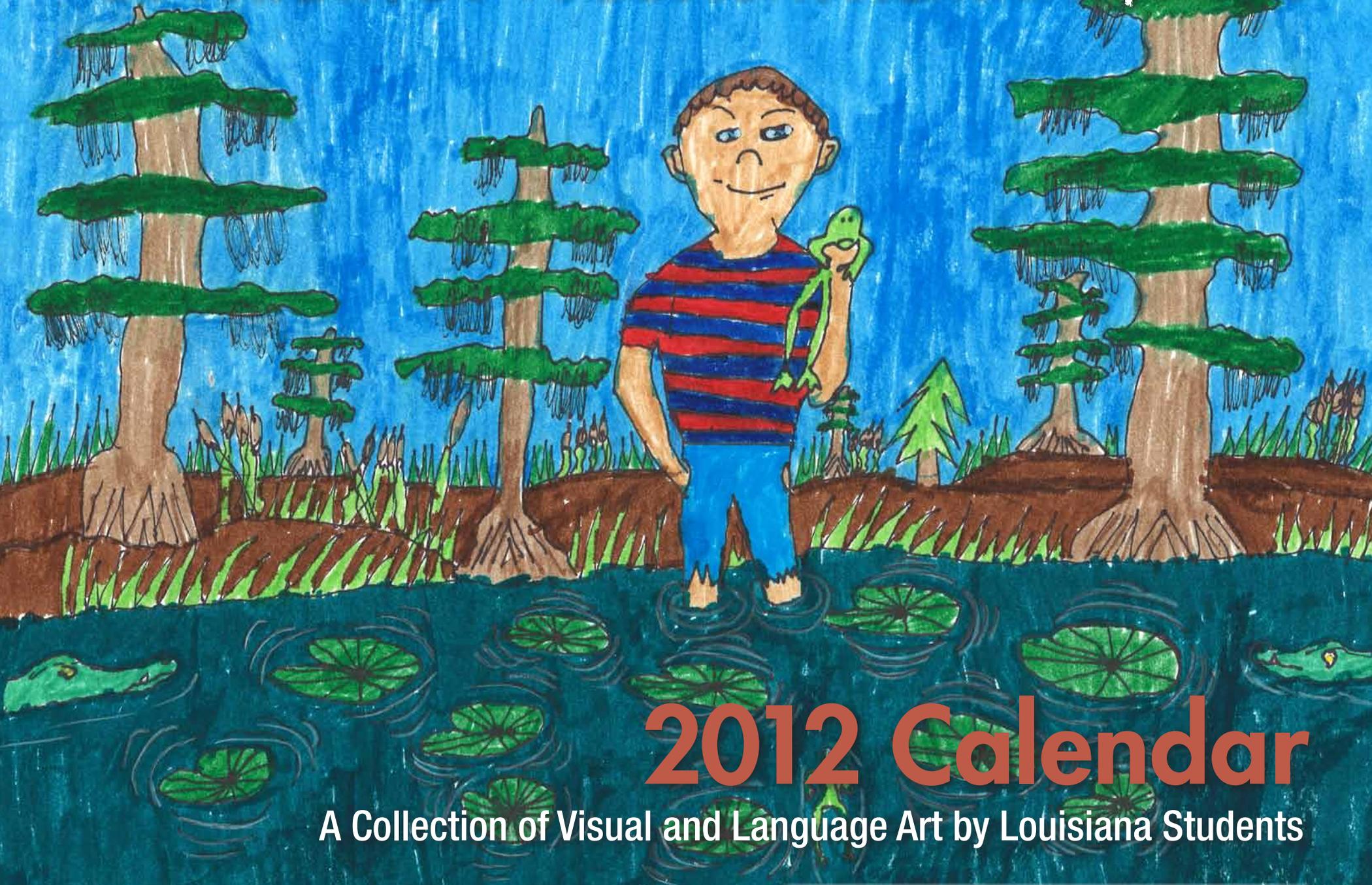


LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience



2012 Calendar

A Collection of Visual and Language Art by Louisiana Students

Artist: **Haggai Goudeau**, Western Heights Elementary, Westlake

Nature in Louisiana

Playing outside in Louisiana is fun. I like watching black birds, because there are lots of them here. I like taking nature walks to look at all of the different flowers and leaves. My favorite flowers are roses and buttercups. I like to watch butterflies. I like to ride my bike to feed the ducks. I like to catch lizards and dragonflies with my Paw Paw and let them go.

Taking care of nature is important. When I see trash outside, I pick it up and throw it away. I take care of hurt bugs by scooping them up with leaves and putting them in a safe place until they are better.

Author: **Eva Rykowsky**, Homeschooled, Geismar

Louisiana Outdoors: A Beautiful Experience

Lurking alligators peek over the water's edge.
Oak tree branches naturally taper the earthy ground.
Unique, mesmerizing lightening bugs fill the night sky.
Instinctive blue crabs softly slide into the muddy marshes.
Savory crawfish delight people from all over.
Incredibly high-pitched harmonious locust fills the evening air.
Appealing moss falls effortlessly from nearby trees.
Nestled bellowing bullfrogs awaken the swamp with life.
Astute brown pelicans dive deep into the gulf for food.

Author: **Jadeyn Bourque**, Fenton Elementary, Fenton

Louisiana Wetlands

Oh! Louisiana Wetlands, how fun and beautiful you are.
Your cypress trees grown high and your rivers grow wide.
Your animals are unique.
Your waters are filled with fish and alligators and snakes.
You protect Louisiana from hurricane surges,
And because of your protection, you are left bare and empty.
You are disappearing.
Your water is now filled with black oil and your lands are eroding away.
Your animals are now covered in tar because of BP.
They are losing their homes because of erosion.
You need help but no one will listen.
People don't realize you're important to the community.
They must be informed of the risks you take to protect us from hurricanes.
They don't realize your help to other animals besides humans.
You are beautiful and fun but you need help!

Author: **Alyssa Giron**, Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies, Metairie

I LOVE LOUISIANA

I love all the animals:

gator, egret, catfish, frog, and snake.

I love all the trees:

magnolia, pine, cypress, and oak.

I love all the plants:

moss, lichen, mushroom, and azalea.

I love all the food:

gumbo, jambalaya, beignets, and red beans.

I love all the activities:

4-H, rodeo, hunting, and fishing.

I love all the places:

plantations, festivals, my school, and New Orleans.

I LOVE LOUISIANA!!!

Author: **Owen Brouillette**, Bains Elementary, St. Francisville

A Perfect Swampy Paradise

The moss hangs down from the trees
Creating a nest for squirrels and birds
Making Louisiana the perfect swampy paradise
for bird watchers and animal lovers

The waters flow through lakes and rivers
Creating a home for fish and seafood
Making Louisiana the perfect swampy paradise
for fishers and crawfish catchers

The sun shines on summer days
Creating a place for children to play
Making Louisiana the perfect swampy paradise
for kids of all ages

The wind blows strong over the lakes
Creating ripples of waves for boatmen
Making Louisiana the perfect swampy paradise
for sailboats and water skiers

The frosts are wild and abundant
Creating hideaways for deer, rabbits, and ducks
Making Louisiana the perfect paradise
for hunters of all kinds

The outdoors are gorgeous and endless
Creating the sportsman's paradise
Making Louisiana the perfect swampy paradise
for everyone in this beautiful state

Author: **Sarah Bond**, Mount Carmel Academy, Metairie

A Taste of Louisiana

When I looked up taste in the dictionary, it said that taste is the ability to recognize and appreciate something that is excellent. It also said taste means to have a flavor or to experience the four basic tastes, and the four basic tastes are sweet, bitter, sour, and salty. Well, to me, Louisiana's outdoors fits all of these definitions. But I did not know this at first. Now I do because I learned more about my state this year in my Social Studies class. That is why I entered this contest. I wanted everyone to know how good our state is. I know, because I have experienced some outdoor things.

I have experienced some sweet times in Louisiana's outdoors. It was sweet when I went with Mrs. Moore, my Social Studies' teacher, to Lacassine to plant trees. It was sweet to look out of my car window and see all of the tall Christmas tree farms in North Louisiana.

But don't believe Louisiana is all sweet. I have experienced some sour things too. Oh, you should have seen the sour looks the alligators gave me at the Louisiana Oil and Gas Park in Jennings, Louisiana, and I was just trying to feed them. And then there was some sour-faced crawfish in Cameron that tried to snap my finger. They were almost as bad as the crabs that were crawling around on the beach.

When I went to the Cameron docks, I experienced some bitter and salty things too. The wind was bitter, but I didn't mind. I wanted to see how my Pawpaw brought in his oysters. I liked being that close to the water. I liked the salty taste of the wind. And I even tasted a live salty oyster. See, I told you Louisiana has some flavor.

Before I learned so much about Louisiana this year, I always thought our vacations to other states were pretty exciting. But now I know our state has a lot to offer, too. I can have an exciting vacation right here at home. I read in the Official Louisiana Tour Guide book that we have state parks, nature trails, wildlife and fisheries, vineyards, waterways, gardens and so much more. And one day soon, I plan to take a ride down the Mississippi River. And I want to explore the Louisiana African-American Heritage Trail that begins in Shreveport, Louisiana.

So as you can see, Louisiana outdoors does fit the definitions. And we do have a lot to offer. I hope other people will come and see everything wonderful about Louisiana. Louisiana outdoors is a beautiful experience. They will have a wonderful time!

Author: **Allison Fountain**, Bishop Nolan Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles

Louisiana Outdoors

I like hunting:

squirrel,

deer,

rabbit,

duck,

and

alligator.

I love hunting!

I like sports:

football,

baseball,

and

soccer.

I love sports!

Author: **James Couhig**, Bains Elementary, St. Francisville

Cat Island Wildlife Refuge

Dad drove us all in his truck down a bumpy road. On the way we saw a blue heron wading in a ditch. Dad parked the truck at the trail head. There was a brown metal sign that said, "Big Cypress Trail."

My mom grabbed our icy cold water bottles. Then we began our hike. It was quiet and dark as we entered. The trees were huge. Only a few rays of sunlight shone down through all the cypress branches. There were some cypress knees as tall as each member of my family. The cypress knees looked like an army of silent brown gnomes. I could hear my feet crunch on the dry leaves on the trail. I kept expecting something magical like a forest fairy flitter by.

We all spotted a tree that had an opening that a person could fit inside. We thought it was the grand champion cypress. But it wasn't. After standing inside and taking pictures in the tree, we kept walking down the path. I stopped and said, "Look! It's the grand champion cypress!" It was big all right! Very big! My dad, my mom, and I stood hand in hand with outstretched arms like a chain of paper dolls and we still weren't as wide as the grand champion cypress tree.

We had a beautiful, magical experience exploring the Louisiana outdoors at Cat Island Wildlife Refuge.

Author: **Janae D'Arensbourg**, Zachary Elementary, Zachary

Senses of Louisiana

Hear.

The sound of water lapping against the shore.
Crickets making soft music that mixes with the songs of the birds as they effortlessly glide around the serene river.
Quiet soothing breeze as it gently sways the moss that hangs passionately from the tree limbs.

See.

Shades of green perfectly layered to frame the blue sky.
Fields of flowers stretching for miles.
Graceful horses carelessly grazing around the rusty Ford truck that has made its home among the dandelions.

Savor.

Corn and potatoes lay amongst the boiled crawfish.
Shrimp, crabs and catfish provide an unyielding limit for family gatherings.
Undeniable flavors that can be tasted in each dish, providing a palette of diverse essence.

Smell.

Sweet aroma of freshly cut hay passes through the fields and into the pine trees lining the dusty dirt roads.
The evening rain that cools down the cows slumbering in the pasture.

Comfort.

Picnic tables, pools, and shade from the old oak provide a day of resting and visiting.
Hammocks hold relaxation in their woven arms.
Cypress rocking chairs line the front porch offering a peaceful rest.

Louisiana lullaby.

Author: **Tristyn Pippin**, W. W. Lewis Middle, Sulphur



Artist: **Alyssa Parker**, Benjamin Franklin High School, New Orleans

January

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day	2	3	4 Isaac Newton's Birthday	5	6	7
8	9	10 Save the Eagles Day	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 Benjamin Franklin's Birthday	18 Penguin Awareness Day	19	20	21
22	23 Chinese New Year	24	25	26	27	28 Christa McAuliffe Day
29	30 US DOE Math Science Partnership New Orleans Conference	31	<p>New Year's Green Resolution: Cancel subscriptions to unwanted hardcopy catalogs. Opt out of subscriptions and other postal solicitations by visiting: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt063.shtm</p>			

2012



North

Look
beautiful

at our
hand

South

Artist: **Madden Gleason**, Zachary Elementary, Zachary

February

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Keep the heat in. As much as 25% of your home's heat can escape through leaky windows. Insulating your drapery can reduce window heat loss by half!</p>			1	2	3	4
			<p>National Freedom Day US DOE Math Science Partnership New Orleans Conference</p>	<p>Groundhog Day</p>	<p>Regional Hurricane Bowl</p>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Super Bowl XLVI</p>			<p>Boy Scout Day</p>		<p>Eagle Expo</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Lincoln and Darwin's Birthdays</p>		<p>Valentine's Day</p>	<p>Random Acts of Kindness Week</p>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p>President's Day National FFA Week</p>	<p>Mardi Gras</p>	<p>Washington's Birthday Ash Wednesday</p>			
26	27	28	29	<p>Black History Month</p>		
			<p>Leap Day</p>			

2012



Artist: **Cody Hunter**, Thomas Jefferson High School, Terrytown

March

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Great American Cleanup Month <i>Recycle, Freecycle, eCycle...oh my!</i> There are many opportunities for us to recycle, reduce, and reuse anything from clothes to iPods. Search the Internet for a program near you.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 National Ocean Science Bowl
			Purim		Environmental Education Symposium	
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day Swamp Stomp, Nicholls State Univ.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		First Day of Spring		World Water Day		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		State Science & Engineering Fair, Baton Rouge				2012 NSTA Conference, Indianapolis



Artist: **Veronica Sturman**, Homeschooled, Natchitoches

April

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April Fools' Day Palm Sunday — NSTA Conference, Indianapolis	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 Passover Begins
8 Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14 The Great Louisiana Birdfest
15 Income Taxes Due	16 National EE Week	17	18	19	20 National Ocean Science Bowl Baltimore, MD	21 Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration
22 Earth Day Louisiana Earth Day	23 Youth Wetlands Week	24	25	26 LA Environmental Awareness Student Art & Language Arts Contest Deadline	27 National Arbor Day	28 National Science & Engineering Festival
29	30	Great American Cleanup Month Spring Cleaning time! When purchasing cleaners, avoid those containing phosphates. When phosphates get into rivers and lakes, they contribute to hypoxia – algae blooms which rob the water of oxygen, blocking sunlight, and ultimately killing aquatic life.				

2012



Artist: **Gabrielle Bergeron**, Homeschooled, Gonzales

May

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Waste not, want not. Eliminate impulse spending by sleeping on potential purchase decisions.		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5 Cinco de Mayo
		6	7	8 Teacher Appreciation Day	9 Teacher Appreciation Week	10 Space Day
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23 World Turtle Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Great American Cleanup Month
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Artist: **Mark Ashworth**, Westwood Elementary, Sulphur

June

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p align="center">Great Outdoors Month</p> <p>Vacation more carbon footprint friendly. When staying in a hotel, turn off lights and air-conditioning as you leave, and ask that your room towels be washed every other day, rather than daily.</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	National Fishing & Boating Week	World Environment Day			World Oceans Day	Louisiana Free Fishing Weekend
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Flag Day		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day			First Day of Summer			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	National Marine Educators Assoc. Conference, Anchorage					2012

The Curse of Mankind

The wind sweeps across the water, forming ripples. The cypress trees sway in the breeze. This secluded portion of the bayou is breathtaking. The spellbinding silence is broken by a bird's cry, and another bird's response. Even these harsh screeching sounds become milder with my surroundings. I wish the fragile beauty would survive for the future.

A few months later I returned to the breathtaking spot. I gasp in dismay when my eyes process what has happened. Litter tarnishes the once clear water. A can of soda bobs up and down in the waves. A plastic bag is snagged on one of the cypress tree's branches. A chip bag rests on one of the tree's roots. This once tranquil spot, untouched by mankind, has been destroyed. All that remains is a ghost of its beauty. The water still ripples and the trees still sway in the breeze, but the feeling of something infinitely pure has been lost.

Yet another wonder of nature has been destroyed. Once again, the curse of mankind, the fact that whatever it comes in contact with becomes corrupted, has occurred. Soon all of the world will be ruined. Sooner still, it will become irreversible. We must strive to repair what we, as a society, have destroyed. We must struggle to fix our errors and save what little remains. Or else we may lose everything.

Author: **Andrew Beams**, Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies, Metairie

Louisiana Day

*If you aren't from down here,
You wouldn't understand
The beauty of our marshes,
The uniqueness of our land.*

*But it's more than just a picture
Or an article in a brochure-
It's a symbol of survival,
The beauty after the storm.*

*It's our livelihood and encouragement
In the years when things get rough,
To carry on our traditions
And always remain tough.*

*So we'll continue to eat our gumbo
And crawfish etouffee
As we watch the sun dip down
On another beautiful Louisiana Day.*

Author: **Molly Baggett**, DeRidder High, DeRidder

July

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Reuse water. Keep a water pitcher or cleaned out milk jug near your sink to collect unused water running from the tap (i.e. waiting for cooler or warmer water). Use this to water your houseplants.			

2012

A Beautiful Experience!



August

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Back to School. Avoid plastic covers on binders and spiral notebooks; they're usually made from PVC (#3 plastic). Opt for recycled cardboard or natural fibers instead, or look for "no PVC" on the label.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Friendship Day	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Assumption Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference, New Iberia	

2012



Artist: **Brittney Tillman**, West Ouachita High School, Downs ville

September

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Make it a full load! Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Don't pre-rinse dishes – tests show pre-rinsing doesn't improve dishwasher cleaning, and you'll save as much as 20 gallons of water per load.</p>						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Grandparent's Day	10	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15 Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation Annual Beach Sweep International Coastal Cleanup Day
16 Stepfamily Day	17 Rosh Hashanah	18	19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22 National Hunting & Fishing Day First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26 Johnny Appleseed Day Yom Kippur	27	28 Native American Day	29 La Fete D'Ecologie
30						

2012



Artist: **Bailey LeBlanc**, Leonville Elementary, Port Barre

October

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Alcoa Carbon Products Month of Service	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Child Health Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	National Children's Day Columbus Day					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
●	National Earth Science Week		National Fossil Day	●	NSTA Conference, Louisville	●
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
●	National Chemistry Week	National Mole Day				●
28	29	30	31	Have a "Green" Halloween! Pick up pumpkins, gourds and hay bales from local farms or businesses to create a haunting scene. Reuse existing Halloween decorations from year to year.		
			Halloween			

2012



Artist: **Emily Hart**, Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School, Lake Charles

November

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Holidays are great for family gatherings and are better for the environment, too! Cooking or entertaining for larger groups is more efficient, with very little carbon impact per person and a lot less expensive.</p>				1	2	3
				All Saints Day	NSTA Conference, Atlanta	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Savings Time Ends	Joint Math and Science Conference, Shreveport	Election Day				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Veterans' Day				America Recycles Day Islamic New Year		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Yellow Rails & Rice Festival					

2012



Artist: **LaMya Ellis**, Port Allen Elementary, Port Allen

December

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Wrap it up with environmental flair! Metallic and plastic Christmas ribbon/wrapping paper takes a long time to decompose and gives off toxic gases when burned. Look for plainer wraps made from recycled paper and use reusable fabric ribbon instead of plastic bows.</p>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				<p>●—————NSTA Conference, Las Vegas—————●</p>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Hanukkah Begins						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						First Day of Winter
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Christmas	Kwanza Begins			
30	31					

2012

Life on the Bayou

The grey pelican in a blue sky,
An orange sunset before the black of night,
The green cypress swamp with the trees that reach high,
This is the life on the bayou.

The cattails sway gently in the breeze,
Lake Pontchartrain's waves roll with ease,
A long dirt road, covered with trees,
This is the life on the bayou.

A red drum jumping through the air,
A flock of ducks flying without a care,
A water moccasin giving hunters a scare,
This is the life on the bayou.

You feel the humidity you feel the heat,
The gnats attack with no relief,
Some would leave, but our homes we keep,
This is the life on the bayou.

A powerful storm and it's all washed away,
"Louisiana is destroyed," that is what they all say,
Yet we returned, and decided to stay,
For we love our grey pelican, orange sunset, green swamps;
we love our life on the bayou.

Author: **Edward White**, Salmen High, Slidell

January

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS: A Beautiful Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Why toss it? Maintain and repair durable products – mend clothes instead of throwing them away, be creative and give new life to used handbags, briefcases, jewelry, etc.		1 <small>New Years Day</small>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2013

Congratulations to our Honorable Mention Winners!

ART

Emma Roussel

Baton Rouge Center for Visual & Performing Arts, Baton Rouge

Emma Cho

Isidore Newman School, New Orleans

Tyler Fair

Our Lady of The Lake School, Mandeville

Rhiannon Miklosey

West Ouachita High School, West Monroe

LANGUAGE ARTS

Trinity Major

Zachary Elementary, Zachary

Erin Crump

Westdale Heights Academy Magnet, Baton Rouge

Kameron Clayton

Paulina Elementary, Paulina

Susan Egbert

DeRidder High School, DeRidder

Mark your calendars!

Louisiana's 10th Environmental Awareness **Student Art & Language Arts Contest**

For Louisiana students ages 5-18 years.

2012 Theme:

Contest deadline:

Thursday, April 26, 2012

See Official Contest Rules &

Registration forms on:

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec



Special thanks to our sponsor:



A special thanks to:

Steve Thompson, Alcoa Plant Manager

Paula Poole, Environmental Specialist

Glenda Anderson, Community Relations



A product of:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Environmental Education Section and

Louisiana Environmental Education Commission

P.O. Box 98000

Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Visit us online at: **www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec**



Buy a Plate to Educate!



ENVIRONMENTAL TIP RESOURCE LINKS

The Daily Green, <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/green-new-years-resolutions-10109>

Earth Share, <http://www.earthshare.org/2008/09/windows-and-ene.html>

Earth Source, <http://www.earthshare.org/2008/09/make-spring-cle.html>

Global Stewards, <http://www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm>

Carbon Footprint, <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/minimiseecfp.html>

Global Stewards, <http://www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm>

Environmental Working Group, <http://www.ewg.org/healthyhometips/backtoschool>

EPA, www.epa.gov/earthday/tips

Environmental Working Group, <http://www.ewg.org/healthyhometips/hallowentips>

Environmental Defense Fund, <http://www.edf.org/news/have-green-halloween-says-environmental-defense>

Sustainability, <http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumed/tips.html>

Green Living Tips, <http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/46/1/Earth-friendly-holiday-season-tips.html>

EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/osw/wycd/catbook/tip4.htm>