



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*



## Louisiana ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

February 22-23, 2013 ◦ Baton Rouge Marriott



### **\$35 Early Bird Registration Fee** **until January 22nd**

**Not-to-miss Workshops**  
**Jam-packed Concurrent Sessions**  
**Exhibits with freebies**  
**Fantastic Keynote Speaker**  
**...plus, EARN up to 12 CLUs!**  
**W-O-W!!!**

**Short Course descriptions** are attached and concurrent sessions will be announced soon.

**Lodging assistance** is offered to those with significant drive times while funding is available so apply now!

Brochure with registration form is below. All forms and related information can be found on our [website](#).

To make your hotel reservation for the Symposium call 1-800-MARRIOTT and ask for the "Environmental Education Symposium" group or click the following link: [Baton Rouge Marriott](#)

For more information, contact Venise Ortego, EE Coordinator at [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov).

*Registration fee increases to \$50 after January 22nd.*



## WORKSHOPS

### **Water-Wise Teacher Workshop**

The Louisiana Office of Conservation invites teachers that work in the fields of physical, earth, and environmental science in the Baton Rouge area to a teacher workshop on local groundwater resources, scheduled for **Friday, February 1, 2013**, at the Capitol Park Museum downtown. The workshop is free to public and private school teachers, and the program will include keynote and curriculum sessions, field tours, and a box lunch. Teachers in attendance will receive instructional materials and a specially designed classroom poster as takeaways. The material being presented, including lesson plans for immediate classroom implementation, meets a pressing need in the community, as demonstrated by a recent survey on groundwater awareness in East Baton Rouge Parish ([www.dnr.louisiana.gov/groundwater](http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/groundwater)). The curriculum itself will focus on basic knowledge about groundwater and aquifers, but will also include materials dealing with environmental management and decision-making, scientific data analysis, and modeling, and is correlated to state science content standards. To register, or for more information, contact Matthew Reonas, La. Office of Conservation, (225) 342-1496, [matthew.reonas@la.gov](mailto:matthew.reonas@la.gov) or see attached flyer.

### **Three Coastal Training Workshops in Alabama**

#### **1. Wilderness First Aid: Training with Longleaf Wilderness Medicine**

*Date/Time: Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 8:00am-5:00pm; Thursday, January 31, 2013, 8:00am-5:00pm*

*Location: 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Blakeley Classroom, 30945 Five Rivers Blvd, Spanish Fort, AL*

This workshop teaches skills needed to provide care when access to medical resources is limited. Participants will be taught the skills to provide patient care in the initial aftermath of a coastal natural or other disasters and be better prepared to respond to emergencies.

#### **2. Public Issues and Conflict Management**

*Date/Time: February 5-6, 2013 8:00am-4:30pm on both days*

*Location: Weeks Bay Resource Center Weeks Bay Reserve, Fairhope, AL*

This two-day course led by expert instructors from the NOAA Gulf Coastal Services Center is designed to increase participants' ability to design, conduct, and control public or targeted meetings. Participants will learn techniques to reduce conflict, enhance cooperation, and achieve meeting objectives in a timely manner. They will also learn how to use and practice facilitation skills to enhance communication between diverse groups with multiple perspectives.

#### **3. Climate Adaptation Training for Coastal Communities**

*Date/Time: February 27-28, 2013, 9:00am-4:30pm; March 1, 2013, 9:00am-4:00pm*

*Location: Mississippi State University, Coastal Research and Extension Center, 1815 Poppo's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS*

This interactive three-day training course provides individuals with a climate adaptation toolkit to identify and address planning priorities in the context of community priorities. Course modules are taught by NOAA's Coastal Services Center training staff and local partners. After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the changes and variability in climate and climate's influence on coastal communities,
- Understand key elements to consider for a vulnerability assessment,
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of adaptation strategies through various methods, and
- Identify opportunities to leverage a range of governance mechanisms to integrate adaptation strategies into their existing efforts.

Registration: closes **February 20, 2013**; Fee: \$30, covers snacks, lunch, and materials and should be paid or purchase order issued prior to start of the training. No refunds of fee after the close of registration. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel for participants living 50 miles or greater from workshop location.

**To register for any of these 3 workshops, contact Mike Shelton at 251-928-9792 or [michael.shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:michael.shelton@dcnr.alabama.gov)**

### **Call for interest in the Louisiana Master Naturalist Program (Greater New Orleans)**

Announcing the formation of the Louisiana Master Naturalist program, a not-for-profit organization working in cooperation with the LSU AgCenter Extension Service. *See the attached flyer.* Those interested in participating in a workshop series culminating in being certified as a Louisiana Master Naturalist, please contact Dr. Robert Thomas at [rathomas@loyno.edu](mailto:rathomas@loyno.edu) to be placed on the list to be informed when the next class (mid Spring 2013) registration begins. Many states have Master Naturalist programs, and they find it is an excellent way to enrich citizen understanding of natural history, which translates to a deeper care and concern for protecting local ecosystems. The Greater New Orleans chapter is the first of hopefully many in Louisiana. Master Naturalists will be required to take 8 hours of advanced training per year, give 40 hours of volunteer service in programs of the individual's choice, and maintain membership in the chapter (\$25 per year). There is a strong sense of satisfaction in spending time in the great Louisiana out-of-doors with like-minded naturalists. Join the Louisiana Naturalist Network Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/245293662257389/>

## WEBINARS

### Climate Science 101 Course for Secondary Science Teachers (Register by January 11)

CIRES at the University of Colorado presents *Climate Science 101: Essential Knowledge and Teaching Strategies*, **January 21-April 30**. This online course focuses on the essential principals of climate science and provides experience with teaching strategies, such as identifying and addressing misconceptions, minimizing controversy, and teaching so that students can engage positively. The course will meet one hour per week in a webinar format, and one hour per week in a small group format online. Most participants spend 5-7 hours per week total on course activities. The target audience is secondary science teachers, although informal educators, upper elementary teachers, cross-curriculum teams, and providers of professional development are also encouraged to register. The course may be taken for graduate credit at \$60 per credit hour (three credits), or you may choose to audit the course for free. For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/UfZv38>.

### An Energy Literate Citizenry from K-to-Gray: A Webcast on the Dept. of Energy's Energy Literacy Initiative

**Date: February 6, 2013 at 4 pm EST**

This webinar will detail the Energy Literacy Framework, which identifies concepts every citizen should know to be energy literate. With this document, Department of Energy (DOE) aims to empower energy educators to apply an interdisciplinary, systems-based approach to teaching the physical, natural and social sciences necessary for a comprehensive understanding of energy. The Energy Literacy Framework was developed through a series of workshops and an extensive review and comment process involving the 13 federal partner agencies which make up the U.S. Global Change Research Program and many other education partners. With the Energy Literacy Framework complete and in print, work continues involving education partners to advance energy education with audiences from K-Gray. Learn more about the Energy Literacy Framework ([http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/energy\\_literacy.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/education/energy_literacy.html)) and energy education resources now available. Reserve your webinar seat now: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/198384864>

## CONFERENCES

### The 4th National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems

Mark your calendars for CNREP 2013 to be held March 24-26, 2013 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, which is located on Bourbon Street in the heart of New Orleans nightlife.

**Early registration deadline is February 25th**—\$350 per participant, \$200 for students. In addition to all conference materials, the registration fee will include an opening night reception, a poster reception, two continental-plus breakfasts, and two buffet-style lunches. Tickets to an optional seafood banquet, held at the conference hotel, are available for \$40 each. Seating is limited, so please reserve your tickets when registering. Online registration is available at: [www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Registration%202013.html](http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Registration%202013.html)

**Conference Lodging**—Room reservations can be made at [www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Lodging%202013.html](http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Lodging%202013.html) or directly by phone with the Royal Sonesta Hotel at 504-586-0300. Be sure to indicate that you are with the CNREP group. Nightly rates are \$189 and include wireless Internet connectivity. Parking is available onsite for the discounted price of \$25 per night. Hotel reservations deadline on the CNREP block is February 25, 2013.

**Call for abstracts**—Some poster slots remain available and will be filled on a first-come basis. If you have a poster that you would like to submit, please send in your abstract as soon as possible to Dr. Richard F. Kazmierczak: [rkazmierczak@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rkazmierczak@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Sponsorship Opportunities**—If you would like to become a sponsor, visit [www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Sponsors%202013.html](http://www.cnrep.lsu.edu/Sponsors%202013.html) or contact Dr. Rex H. Caffey, Professor & Director, Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy (CNREP), at 225-578-2393 or [rcaffey@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rcaffey@agcenter.lsu.edu), [www.facebook.com/CNREP](http://www.facebook.com/CNREP)



## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



The 2013 Louisiana Envirothon will be held on **March 9, 2013** at the LSU AgCenter Burden Center in Baton Rouge!! The first training session will be held on **Saturday, January 19th** in Baton Rouge, LA at the LDEQ Headquarters: 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Please contact Tomeka Prioleau at [Tomeka.Prioleau@la.gov](mailto:Tomeka.Prioleau@la.gov) or 225-219-0877 if your team plans to participate. For more information, visit the Envirothon website at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon) and like us on [Facebook!](#)

### **eCYBERMISSION Registration Deadline Update**

Team advisor and student registration closes on **January 15th** at midnight (EST). Reimbursement will still be given for any students and team advisors that register prior to that time as long as the team advisor uses the following registration code: *NSTA: referred by NSTA state chapter.*

Cyberguides are scientists and engineers who volunteer their time to answer student questions online; registration closes February 1st. CyberGuides do need to be government approved to work online.

Virtual Judges have a background or interest in STEM, or education. They independently and objectively score approximately 10 Mission Folders online during the month of March (approx. 6 hours). In order to volunteer as a Virtual Judge, you must be at least 18 years of age. Virtual judge registration closes on March 1st.

Reimbursement will still be given for any CyberGuide and Virtual Judge that register prior to the above times as long as they use the following registration code: *NSTA: referred by NSTA state chapter.* For more information, contact Sue Whitsett at [swhitsett@nsta.org](mailto:swhitsett@nsta.org) or 703-312-9360

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Volunteers Needed to Help Restore Cypress Forests in Mandeville!**

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and the St. Tammany Parish Government are looking for volunteers to participate in a two day coastal forest tree planting restoration project in Bayou Chinchuba, Mandeville, LA on **Wednesday, January 16** and **Thursday, January 17, 2013** from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Volunteers can register for one or both days. This project will improve water quality, reduce flooding, create wildlife habitat, and provide a natural scenic area for the public by planting native trees and wetland vegetation in detention ponds. All planting equipment (gloves, shovels, etc.), lunch, and refreshments will be provided. This is a strenuous and dirty activity, so physical fitness is required. Additional information, including directions and what to bring, will be provided prior to the event. For more information and registration, visit [www.crcl.org](http://www.crcl.org) or call the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 1-(888)-LACOAST.

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## INTERNSHIPS

### **NOAA-NGI Diversity Internship Program**

The NOAA-NGI Diversity Internship Program is now seeking mentors and interns to participate in the 2013 program. This 10-week summer internship is open to undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in a degree-granting program. There is an emphasis on students from communities and institutions in the Northern Gulf of Mexico region, and the program specifically targets populations underrepresented in the NOAA workforce. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please visit our website <http://ngi-internship.disl.org> and complete the mentor survey. If you have any questions about becoming a mentor or if you know of any students that might be interested in this internship opportunity, please contact the program coordinator - JoAnn Moody at 251-861-2141 x 7530 or [ngi-internship@disl.org](mailto:ngi-internship@disl.org). Students interested in this opportunity should visit the website for more information and to apply. The deadline for applications is March 15th.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

### **Nominations now Open for 2013 CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards**

Nominations are now open for the 18th annual CRCL Coastal Stewardship Awards, to be held Friday, May 10, 2013 at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, where those who have shown an extraordinary commitment to coastal Louisiana will be recognized. If you know an individual or group who should be honored this year with a Coastal Stewardship Award, nominate them at [www.crcl.org](http://www.crcl.org). This is an opportunity to show how much we appreciate those who share the vision of saving coastal Louisiana – its land, culture, wildlife and more, for future generations. Please visit the nomination page at [www.crcl.org](http://www.crcl.org), and help recognize our coastal champions! All nominations must be received by **March 4, 2013**. For more information on how to nominate a person or group, contact CRCL at 1-888-LACOST (1-888-522-6278).

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## RESOURCES

### **Gulf of Mexico News**

December 2012 edition is now online at: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/gomexnews.html>.

### **Nature Works Everywhere**

<http://www.natureworkseverywhere.org>

This website has a wealth of materials and media products for grade 6-8 students addressing life science and environmental science concepts. Here you will find videos, lessons, a video field trip, and the ability to contact a scientist, and an educational game. This site is produced by Discovery and the Nature Conservancy.

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## LAGNIAPPE

### **Final Public Draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

The second (and final) public draft of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) is now available for public viewing. Release can be found at <http://nextgenscience.org>. As with previous drafts, Achieve and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) encourage teachers to review the draft and provide feedback online to Achieve during the comment period, which ends January 29.

*Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>*

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