



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS



Quantifying Debris

A Marine Debris Workshop

Open to educators in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, & Texas

Quantifying Debris, a 2-day workshop on **June 27-29, 2013** for educators and 1-day field experience for students (grades 6-12) of participating teachers, focuses on the dynamics of marine debris. Discover the local flora and fauna with area biologists, conduct beach profiling, receive GPS training and up to 16 professional development hours, and return home with a multitude of lessons and activities for your classrooms. Meals and lodging provided. Travel per diem available. **Funding is also available for nine teacher participants to return with their students during the school year.**

For more information, see attached flyer and application or contact Venise Ortego, Coordinator at 337-948-0255 or vortego@wlf.la.gov.

GRANTS

2013 NASA EONS Solicitation

NASA's Office of Education is accepting new proposals under the Education Opportunities in NASA STEM (EONS) 2013 NASA Research Announcement. This is an umbrella announcement for opportunities under the Minority University Research and Education Program, or MUREP, and includes calls for proposals in the following program elements for FY 2013-2014: Tribal Colleges and Universities Experiential Learning Opportunities (TCU ELO) and NASA Innovations in Climate Education – Tribal (NICE-T). **Proposals for both opportunities are due July 24, 2013.** For more information regarding these opportunities, please visit the NASA EONS page on the NSPIRES website at <http://go.nasa.gov/14So8d6>.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

From H-2-O: A Teacher Training Workshop

Are you a middle school teacher, high school teacher, or informal educator interested in getting your students to do hands-on environmental monitoring? Attend this year's *From H-2-O: A Teacher Training Workshop* **May 30-June 2** at the DeFelice Marine Center, Cocodrie, LA. Receive comprehensive content information about the five water quality parameters measured in the Bayouside Classroom program (www.lumcon.edu/bayousideclassroom), as well as, hands-on instruction on sample and data collection techniques. This **FREE** teacher professional development opportunity takes advantage of all LUMCON's resources to explore many different watershed and water quality related topics. Water quality monitoring is a great way to introduce practice-based science education and STEM into your science program. Earn up to 32 CLUs. For more information or to apply contact: Murt Conover at (985) 851-2860 or mconover@lumcon.edu.

Aquarium of Americas (AoA) and NOAA PD workshop "How Do We Explore" - June 22

Participants will learn how to use standards-based lessons and online resources that guide classroom investigations into the innovative exploration strategies, sophisticated instrumentation and equipment used onboard the ship to explore our largely unknown world ocean. Topics include how targets are selected for exploration, mapping techniques, water column exploration, remotely operated vehicles and telepresence technology that enables access to real time ocean exploration. Educators who attend the full day will receive a \$50 stipend. Each participant will receive Volume 2 of the Okeanos Explorer Education Materials Collection, *How Do We Explore?*, materials related to activities presented during the workshop, a NOAA Ocean Exploration Certificate of Participation, continental breakfast, and lunch. Registration Deadline: **May 21, 2013** To register, contact Tricia LeBlanc at the AoA phone: (504) 378-2675 or tleblanc@AudubonInstitute.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

William B. Stapp Scholarship - Deadline: May 31, 2013

The Stapp scholarship provides one student registration for the general conference. Registration includes access to all plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, the exhibit hall, and all meal functions. It also includes a one-year student membership in NAAEE. Scholarship recipients are responsible for their travel to the conference, lodging, and any costs associated with field experiences, workshops, the Research Symposium, guest tickets, and merchandise. For more information and/or to submit an application, [click here](#).

Columbia Sportswear Teacher & Administrator Scholarship - Deadline: May 31, 2013

The 2013 NAAEE Columbia Sportswear Teacher/Administrator Scholarship recognizes a teacher's achievement in environmental education in the classroom and the administrator who supported his/her endeavors. The scholarship includes two full conference registrations for a teacher and supporting administrator to attend the 2013 NAAEE Annual Conference. The winners' school will receive a \$2,000 "gear closet" donation from Columbia, chock full of equipment that will help get kids outside and active in the local environment, as well as backpacks for the teacher and administrator. Registration includes access to all plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, the exhibit hall, meal functions, and many other events. Awardees who accept the scholarship and attend the conference also receive a one-year membership in NAAEE. Recipients are responsible for their travel to the conference, lodging, and any costs associated with field experiences, workshops, the Research Symposium, guest tickets, and merchandise. For more information and/or to submit an application, [click here](#).

NAAEE Affordability Scholarship - Deadline: June 17, 2013

To help ensure broad participation in our annual conference, NAAEE offers a limited number of affordability scholarships to professional environmental educators who lack adequate funding or sufficient employer support to otherwise attend. These scholarships provide a 50% discount on full or one-day conference registration. For more information and/or to submit an application, [click here](#).

WEBINARS

OneNOAA Science Seminars

All seminars are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated) and offer limited remote access on a first come first served basis. Please check the [OneNOAA Science Seminars](#) web page for the most updated seminar information or contact Hernan Garcia, Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov.

[How Sensitive are Deep Convective Clouds to Aerosol Perturbations?](#)

May 15, 2013; 15:30-16:30 Mountain Time, Room 2A305, DSRC (Boulder, CO)

[How Climate Change Has Drastically Altered Abundances of Animals and Plants in Bays and Estuaries of Eastern United States and Canada](#)

May 15, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Eastern Time; NOAA James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory (Sandy Hook, NJ)

[Migration Syndromes and Success in Migratory Fishes](#)

May 16, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

[Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit: Connecting Decision-makers, Landowners, and Users with Information and Tools for Preserving and Enhancing our Nation's Working Waterfronts](#)

May 17, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 2nd Floor Library

[Managing for the Future in a Rapidly Changing Arctic: A Report to the President](#)

May 21, 2013; 10-11am AKDT; Online Access Only; ([Add to Google Calendar](#))

[Using Satellite Data to Improve Operational Air Quality Forecasting Capabilities](#)

May 22, 2013; 14:00-15:00 Eastern Time; NOAA CWCP Conference Center (College Park, MD)

[Publishing and Citing Ocean Data](#)

May 22, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; (**remote speaker**) NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) Room 4817

[Human Dimensions of Puget Sound Management and Science](#)

May 23, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

Live Q&A with Nautilus Marine Geologist, Nicole Raineault

May 17, 1:30pm ET

The JASON Live series gets back into swing with a renewed focus on STEM careers and STEM Role Models! The first featured STEM Role Model is **Nicole Raineault**, a marine geologist who is one of the research scientists and expedition leaders onboard Dr. Robert Ballard's ship of exploration, *E/V Nautilus*. Learn more about Nicole and how to participate in the event on the JASON website: [Nicole Raineault Live STEM Career Q&A](#)

Pre-submit your text and video questions! Use the form on the event page to send in a question in advance and increase the likelihood that your question will be selected in the live program. For more information or questions about participating, emails live@jason.org.

Louisiana STEM Girls Collaborative Project (LaSTEM GCP) Champions Board Webinar

Join the LaSTEM CP webinar on **May 23rd at 3:00 PM** for an overview of the Louisiana collaborative and appeal for persons interested in serving as a volunteer Champions Board member. LaSTEM is actively seeking Louisiana residents, representing science, technology, engineering and math disciplines to serve as Champions Board members who works in partnership with LaSTEM's Leadership Team to give the project a balance of desirable expertise and regional representation. For more information, contact Lou Papai, Louisiana STEM Girls Collaborative Project Lead, at [\(318\) 424-8662](tel:3184248662) or email LaSTEMGirlsCollabProject@gmail.com.

SCHOOL YARD GARDENS

Nutrients For Life

Sign up for the *Nutrients for Life* [newsletter](#) to receive more information on school yard garden projects and other useful information.

EVENTS

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Bioblitz: Taking Stock of 'Bayou Diversity'

National Geographic and the National Park Service are teaming up to bring BioBlitz to Louisiana, **May 17 and 18, 2013**. BioBlitz is an intensive 24-hour scientific inventory that aims to find, count, and map every species of plant and animal in an area. The companion free Biodiversity Festival with food, music, exhibitors, and hands-on activities is for explorers of all ages at the 23,500-acre Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Free parking and shuttle buses to the Preserve from Bayou Segnette Park. Register online at www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz or <http://www.nps.gov/jela/bioblitz-2013-at-jean-lafitte.htm>. Please see attached press release for additional details. Volunteers are also needed, visit <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1408404-lljFyNGPxI> if you are interested in helping.

Hurricane Preparedness Week—Are You Ready?

National Hurricane Preparedness Week is **May 26-June 1, 2013**. NOAA's National Hurricane Center (NHC) uses this week to emphasize the importance of being prepared for a hurricane. The Atlantic Hurricane Season kicks off June 1 and lasts through November 30. Heavy rains and high winds aren't the only hurricane threats—storm surge, inland flooding, tornadoes, and rip currents are serious threats too. If you don't have a hurricane plan yet, use this week to get things in order. Take time to learn more about hurricanes and the [Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale](#). Also be sure to create a [go-kit](#) or update the one you already have. Do your furry family members have what they'd need in the event of a hurricane? Now's a great time to develop your [pet's go-kit](#). For more information, visit the [Hurricane Preparedness Week page](#). You can also get valuable information from the [Hurricane Preparedness Public Service Announcements](#).

Techbridge Summer Institute

Oakland, CA July 31- August 2, 2013

Techbridge summer institute focuses on the development of STEM educators and offers strategies and curriculum for engaging girls in science, technology, and engineering. Explore inquiry-based activities and learn how to recruit and engage girls in a STEM program, implement Techbridge's hands-on curriculum for grades 5-12, plan field trips and visits with role models, expand family outreach, and integrate career exploration into your program. Register today: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5086720518?ref=ebtnebregn#>

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

XCITE Summer Camp

The LSU College of Engineering Office for Diversity Programs is accepting applications for students to participate in our 2013 XCITE Summer Camp, eXploration Camp Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers (XCITE). eXploration Camp for Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers (XCITE) will be held **July 13-20, 2013**. **Application Deadline: May 20, 2013**. XCITE is a one-week, residential program for girls entering the 9th and 10th grades. The program offers fun-filled activities that allow young women to get hands-on and minds-on experience of engineering as it relates to the world and their community. Additionally, each program participant will have the opportunity to interact with current female LSU engineering students as well as women who have made successful careers in engineering. For more info: <http://www.eng.lsu.edu/diversity/precollege/xcite>

State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grants: Deadline June 14

Are you looking for different ways to increase student engagement and motivation in your classroom? Increase academic achievement, workplace readiness, and stronger communities during the 2013-2014 school year with a \$1,500 State Farm Good Neighbor Student Achievement Grant. The grant requires a 14+ week Semester of Service™ starting in Fall 2013. Educators from all fifty US states and D.C., and the Canadian provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta are invited to apply. Each teacher awarded a grant will also receive a one-day professional development training in one of five cities around the country. Learn more at www.YSA.org/goodneighbor

RESOURCES

Resources from National Resource Conservation Service

The National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) operates a soil education web site (<http://soils.usda.gov/education/>) where teachers can dig up a treasury of resources designed for both science educators and K-12 students. Resources for the elementary level include lesson plans, links to soil education web sites, and even soil songs. Sing along to classics in the classroom such as “Mud, Mud, Mud” and “I Love Dirt.” To get lyrics for these songs and find other educational items for grades K-6, visit http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/k_6/index.html. NRCS also offers a CD-ROM titled “Soils - Tools for Educators,” which includes soil facts, state-specific soil information, lesson plans, and more. The CD is designed for middle and high school instructors who are teaching Earth science, environmental science, or soil science. For more about the disk and free online resources for grades 7-12, visit http://soils.usda.gov/education/resources/7_12/index.html.

Free Activity Book from NOAA

NOAA is proud to announce that a new Activity Book: [Discover Your Changing World With NOAA](#), with ten activities to introduce children to the Essential Principles of Climate Science has just been released. Chapters Include: How does the sun drive Earth's climate system? How have plants, animals, and humans affected Earth's climate? How do the ocean, ice, clouds and atmospheric gases affect the impact of the Sun's energy on the Earth? How may Earth's changing climate affect plants, animals, and humans?

This **free** activity book will introduce students to [The Essential Principles of Climate Science](#), help them learn about Earth's climate system, the factors that drive and change it, the impacts of those changes, and what they can do to explore, understand, and protect our Earth. Download the [full activity book](#) or individual activities and have fun!

NOVA Labs

You and your students can actively participate in the scientific process through NOVA labs new digital platform. From predicting solar storms and designing renewable energy systems to tracking cloud movements and learning cybersecurity strategies, **NOVA Labs** participants can take part in real-world investigations by visualizing, analyzing, and sharing the same data that scientists use. Explore NOVA labs at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/labs>

SPE's Energy4me Sparks Energy Education

Through its Energy4me program, the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) offers teachers of all grade levels tools for teaching about oil, gas, and other energy sources, including classroom activities, experiments, and presentations, as well as teacher workshops and energy education materials for the classroom. Teachers are invited to request classroom speakers, science fair judges, and career fair exhibitors from roughly 80,000 SPE members worldwide. Free one-day teacher workshops, held at select SPE conferences, cover grade-specific energy lessons. The Energy4me Kit, available from SPE, offers teaching aids, speaker resources, sample presentations, and activities for teaching about energy. Teachers are encouraged to visit the program's web site for PowerPoint presentations, career information, and more. SPE, a longtime Earth Science Week partner, is a nonprofit professional association whose members are energy professionals in 110 countries. Visit <http://www.energy4me.org> to learn more.

MedMyst

MedMyst (short for Medical Mysteries) is a Flash-based game for **middle and high school students**. It consists of six different missions in which the player has to solve a disease outbreak. Careers such as epidemiologists, microbiologists and veterinarian are explored. This site was developed at Rice University. Go to <http://www.sciencegamecenter.org/games/medmys>

Trashology 101

Receive a FREE hard copy of *Trashology 101* a waste reduction program for grades 3-5. Email your name and mailing address to Julie Coon, Solid Waste Specialist, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment at Julie.Coon@jocogov.org. For more information and to download a digital copy, [click here](#).

LAGNIAPPE

Wildlife Refuges Documentary Released

The 23-minute documentary *Edens on the Edge* -a Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) production- chronicles the importance of wildlife refuges located in the state's coastal zone. The video is available online for viewing at www.laseagrant.org/media/Edens-on-the-Edge.avi. A free copy on DVD can be ordered by contacting LSG publications coordinator Jessica Schexnayder at jsche15@lsu.edu. There is a \$5 charge to cover postage and handling of the DVD. There is no charge to persons picking up the DVD at Sea Grant offices on the Louisiana State University Baton Rouge campus.

Free Handbook Shows Homeowners How to Prepare for Hazards

With hurricane season only a few weeks away, now is the time homeowners should start making necessary preparations to protect their homes and loved ones. Through the new *Louisiana Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards*, residents of Louisiana have a useful resource at their fingertips as they begin readying their families for natural disasters. The handbook explains the forces of nature that act on structures during storms, including the dangers associated with high winds, heavy rain and storm surge. It further lays out ways to gird a home against these forces to minimize or negate their effects, as well as information on how to reduce the human toll exacted by dangerous storms. The handbook is available in PDF format at www.lsu.edu/sglegal/pubs/handbook.htm as a free download. Free hard copies will be available at various locations throughout coastal parishes, or the book can be ordered for \$5 – to cover postage and handling – by emailing Jessica Schexnayder at jsche15@lsu.edu.

WaterSense Encourages Sprinkler Spruce-ups

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. Just one broken sprinkler head could waste as much as 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season. That's why WaterSense is encouraging homeowners to do a little "sprinkler spruce-up" this spring and summer. WaterSense has developed new tips and tools to educate consumers about the importance of maintaining sprinkler systems to promote healthy landscapes and reduce water waste. WaterSense is a partnership program sponsored by EPA that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water. Spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps-inspect, connect, direct, and select! [Click here for more information on sprinkler spruce-ups.](#)

EPA Releases Marine Beach Sanitary Survey Tools

EPA has made available a new sanitary survey to provide marine beach managers with a technically sound and consistent approach to identify pollution sources and share information. The survey helps marine beach managers synthesize water quality data, pollutant source data, and land use data so that they can improve beach water quality for swimming. It can also help managers set monitoring priorities, determine appropriate remediation, facilitate beach and watershed planning, and develop predictive models. The survey consists of a routine on-site sanitary survey, designed to be filled out each time water quality samples are taken, and an annual sanitary survey, which records more comprehensive information about factors in the surrounding watershed that might affect water quality at the beach. EPA will present a webinar on the new survey in spring 2013. [Click here for more information.](#)

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

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