isleno, Phillipino, African and Croatian performers.

Children's tents will feature an ecologic treasure hunt, flint knapping, fish printing, an archaeological dig, a shell midden, crab and fish ponds, plus much more.

For more information on the festival or to join in the effort to improve the quality of life in Barataria-Terrebonne, call 1-877-ESTUARY (378-8279) or log on to their website at www.btnep.org.

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SEP - 4-01

Meeting today

A meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. today at Peltier Park for people interested in volunteering for La Fete d'Ecologie, the annual ecology festival put on by the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation.

The festival will be held on Sept. 29 at the park.

The public is encouraged to attend.

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Ecology festival set Sept. 29

By Katina A. Gaudet
Staff Writer

La Fete d'Ecologie has had some interesting exhibits in its brief history.

From the Audubon Zoo Mobile to the yields of local fur trappers, the ecology festival, now in its fifth year, has worked to bring to light the area's unique geography, culture and natural resources.

This year, festival organizers are excited to bring to local crowds more educational entertainment, beginning with a live falconry demonstration.

Dating back to the Dark Ages, falconry is the art of training hawks to pursue and attack wild fowl or game in hunting.

A local falconer will be at the festival throughout the day educating festival-goers with demonstrations.

"We know we're going to have a lot more things going on this year than last year," said Cullen Curole, administrator of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, the nonprofit organization that organizes the festival. Fairgoers can also learn about estuary inhabitants, such as hundreds of birds that visit the area each year during migrations to and from Central and South America.

The Terrebonne Bird Club will be on hand at the festival to educate people on the significance of the estuary as migratory bird habitat.

"We want to try to promote our membership in the club and share our enthusiasm for birding with other people," said Lisa Robichaux, president of the club.

The club will also be promoting the Migratory Bird Celebration, a month-long birding celebration on Grand

Isle, usually beginning in April.

Migratory birds travel the Mississippi flyway during the spring when they are coming from Central and South America north to rest in the United States and Canada. On their return trip, the birds once again find food and shelter on Grand Isle.

Ducks Unlimited's Greenwings program, a youth program for those under 18 years of age, will also be at the festival.

Begun in 1973, the program stresses the value of wetlands and the species that depend on wetlands.

This year, the program's second at the festival, Greenwings will provide hunting safety lessons, shooting opportunities for kids and other displays.

"There are always going to be people who like to hunt and fish, so why not train them early to do it in the right way," said Lynette Cortez of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. "This program helps ensure young children are environmentally conscious, and it's a good message to get out there."

The ecology festival is not only a celebration of the area's wildlife, but also its people.

Fairgoers can learn about the estuary's cultural history, including discussions on the use of primitive weapons and flint-knapping and paddle-making; the migration of people to other areas after the 1893 and 1915 hurricanes – the foundation of settlements such as Golden Meadow – and the impact of the oil and gas industry on the area.

The festival will provide many other opportunities, such as a children's tent of activities, as well as local cuisine.

"There won't be any rides, but there will be things throughout the day for people to see and do," said Cortez.

With the additions to the festival, organizers are also looking for people to help with the festival.

Though they have been happy with volunteer efforts in past years, they say they will need just as many volunteers this year.

"We're trying to build up our database for other functions throughout the year as well," said Cortez. "We'll call them

for things like tree plantings and the Migratory Bird Celebration. The main goal is just to get the message out there.”

The festival will be held this year on from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 29 at Peltier Park in Thibodaux. For more information, contact the Foundation at 447-8092.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Environmental conference set**By Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

Making science-based decisions on environmental policy is the hope of a conference coming to Nicholls State University next month.

The Environmental Research Consortium of Louisiana, a non-profit organization aiming to better the environment through research, education and communication, is sponsoring its sixth annual Environmental State of the State conference in Thibodaux Oct. 26. The conference is rotated around the state each year.

Nicholls State University, the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium in Cocodrie and Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program are helping with the event.

"We hope the conference results in a greater awareness of environmental research in Louisiana and of the importance of good science driving policy decisions," said Harold Suire, executive director of the Environmental Research Consortium. "We want good science to be useful in dictating policy."

Consortium members are non-profit organizations, universities, researchers and anyone else interested in the environment.

Founded in 1992 through funding from Freeport McMoRan, the Environmental Consortium seeks to bring scientists, educators and policy makers together to work on environmental issues.

Though the group began with corporate funding, it is an independent research organization unaffiliated with Freeport

McMoRan.

"There are no strings attached here. One of the reasons we formed the organization is that it became crystal clear that we needed to focus on environmental issues in Louisiana that are holding the state back," said Robert Thomas, one of the founding members of the Environmental Research Consortium and the chair of environmental communications at Loyola University in New Orleans. "We need to have scientists talking about the environment in our state, rather than people who are not out there doing the basic research."

The annual conference is one way the organization tries to bring researchers and the public together.

The focus of the conference is rivers and wetlands, with discussions focusing on water policy in the state.

Although South Louisiana is not particularly affected by the drying up of freshwater aquifers such as in North Louisiana, but it does have its own water shortage problems, namely saltwater intrusion.

The conference will touch on these issues, as well as wetlands loss and its impact on agriculture and fisheries, restoration, hydrology and economics, including ecotourism.

"One of the early contributions of the organization is that it got scientists talking to one another about the need to address issues in Louisiana that have an economic impact," said Thomas. "We think that way a lot more now because we talked about it a lot then."

One conference session will focus on the sugarcane industry, and during the keynote luncheon, Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco will talk about ecotourism in the state.

Conference organizers say teachers could benefit by attending the conference, which will include educator workshops for K-12 teachers.

"They will get a lot of hands-on experience, but will also get to talk with scientists from throughout the state," said Suire.

Environmental Research Consortium is also working on further expanding its reach.

Recently, former U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston offered the organization his remaining campaign funds to begin a scientific research foundation, which has been named after Johnson.

"The concept is to fund research in Louisiana by Louisianans that will address issues that will advance our state," said Thomas.

There is a registration fee for the conference, and those interested should call (225) 767-7520.

A limited number of teacher stipends are available.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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Cultural center in planning

By **Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

LAROSE — Members of several nonprofit organizations met this week with representatives of Tulane University's Regional Urban Design Center to kick off a proposed cultural center.

The proposed center in Larose, organizers say, will not only house local nonprofit organizations, but will also help those organizations preserve Cajun culture through education.

"We hope we've caught the cultural (disintegration) at the right time. We think we have, and we believe there still are some teachers out there," said Melanie Boulet, project assistant with the Bayou Lafourche Initiative, an effort to strengthen local non-profits and preserve local culture.

The Bayou Lafourche Alliance, one aspect of the initiative and the umbrella under which the organizations united, is supported by a grant from EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program to Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation.

Non-profit members will display and teach various aspects of Cajun culture, such as French, cooking, art, boat building, carving and other arts seven days a week, 12 hours a day.

For groups such as the Cajun Heritage Festival, a structure such as the cultural center, which organizers anticipate will be about 30,000 square feet, is a longstanding aim.

"We've been at it for 25 years hoping to build a museum," said Hamilton Dantin, a member of the Cajun Heritage Festival, which brings together duck carvers, wildlife artists and others from all over South Louisiana. "Just working on one yearly event is nearly impossible. That's why we decided to join forces with other organizations in the area."

Bob Folse of the Bayou Civic Club, the governing agency of the Larose Civic Center and the agency that will donate the land on which the cultural center is to be built, agreed.

"We've been thinking about this for awhile. We've been wanting this," said Folse. "The view of the Larose Civic Center is the more the merrier. The more groups with an interest in our

Grover Mouton with Tulane's Regional Urban Design Center said simplicity would be best in the design of the proposed center.

"The key to success is the smaller the better," said Mouton, who added that a facility design would blend in with the natural landscape of the Civic Center grounds and resemble the old-time Cajun homes would work well.

The meeting, however, was only a preliminary one, the first between Tulane and Bayou Lafourche Alliance members, so no definite design will be decided in the immediate future.

"The mission today is to see if there's a way to help and to see what we can do," said Mouton. "It's a fact-finding mission to see if there's a fit (between Tulane and the Alliance)."

Alliance members are hoping for a preliminary design for the building's exterior and its floor plan by January and to use that model in fund-raising.

After that, they hope to hire a commercial architect for a complete design of the proposed center, which organizers estimate will cost about \$4 million.

Organizers are still uncertain of the exact location of the proposed center, with talk of having it in three locations on the Civic Center grounds. They say they are trying to keep as much of the landscape as possible and will consider various factors.

Boulet said the proposed center would be unlike any in the state in that the center is not a tourist attraction.

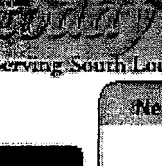
"Bayou Lafourche is blessed with a powerful economy with our oil industry, huge shipyards and a strong fishing industry, but we have not developed our cultural resources," she said. "Because of that, we haven't protected our cultural resources either."

Organizers say they know tourists will come to see the cultural displays in the center and demonstrations in a proposed 6,000 square foot outdoor pavilion, and that they will find ways to accommodate tourists.

But this center is being built primarily for South Louisianans and the preservation of their culture.



"We're looking to design something for us, and after that, then plan for oth-

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LA JOURNAL: Proposed center will help preserve culture

Katina A. Gaudet
NYT Regional Newspapers
September 12, 2001
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Free Games!

Use your Headbone!

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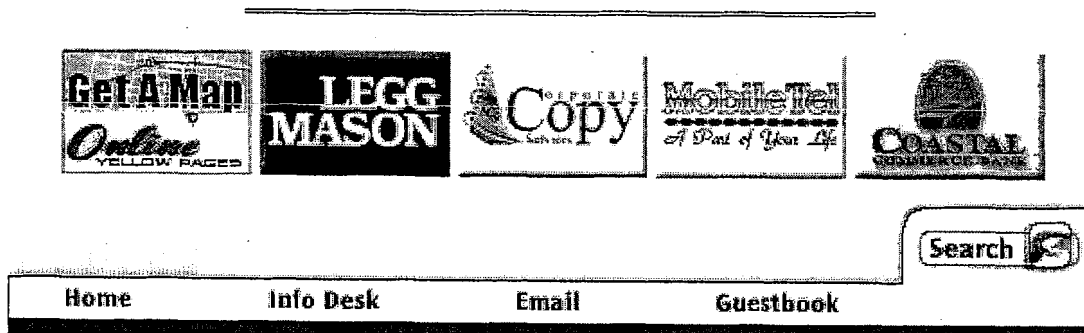
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Organizers say they know tourists will come to see the cultural displays in the center and demonstrations in a proposed 6,000-square-foot outdoor pavilion and that they will find ways to accommodate tourists.

But this center is being built primarily for area residents and the preservation of their culture.



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Celebrating our cultural environment

Thibodaux

A Fete d'Ecologie has had some interesting exhibits in its brief history.

From the Audubon Zoo Mobile to the yields of local fur trappers, the ecology festival, now in its fifth year, has worked to bring to light the area's unique geography, culture and natural resources.

This year, festival organizers are excited to bring to local crowds more educational entertainment, beginning with a live falconry demonstration.

Dating back to the Dark Ages, falconry is the art of training hawks to pursue and attack wild fowl or game in hunting.

A local falconer will be at the festival throughout the day educating festival-goers with demonstrations.

"We know we're going to have a lot more things going on this year than last year," said Cullen Curolle, administrator of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, the nonprofit organization that organizes the festival. Fairgoers can also learn about estuary inhabitants, such as hundreds of birds that visit the area each year during migrations to and from Central and



LA
Journal

South America.

The Terrebonne Bird Club will be on hand at the festival to educate people on the significance of the estuary as migratory bird habitat.

"We want to try to promote our membership in the club and share our enthusiasm for birding with other people," said Lisa Robichaux, president of the club.

The club will also be promoting the Migratory Bird Celebration, a month-long birding celebration on Grand Isle, usually beginning in April.

Migratory birds travel the Mississippi flyway during the spring when they are coming from Central and South America north to rest in the United States and Canada. On their return trip, the birds once again find food and shelter on Grand Isle.

Begun in 1973, the program stresses the value of wetlands and the species that depend on wetlands.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 447-8092.

By KATINA A. GAUDET, NYT Regional Newspapers

Project to examine oil and gas evolution

The U.S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, which manages offshore oil and gas exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico, is sponsoring a project to examine the historical evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry and its effects on Louisiana's coastal culture, economy, landscape, and society.

Local partners in this effort include the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, Louisiana Technical College-Young Memorial Campus, Nicholls State University, and parish libraries and school districts.

We are looking for people who have stories to tell. If you, a family member, or a friend would like to be part of this project, please provide us with your name, current or former position, and contact information via one of these methods:

--Call the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at 1-877-ESTUARY.

--Leave at any branch of the Lafourche Parish Public Library.

--E-mail to oil-hist@u.arizona.edu.

WJ 1/2

Times Picayune Thur Sept 27, 2001

Conservancy builds boardwalk

By SANDRA BARBIER
The Times-Picayune

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The roar of two small portable generators may have temporarily scared the egrets and herons away from a steamy salt marsh at Grand Isle, but soon the lazy quiet will return, along with the sounds of birds, frogs, insects and appreciative bird-watchers.

The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana and AmeriCorps recently joined to build Grand Isle's newest attraction, a 275-foot boardwalk, in a project designed to demonstrate the island's importance to birds.

"I feel like these projects that expose the public to nature are important because we have to get the public's backing to preserve what's left," said Al Troy, a Nature Conservancy volunteer and a retired engineer from Baton Rouge.

The new boardwalk is part of the Grand Isle Birding Trail, conservancy volunteer director Don McDowell said. It will connect to a small levee and boardwalk at the conservancy's Lafitte Woods Preserve, a bird sanctuary just a few hundred feet away.

The levee and boardwalks will give visitors a two-mile hike through a variety of bird habitats, including brush, hardwood forest and salt marsh. Officials said they hope the trail will eventually extend to other parts of the island as support for habitat conservation grows.

The boardwalk is on land owned by the Grand Isle Port Commission



Associated Press photo

Volunteer Dick Chauvin of Baton Rouge aligns one of the planks for a new 275-foot boardwalk at Grand Isle recently.

at the edge of a proposed new port, said Jean Landry, the conservancy's Grand Isle project director.

The port commission, conservancy, Entergy and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program financed construction at a cost of about \$22,000, including donated services, she said. An old car junkyard was cleaned and converted to a parking and picnic area for boardwalk visitors.

"Part of the property was wetlands," commission secretary-treasurer Andy Galliano said. Rather than battle environmental regulators for permission to cover the 10-acre site with soil for more port development, "we decided to work with the conservancy to develop an

educational area," Galliano said.

The area will be managed by the nature group under a long-term agreement with the commission, he said.

The boardwalk is sure to bring more tourists, Galliano said.

Grand Isle already is a popular spot for birders during the spring migration, when thousands of birds pause at the island as they return from winter grounds in South and Central America. The fourth annual Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, founded by the Orleans Audubon Society and other birding groups outside Grand Isle, drew about 200 visitors last spring, Galliano said.

"The important thing is it educated the people on the island on how

important the birds were," he said.

The project fits perfectly with the Nature Conservancy's goal of community-based conservation and getting residents to understand natural habitat and why it should be preserved, McDowell said.

Sixteen volunteers, including nine teenagers and young adults from the AmeriCorps, a federally sponsored public service program, worked on the boardwalk. AmeriCorps workers performed about 1,700 hours of public service work in a year and get tuition vouchers for up to \$4,700 in return for their labor, AmeriCorps on the Bayou Director Ray Savoie said.

Leon Remont, 18, of Cut Off, has spent the summer planting grass in marshes from Grand Isle to Lake Pontchartrain.

It opened his eyes to coastal erosion and other environmental problems.

"A lot of kids don't know what's going on in the environment," Remont said.

Other AmeriCorps members collected hackberries and acorns that will be given to the state forestry office to grow into seedlings. The seedlings will be planted at Grand Isle to restore the island's old oak forest, McDowell said. The hackberries will be dried and planted at Grand Isle or given away at the bird festival, Landry said.

Conservancy and town officials ultimately want younger generations to appreciate the island's natural heritage, Landry said. Teachers are already planning to use the boardwalk for science and art classes.

OIL HISTORY PROJECT SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

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BY: ANN WHITE
STAFF WRITER

They're actually very pretty - shiny rich green leaves and attractive purple flowers - they look like many water plants people would go out and buy for their water gardens. But these water hyacinths are deceptively destructive. They don't belong in our ecosystem, and they are still, despite our best efforts, out of control.

Plants such as water hyacinth, hydrilla, and salvinia which are not native, interfere with the local ecology in complex and often unpredictable ways.

Water hyacinth, a plant native to Japan, was brought to the U.S. and distributed to the public at the 1884 Cotton Centennial in New Orleans. Some were taken home and put into water gardens. Some were discarded into ditches. Either way, it entered the ecosystem of Louisiana and has multiplied ever since. Water hyacinth covers the surface of the water and has a net of thick roots that absorb nutrients.

"As these plants grow, they form a thick mat that blocks sunlight from all living things underwater. Eventually the other plants begin to decay, oxygen is used up in the process, and the area beneath these plants can become anoxic (devoid of oxygen). This plant has a bulbous stem (if you cut it open, it looks like styrofoam) that assists floatation and round scooping

leaves that work like sails to facilitate natural movement to new areas," states Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary, Nonindigenous Species Coordinator for the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program at LSU. "Controlling these plants is very expensive and labor intensive, and not particularly effective," O'Leary continues. Nutria do eat water hyacinth, but do not make a dent in the amount now clogging Louisiana waterways.

Another destructive non-indigenous plant is hydrilla. It has a long, tendril-like growth pattern and unlike water hyacinth, is a submerged plant. It was introduced into waterways by residents dumping aquarium contents. Once introduced into the wild, it grows at an alarming rate and, like water hyacinth, often blocks out sunlight and causes the same anoxic condition.

According to Kerry St. Pe of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program, "It's pretty much like pumping water through a sponge. Here the sponge being hydrilla. You can't push the water through that you could push if a sponge were gone. So, water can intrude from tidal forces below and it's impacting some of our water supplies." As hydrilla slows the flow of water downstream, it can allow increased salt water up into the estuary system, throwing off a deli-

cate balance.

Giant Salvinia, a type of water fern which came from South America, most likely Brazil, can double its size every week. One plant can grow to cover 40 acres in a year. Experience in other parts of the world combating

Giant Salvinia has made it one of the most feared new invasive weeds. For years, the Gulf states have battled common salvinia. It is found in many areas. Controlling it takes continual maintenance.

In areas to the south, salvinia

has covered the ariel view of migrating ducks' food supply so much that the ducks sometimes do not land at all to feed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A

continued from page 1

How can these plants be eradicated? Some suggestions offered are: clean off boats when taking them out of lakes or bayous, and lay plants on the ground to dry out. Empty bait buckets and live wells, leaving plants on the ground to dry. Remember that hydrilla and water hyacinth reproduce by segmentation. Chopping them up with boat propellers or other means just cause

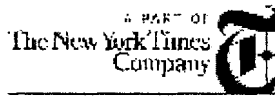
hundreds of more plants to be created.

These three non-native plants and many others have provided hard-learned lessons in the dangers of introducing "unknown quantities" into local ecosystems. Effected states of Texas, Louisiana and Florida spend millions of dollars each year attempting to control the problem.

STRANGLEHOLD

Cajun Gazette Pierre Part, LA

Sept. 26, 2001

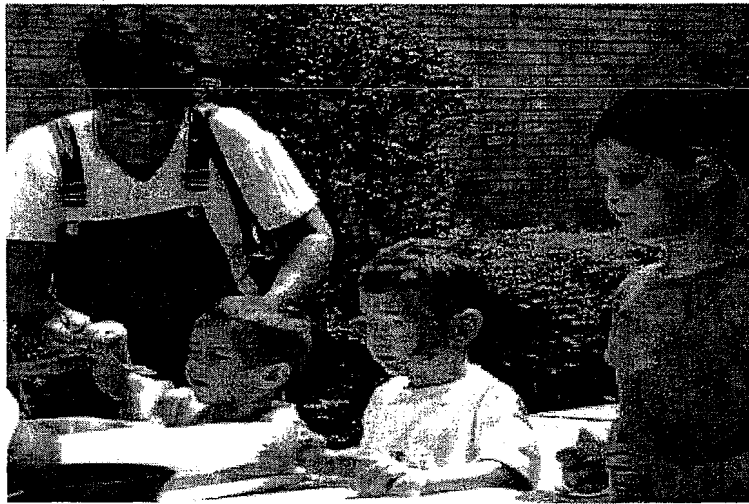


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Partners



Staff photo by Abby Tabor

Ecology fest

Diane Aucoin of Donner, left, and her nephews, Opie Adams, 4, and Chase Adams, 5, were among the many who gathered at the sand art booth at Saturday's fifth annual La Fete d'Ecologie held at Peltier Park. [Click here for story.](#)

Ecology lesson for day, lifetime

Scores of people came out Saturday to learn more about the ecology, inform the public about the environment in which they live and to just enjoy themselves.

NSU gets first win of year

It wasn't pretty, but it was a hard fought win for the Nicholls State Colonels.



[Go to the top of the page](#)



ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS

ANEP UPDATE
September 2001

NEP NEWS

In recognition of National Estuaries Day, the **Mass. Bays NEP** prepared and distributed a "Celebrate the Bays" calendar of events happening throughout the 49-town/city coastal region. Highlighted events included whale watches, river cruises, birding trips, lighthouse tours and musical events that encourage the public to "Get down to where the rivers meet the Bays", and have some fun in their coastal area! In conjunction with this, the MBP contributed to various regional "volunteer appreciation" events and local governance committee meetings to thank our volunteers for their invaluable work in supporting the Program's goals and initiatives.

The **Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP)** is partnering with the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in conducting a boat tour of the Rachel Carson component of the NERR site in Beaufort, North Carolina on October 30th, 2001. Participants include APNEP Regional Councils and the Coordinating Council members as well as media representatives. The tour entitled: "Living Intertidally" focuses on learning about intertidal life and features hands-on opportunities. Following the boat tour, a private archaeological update pertaining to the artifacts recovered from Blackbeard's ship, the "Queen Anne's Revenge" (sunk in Beaufort Inlet) will occur at the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort, NC.

The **San Juan Bay Estuary Program** would like to introduce its new website. The address is: <http://www.estuariosanjuan.org>. Please visit their site to learn more about the San Juan Bay NEP.

The National Geographic film crew visited the **Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary** and other wetlands adjacent to the Mississippi River to learn more about the problem of land loss and the grass roots and regional efforts to address their critical problem of coastal wetland loss. "This is the worst problem we've seen and we have been around the world twice." That was the sentiment in April when the National Geographic film crew from England and Australia came to Louisiana to film a segment focusing on Louisiana's coastal wetland loss problem. The magnitude and complexity of the problem astounded the crew. The program, "Earth Pulse", was aired on the National Geographic Channel (Direct TV Channel 276) on September 29, 2001. It focused on how communities battle environmental problems in their own backyards. For more information please contact Sandra Helmuth at (504) 447-0868 or (800) 259-0869.

The **Tampa Bay Estuary Program** and a host of partner organizations have received a major grant of nearly \$150,000 to assess why seagrasses in some parts of Tampa Bay are not recovering despite improvements in water quality in areas such as the western shoreline of Old Tampa Bay, where some 1,368 acres of seagrasses disappeared between 1996-1999. Specific components of the research project include: 1) intensive water quality monitoring to determine whether water clarity is significantly different in problem areas; 2) intensive seagrass monitoring of reference and problem sites to assess whether the type, density and abundance of seagrasses differs from among those areas, and if the differences are related to water quality; 3) analysis of historical maps and photographs to determine whether gains and losses are related to land use changes in problem areas; 4) use of a sophisticated computer model to determine whether wave energy is impairing seagrass growth, and whether creation of offshore sandbars to blunt the impacts of those waves is a potential solution; and 5) experimental seagrass plantings to assess which transplant methods are most successful, and what specific physical, chemical or biological factors limit the success of those transplants.

The 2nd Annual Osprey Sprint Triathlon will be held October 6, 2001 to benefit the **Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation**. The sprint distance triathlon includes a half-mile swim in Chincoteague Bay, a 15.2-mile bike course and a 3.4-mile run on the roads surrounding the area. The course meanders through the

rural countryside of southern Worcester County across from Assateague Island. Proceeds from entrance fees and a matching fund contribution of up to \$30,000 from the Bacardi Family Foundation will help raise money for the Coastal Bays Foundation. The foundation needs at least 50 volunteers to help direct traffic, paint numbers on runners and give out water and direct racers. Examples of Corporate donors for the fundraiser are: Bacardi, Macky's Bayside Bar and Grill, The Mansion House, Peninsula Bank, KCoast Surf Shop, WalMart, OC Fishing Center, Captains Galley Restaurant, Coaches Diner and South Moon Under. Last year the 187 registered participants helped make this event the Foundation's most successful fundraiser, raising some \$24,000. This year the program expects around 400 competitors. Money raised from the event pays for education programs and water quality monitoring in the coastal bays.

The **Center for the Inland Bays (Delaware Inland Bays Estuary Program)** reports: 1) the Inland Bays Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program has expanded its efforts and now includes a phytoplankton-monitoring component. Volunteer monitors have sampled and identified a number of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Inland Bays waters including *Chattonella*; and 2) the Inland Bays Tributary Action Teams (TATs) have made a number of recommendations to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) concerning revised on-site sewage systems regulations.

Indian River Lagoon Program: In August 2001, the Smithsonian Marine Station unveiled its Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit. Nestled on the shores of the Ft. Pierce Inlet, the facility features a 3,000-gallon live display of a coral reef ecosystem and several smaller displays depicting the remarkable biodiversity of the lagoon, as well as offshore and near-shore habitats. The hope is that people will leave with a better understanding of how these plants and animals live together and interact with one another. This unique marine ecosystem exhibit will help the Smithsonian Marine Station to fulfill its primary goal 'to the increase and diffusion of knowledge of marine sciences in Florida', says Troy Rice, Director of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. For more information call (561) 462-FISH.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project will provide nearly \$4 Million for Santa Monica Bay Cleanup and Education. What do an invasive non-native plant, tons of garbage, and an educational center have in common? They are the focus of 3 projects – out of a total of 16 – geared toward cleaning up Santa Monica Bay that have received funding from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project (SMBRP). In March 2000, California voters resoundingly approved Proposition 12, the "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000" which earmarked \$25 million for restoration of Santa Monica Bay as outlined in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. Approved by the California Coastal Conservancy, the funds are awarded by the SMBRP, which reviewed 63 proposals for the first round of projects. First-round funding totaled \$4 million. The second round of projects, which will get underway shortly, will award another estimated \$6 million to support worthy projects. "These funds will usher in a new era for Santa Monica Bay," said SMBRP Director Marianne Yamaguchi. She added that monies from Proposition 12 will complement additional new funding that is now available to California coastal areas through the Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI). The \$34 million plan signed recently by Governor Gray Davis will fund projects at heavily used beaches throughout the state with the poorest water quality. Thanks to both Proposition 12 and the CBI, Santa Monica Bay will soon be the recipient of \$20 million in projects that will help keep local beaches clean and improve coastal water quality. "Ten million dollars in Prop. 12 funds and another \$10 million from the CBI will ensure that our beautiful bay will continue to be a prized natural resource and a dependable cornerstone of our regional economy for years to come," said Yamaguchi.

MEETINGS

The **ANEP/NEP/EPA Fall Meeting** will be held November 7 – 10, 2001 in St. Pete Beach, Florida. For a Registration form and other information please e-mail drvolk@erols.com or visit www.anep-usa.org

ANEP Tel: (703) 333-6150 ANEP FAX: (703) 333-6151 E-mail: drvolk@erols.com

Please visit ANEP's website: www.anep-usa.org

Daily Comet

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Ecology lesson for day, lifetime

By Eloria Newell James
Staff Writer

Scores of people came out Saturday to learn more about the ecology, inform the public about the environment in which they live and to just enjoy themselves.

Organizers reported this year's crowd of people attending the fifth annual La Fete d'Ecologie at Peltier Park tripled last year's numbers.

Diane Aucoin of Donner said she came out to the activity and brought her nephews – Opie Adams, 4, and Chase Adams, 5 – to learn and have fun.

"We came last year and it was so beautiful, so we came back again this year," Aucoin said. "You get to see different people and activities. It's fun and you get to learn a lot. It's a wonderful event."

Eleanor George, Audrey Callais and Barbara Chaisson, all of Cut Off, attended the festival together because they wanted to support the event and to tell others about their environment. They are members of the Association for Family Communication and Education and said the festival was a great place to support their cause.

"It's also a wonderful family outing," Chaisson said. "It's a great place to be."

Lynette Cortez, festival chairman, described the day filled with activities as "great."

Cortez said the attendance this year easily tripled last year's 5,000 attendance.

"We've had a wonderful turnout and something going on everywhere. It's been a great day. I'm trying to bring a little of all our cultures to Thibodaux," Cortez said. "We have a lot going on in South Louisiana."

Cortez said education is the main purpose for the festival.

"Education is the key," she said. "With all the activities we have going on, it's all about educating our young people. Twenty percent of our population is our children and 100 percent of that number is our future. Therefore, we need to preserve this for them. It's going to take education "

The Davis Pond Project, hurricanes and preparing for flooding were among the many topics discussed at the festival, which contained a variety of entertainment and activity booths.

Jack Fredine, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the \$106.8 million Davis Pond project is expected to make a major improvement in the area.

Fredine said the project includes a structure that will divert fresh water from the Mississippi River into the Barataria Basin. It is expected to divert up to 10,000 cubic feet of river water from floodgates near Luling, under U.S. 90 and south into marshes and swamps roughly from Belle Chasse to the eastern bank of Bayou Lafourche.

The work, which began in 1996, aims to reduce salt levels from the Gulf of Mexico that have helped destroy the freshwater marshes, along with fishing and wildlife habitats.

In addition, the project will restore fresh water cut off from the marshes after levees were built in the 1930s and 1940s to protect residents from Mississippi River flooding.


The project will have its biggest effect around Lakes Salvador and Cataouatche in Jefferson and St. Charles parishes. But areas as far south as Little Lake in Lafourche Parish should notice a difference.

The injection of fresh water will eventually increase duck habitat, improve fishing and boost oyster grounds, though some farmers have been dislocated and pushed further south. He said it will, however, likely have no impact on saltwater intrusion that has affected the drinking-water supply along southern Bayou Lafourche. Other projects are being planned to address that.

The project is expected to affect a 1,200-square-mile area – roughly the size of Rhode Island. But it will only put a minor dent in Louisiana's coastal loss.

"Predictions are that this project will reduce land loss by 1 square mile per year," Fredine told the crowd. "We're losing 11 square miles a year in the Barataria Basin."

Windell Curole, general manger of the South Lafourche



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Want to voice your opinion on proposed water project?

By **KATINA A. GAUDET**
NYT Regional Newspapers

October 20, 2001

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THIBODAUX – Coastal advocates are asking local residents to voice their opinions about a controversial project aimed at replenishing area marshes with fresh water.

The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water Diversion project would increase the amount of water from the Mississippi River that flows into the bayou.

Last week, members of the State Wetlands Authority voted unanimously to allocate \$4.5 million of the \$9 million needed to get the design and engineering work under way. Local and state officials are hoping for a similar vote when the federal task force handling the project meets Thursday.

Locally, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is forming an action team that will contribute local input as the project nears the next phase.

"We have been involved with all these discussions and have been keeping a close watch on all that's been happening on Bayou Lafourche," said Kerry St. Pe', the program's director. "An action team is the perfect vehicle to look deeper into this issue and come up with consensus."

The estimated cost of the project, which would divert 1,000 cubic feet per second of fresh water into Bayou Lafourche, has risen considerably from the initial estimate of \$24 million.

Troy Hill of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project's sponsor, said the low-end estimate is now at \$78 million.

The increase is due to the need to dredge the channel. Researchers at Louisiana State University estimate 4 million cubic yards of sediment must be dredged from Bayou Lafourche to protect bayouside residents from flooding.

"We're at a critical time in Louisiana; we have to do what's right from Donaldsonville to Leeville," said Windell Curole, chairman of the Barataria Program's management conference. "We see this (team) as either stamping agreement or saying 'We can't go that far.' Or we might not be able to agree but come up with some benefits and negatives and then let the public decide what's good or bad."



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Agency joins study of plan to divert river

By MIKE DUNNE
Advocate staff writer

The State Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority on Wednesday committed to paying half of a \$9 million study that will determine if Mississippi River water can be diverted into Bayou Lafourche.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been pushing a coastal restoration project to divert fresh water from the river at Donaldsonville into Bayou Lafourche, which was the main outlet of the Mississippi about 1,000 years ago.

The bayou is now cut off from the river by the levee system. A pumping station puts about 100-180 cubic feet of river water into the bayou per day.

The proposed diversion would put about 1,000 cubic feet of water a day into the bayou year-round, said Len Bahr, the director of the Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs and chairman of the wetlands authority.

Diversion into Bayou Lafourche would help ensure fresh water for 300,000 people and replenish disappearing marshes, he said.

The authority passed a resolution to spend \$4.5 million, or half of the cost of doing the engineering and design study on hooking Bayou Lafourche back up to the Mississippi.

The other half of the engineering and design cost would be paid for by the federal-state Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act program, the primary coastal restoration effort that spends about \$45 million annually on projects in Louisiana.

The Bayou Lafourche diversion project cost could range between \$60 million and \$90 million. The cost won't be known until after engineering and design work, Bahr said.

The overall cost would be broken down by the benefit derived according to the study, Bahr said.

Assistant Natural Resources Secretary Randy Hanchey said the federal-state Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration

Act will only pay its 85 percent cost share for the part of the project that benefits wetlands. Other benefits from the project would be paid for by other state, federal and local agencies, Hanchey said.

Several legislators spoke on behalf of the project before a vote was taken.

State Sen. Reggie Dupre, D-Montegut, said at one point last summer 40,000 people were drinking water with too much salt in it. Some companies laid off employees because of poor water quality.

"We have been suffering from salt-water intrusion for many years," Dupre told the authority.

Pumping more fresh water into Bayou Lafourche should keep salt water from moving up from the Gulf of Mexico, EPA says.

Further study will make the project more acceptable to people, said State Rep. Roy Quezaire, D-Donaldsonville. "Community education is paramount," he said.

Sam Becker, an EPA official who serves on the federal-state Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act task force, said the federal-state program approved the project in concept in 1996. Funding was hung up as the project was studied and further refined, he said.

When first approved, the projected cost was \$24.5 million to divert 2,000 cubic feet of water per second down the bayou seasonally. That level of diversion caused concern, and the planned flow was halved.

But that didn't cut the cost. By 1998, the price tag, including dredging and real estate acquisitions, hopped up to \$58 million.

Engineers have decided that 1,000 feet of water per second can be sent down the bayou.

To do that, three miles of bulkheads would be needed to keep the banks from eroding and 6.7 million cubic yards of sediment would have to be dredged from the bayou so it could carry the increased flow.

Now the price is \$78 million to build, operate and maintain the diversion.

State Rep. Loulan Pitre, R-Cut Off, said the diversion project is important to his constituents, who are on the southern end.

"We view this project as the absolute test of whether this state is serious about dealing with coastal restoration," he said. "If we can't tackle this, we can't tackle the problem."

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Locals attend task force meeting

By **Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS – The Bayou Region was well represented Thursday at the federal task force meeting that propelled a local freshwater diversion project forward.

Many locals showed up to voice their support of the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Diversion project and to urge members of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration task force to proceed with funding for design and engineering work on that project. Task force members voted unanimously to proceed.

“The natives are getting restless,” said state Rep. Loulan Pitre Jr., R-Cut Off, on the mounting urgency for the project’s progression. “Not only does this project have to go forward, but it has to go forward urgently. The political and symbolic significance of your vote here today cannot be overstated ... We want our bayou back.”

Tom Bingham, manager of Valentine Paper, said the mill is once again contending with high levels of chloride this year in Bayou Lafourche.

Chloride levels have risen to 850 parts per million during the past two weeks, but the mill can produce its specialty grades of paper with water from Bayou Lafourche only when chloride levels are below 200 parts per million.

“This is a crucial first step,” said Bingham of the task force’s vote. “It’s very important for the state Legislature and state government to take up this position, and they have done that.”

Earlier, state Rep. Roy Quezairre Jr., D-Donaldsonville, pledged his support of the project some of his constituents initially viewed with some trepidation.

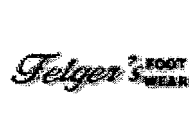
In that area, the bayou is much narrower than at its end in South Lafourche and it has been filling with sediment, leaving the upper channel much shallower.

Officials hope the project will benefit 85,000 acres of marshes, mostly in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes, and save 1,000 acres from loss. It would also, proponents say, help the area combat its problems with saltwater intrusion and ensure a reliable drinking water supply.

Meanwhile, state legislators representing the areas in the project – four senators and seven representatives – are working to establish their own task force to further the project, said state Rep. Loulan Pitre Jr., vice chairman of the Barataria program's management conference.

"We want to keep our eyes on this and build a coalition from Donaldsonville (south) so when there is a push for funding for this project, we can make sure that happens," said Pitre.

For information or to join the action team, the Barataria program, based at Nicholls State University, at 447-0868.



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some extent, though more is needed, and plans are in the works to rebuild the live oak and hackberry forests that once dominated the island.

The Nature Conservancy already owns 13 acres of forest on the island and holds cooperative agreements with ExxonMobil and Louisiana State University for another 36 acres, which are being reforested.

The Nature Conservancy is also working with the Port Commission to expand its operations.

Landry said last year's plantings, because of drought and other conditions, resulted only in a 20 percent survival rate, but that this year's plantings are doing considerably better.

Katina A. Gaudet is a staff writer for the Daily Comet. She can be reached at 448-7614 or by e-mail at katina.gaudet@dailycomet.com.

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after a time, the islands themselves begin to disappear, leaving only a shell of their former selves.

The erosion of Grand Terre is not a recent phenomenon, workshop speakers said, and for some time now, state and federal agencies have worked not only to stop land loss on the island, but to protect structures of historical significance such as Fort Livingston, a Civil War-era fort there.

"We've found records of the enlisted men stationed there complaining of water coming into the fort," said Joan Exnicious, an archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Along with erosion chipping away at its borders, the fort, which was abandoned in 1880, has experienced some subsidence as well.

Though the fort itself acts as a hard structure protecting the island somewhat from erosion, erosion has still had its way, compromising the integrity of the island and its many historical remnants, such as the remains of the fort, the Jean Lafitte settlement and Forstall Plantation, an old sugar plantation on the island.

State and federal agencies have worked to complete restoration projects on the island, and the corps and the state have been working to build an underwater structure to protect the fort.

Though projects aimed at stopping land loss on the islands are beneficial and necessary, workshop speakers said, projects on one barrier island can often have an adverse effect on a nearby island, making restoration efforts all the more difficult.

"When we do something that has positive impacts on the erosion rates in Grand Isle, that has negative effects on the erosion rates of Grand Terre," said Schexnayder.

Some projects combating erosion of Grand Isle are its breakwaters along the beach side of the island, which the corps constructed, and the sand dune parallel to the beach that acts as a levee.

Factoring in annual maintenance to date, the cost of constructing and maintaining the sand dune exceeds more than \$30 million, said Irvin Richoux, president of the Grand Isle Port Commission. Each year, Grand Isle spends about \$50,000 to maintain the sand dune.

Jean Landry, a Grand Isle resident who heads the Nature Conservancy of Louisiana's field office on the island, said the rock jetties at the state park have helped with erosion to

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State knows what solution is to erosion

By **Katina A. Gaudet**
Staff Writer

GRAND ISLE – Coastal restoration advocates say the state is not in the dark about what it would take to counter its ongoing land loss problem.

“We know what the solution is, (but) we need the will, the money and the cooperation to make it happen,” said Rebecca Triche, deputy director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana of Coast 2050, a state and federal plan for comprehensive restoration of Louisiana’s coastline. “This is meant to educate people about coastal erosion and about what we can do about it to achieve some sustainability of our coast.”

“This” is one of a series of coastal wetlands workshops that the coalition has organized and the Barataria-Terrebonne national Estuary Program and Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs have funded.

The workshop, which was held Saturday and centered on South Louisiana’s barrier islands, was the first coalition workshop to focus on Grand Isle – the state’s only inhabited barrier island – and its neighbor Grand Terre.

The two islands were once a part of a large chain of barrier islands protecting South Louisiana, but because of changes in hydrology, they and others are experiencing high rates of erosion, with Grand Terre, once the home of the pirate Jean Lafitte, now separated from itself by large passes cutting through the island.

“Grand Terre used to be bigger than Grand Isle, and 200 years ago, Grand Terre was all one island, but the island is taking a beating from both its front and back sides,” said Mark Schexnayder of the LSU AgCenter. Barrier islands are the end results of deltaic processes – the building up a land over time as rivers deposit sediment to create a delta, and when a river changes its course, the once-active delta begins to separate from its barrier islands to the south, and

State understands ongoing land-loss problem

Grand Isle

Coastal restoration advocates say the state is not in the dark about what it would take to counter its ongoing land-loss problem.

"We know what the solution is, (but) we need the will, the money and the cooperation to make it happen," said Rebecca Triche, deputy director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana of Coast 2050, a state and federal plan for comprehensive restoration of Louisiana's coastline. "This is meant to educate people about coastal erosion and about what we can do about it to achieve some sustainability of our coast."

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The erosion of Grand Terre is not a recent phenomenon, workshop speakers said, and for some time now, state and federal agencies have worked not only to stop land loss on the island, but to protect structures of historical significance such as Fort Livingston, a Civil War-era fort there.

By The Associated Press

Agency hopes pirogue trip will raise awareness of resource

LATINA A. GAUDET
Regional Newspapers

Local residents can soon see this from a different perspective, the area's first explorers did in Bayou Lafourche.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation and Acadian Wetlands Cultural Center, Jean Lafitte National Historic and Preserve are planning to lead residents "Back to the Bayou" through a five-day pirogue excursion in Bayou Lafourche.

"We're trying to get people to see the bayou from the bayou's perspective," said Melanie Boulet, a project assistant with the Bayou Lafourche Initiative. "We're trying to slow peo-

If you go

What: Bayou Lafourche pirogue excursion
When: Nov. 2-6
Where: Donaldsonville to Larose
How: Call Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at 1-877-ESTUARY to register

ple down from their modern, hectic lifestyles and focus their attention on one of our major natural resources."

"Back to the Bayou" is one aspect of the Bayou Lafourche Initiative, a program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program. Organizers are hoping the Bayou Lafourche

The pirogue event is one of four being funded through a grant from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Initiative will bring together people whose lives are affected and interconnected by Bayou Lafourche to restore the bayou and help ensure its survival. "We want to get people's attention back on the bayou and have them recognize both the beauty and the value of it as our source of drinking water and a source of recreation and industry further south," said Deborah Schultz, formal education coordinator at the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP).

Another aim is to illustrate the differences between the areas where Bayou Lafourche begins in Ascension Parish and ends in southern Lafourche, giving people the opportunity to see and appreciate those differences.

"The bayou is really different in the northern portion from the southern portion," said Schultz. "The northern portion is very scenic, wooded and serene, but as we go further south, we really begin to see the character changing as we start seeing the fishing boats. There's more evidence of

the bayou as a working bayou." And although Bayou Lafourche is narrow in Donaldsonville, where a set of siphons connects it to the Mississippi River. It widens as it eventually makes its way into the salt marshes of South Lafourche.

The pirogue event is one of four being funded through a grant from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Other projects include collecting oral histories at schools along Bayou Lafourche, organizing a photography contest and a symposium to establish what people want the bayou to look like within the next 20 years.

The pirogue trip, the first of these events, will take place from Nov. 2 to Nov. 6, and will begin with a rally in

PIROGUE, continue on 41

PIROGUE *Continued from 1B*

Donaldsonville, a tour of the pump station there that controls the flow of fresh water from the Mississippi River into the bayou and a trip to the Sunshine Festival.

The paddling legs of the trip begin Nov. 3. The legs will consist of:

- Nov. 3: 16 miles from Donaldsonville to Napoleonville;
- Nov. 4: 16 miles from Napoleonville to Thibodaux;
- Nov. 5: 19 miles from Thibodaux to Lockport;
- Nov. 6: 11 miles from Lockport to Larose.

Along the way, participants, who will work at a pace of about three miles per hour, will stop at various locations for food, culture and entertainment, including stops for talks on native plants and wildlife, farming along the bayou's banks, traditional boat building and Cajun music.

In Thibodaux, participants will stop at the Acadian Wetlands Cultural Center, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve for local musician Leroy Martin's "History of Cajun Music."

"This is all about what our mission is," said Angela Rathle, site supervisor of the Acadian Wetlands Cultural Center. "We're about preserving the culture and natural history of the Mississippi Delta, and this revisiting of Bayou Lafourche as being of cultural and historical importance is exactly in line with what we're trying to do."

The bayou has, in recent years, been the object of cleanup efforts, from the Greater Lafourche Port Commission removing derelict vessels to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District working to get residents to clean up the bayou to anti-litter groups such as Les Reflections du Bayou cleaning up its banks and roadsides.

"This is a public awareness adventure to highlight Bayou Lafourche as an important feature in our environment and our community that people have ignored and, in some manner, abused," said Cullen Curole, administration of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation. "We want to highlight both its beauty and the abuses to encourage people to take an active role in protect-

ing the bayou."

Those involved say much more attention to Bayou Lafourche is needed given its problems with silt and aquatic vegetation hindering water flow downstream and the area's need for increased water flow down Bay Lafourche.

"The bayou has evolved to what it now by just things happening, without any real thought on our part," said Windell Curole, chairman of BTNEP management conference. "Hopefully this trip will get people looking at the bayou again (in terms of) the most benefits we can make of it for the people of Donaldsonville, the people who live along the banks and the people who live all the way to Leeville."

Organizers also hope the upcoming pirogue trip will lead to more opportunities for the area in terms of ecotourism.

"This area is not developed for ecotourism, and it could be," said Boulet.

Staff at the Lafourche Parish Tour Commission in Raceland say tourists frequently ask if they can rent canoes to tour area waterways, but said the area does not really have those outlets.

John Steibe, chairman of the River Division of the American Canoe Association, the division under which Louisiana falls, said his organization looking at establishing a program to classify waterways as canoeing trails.

Steibe, and possibly others with the organization, will participate on the trip.

If Bayou Lafourche were to be classified as a canoeing trail, it would help establish canoeing ventures in the area.

"This is still very preliminary. The first trip is to take a look at the area and see if there is the possibility of it becoming a canoe trail," said Steibe. "We're interested in helping projects like the along and working with the community to help people reclaim their waterway. Bayou Lafourche is a big part of the history of that region, and it should be reclaimed, preserved and enjoyed by people."

For more information about registering for the event, contact the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation at 877-ESTUARY.

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana 2001 Coastal Stewardship Awards, 4-27-01 / P4271628

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