



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### **Louisiana Environmental Literacy Plan DRAFT Public Comment Deadline: May 31st**

The Louisiana Environmental Literacy Plan Sub-Committee is accepting public comment for the DRAFT Louisiana Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) until May 31, 2013. The draft ELP is attached and is also posted on the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission's website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/environmental-education-commission>. Comments are to be sent to Venise Ortego at [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov).

### **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council releases Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan**

The Restoration Council released the **draft Initial Comprehensive Plan**. View the **Plan** as well as an accompanying **draft Environmental Assessment** at [RestoreTheGulf.gov](http://RestoreTheGulf.gov). Formal public comment deadline: **June 24**. Public engagement sessions are offered in the five impacted Gulf States: June 3-Pensacola, FL; June 5-Spanish Fort, AL; June 10-Galveston, TX; June 11-Biloxi, MS; June 12-Belle Chasse, LA; June 17-St. Petersburg, FL

## GRANTS

### **Call for Applications Open for EECapacity State Consortia Grants**

#### **Applications due: June 15, 2013**

The EECapacity Project is announcing a Call for Applications for Year 3 of the State Consortia grants. Up to four states can receive funding to develop capacity and networking for EE and related practitioners within their state. Each state consortium will include at least 20 educators representing a diversity of organizations such as community-based groups, churches, zoos, nature centers, schools, government nature preserves, parks, organizations that are using outdoor experiences to help veterans, wounded warriors and their families heal, and similar organizations that are committed to learning from each other, exchanging perspectives, and participating in a series of workshops and online learning opportunities for a period of one year or longer.

For more information, and to download the RFA, visit: <http://www.eecapacity.net>

### **GreenWorks! Grant Program**

#### **Deadline: September 30, 2013**

The Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! grant program provides funding for service-learning projects led by students, such as school/community native plant gardens, forest improvement projects, streamside restoration plans, recycling programs, and energy conservation projects. Grants are available in two award levels: the traditional GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 and GreenWorks! grants up to \$3,000 for registered PLT GreenSchools! Applicants must have attended a PLT workshop, have a project that involves service learning, have at least one community partner, and must secure a 50 percent match (in-kind or cash). Applicants for the Registered PLT GreenSchools! grants must register on the PLT GreenSchools! website, have an established Green Team, have completed one or more of the PLT GreenSchools! Investigations, and have a project based on the findings of one or more of the PLT GreenSchools! Investigations. Contact: Jackie Stallard, 1-202-463-2754; [jstallard@plt.org](mailto:jstallard@plt.org) or [click here](#) to apply.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Save the Dates: NSTA Conferences**

Portland, Oregon—October 24-26, 2013

Charlotte, North Carolina—November 7-9, 2013

For more information, [click here](#).

Denver, Colorado—December 12-14, 2013

Boston, Massachusetts—April 3-6, 2014

### **Chesapeake Bay Foundation Summer Courses—Credit Available!**

Find out how to build 21st century skills and engage every learner by using the local environment as an integral part of your instruction. Join CBF this summer for a five-day teacher professional development course to learn how environmental education can enhance your curriculum in most content areas—including STEM subjects—and build transdisciplinary, project-based learning opportunities. Participants can earn recertification credit or graduate credit (extra fee for graduate credit). Teachers receive a \$1,500 scholarship! The course fee is only \$300 for five full days of learning, excitement, unique field experiences, and new lessons to take back to the classroom. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **International Field-based Learning Seminar for Educators in Costa Rica—July 28-August 1, 2013**

Explore Costa Rica's tropical rainforest with like-minded educators using a variety of educational approaches designed to both enhance classroom experiences and prepare you to take your students in the field. The program covers techniques for gaining school board approval, fundraising, grant writing, and curriculum integration, including engaging activities and workshops from San Diego Zoo's Department of Conservation Education, Fund for Teachers, tropical ecologists, and local naturalist guides. Program cost is \$999 including accommodations, meals, activities, and airfare from Miami. <http://www.holbrooktravel.com/fbls/>

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## 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](mailto:Hernan.Garcia@noaa.gov).

#### [The Nature of Effective Mentoring - Building Relationships that Work for Both Students and Mentors](#)

June 04, 2013; 12:00-13:00 Eastern Time; NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory (Woods Hole, MA)

#### [Pollution in Paradise: Evidence of High Levels of Pollution in the Coral Reef Ecosystems of Guanica Bay, Puerto Rico](#)

June 05, 2013; 12:00-13:00h Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

#### [Ecological Forces Shaping Coastal Marine Ecosystems: The Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis and a Test](#)

June 06, 2013; 11:00-12:00 Pacific Time; NOAA [NWFSC Auditorium](#) (Seattle, WA)

Art as Ecology: Coral Collaborations

June 6, 2013, 12 - 1pm EDT; NOAA SSMC-4, Room 10153

#### [Watershed and Climate Change Impacts to High Island Fringing Reefs](#)

June 11, 2013, 12:00 - 13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

#### [Tropical Climate Extremes](#)

June 11, 2013, 13:00 - 14:30 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-3](#) 12th Floor Fishbowl

#### [Ethics Guidance on the Use of Social Media](#)

June 12, 2013, 12:00 - 13:00 Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

#### [Big Ocean MPA Network: Addressing the Common Challenges of Large, Remote Marine Protected Areas](#)

June 13, 2013; 13:00-14:00 Eastern Time; Remote Access Only

#### ['Sponge Heaven' and Other Discoveries from Deep-water Explorations in Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#)

June 19, 2013; 12:00-13:00h Eastern Time; NOAA HQ [SSMC-4](#) Room 8150

## EVENTS

### **July 1 Gulf Coast Restoration Summit**

The 2013 Gulf Coast Restoration Summit is scheduled for July 1 in New Orleans. This annual regional and national conference brings together key public and private stakeholders to discuss and plan for the future of the U.S. Gulf Coast. The agenda will include:

- Louisiana priorities for RESTORE Act projects
- Gulf Coast priorities for RESTORE Act projects
- Economic development priorities and plans
- environmental restoration priorities and plans
- Strategies for winning new economic development and environmental restoration contracts
- Projects being funded by NRDA, BP criminal fine monies; federal agencies; and other resources
- Details on the billions being awarded through the new BP claims compensation program
- Updates on the BP oil spill civil trial and new state lawsuits against BP.

For further information, or to request details on sponsorship opportunities, contact [info@gulfcoastrestorationsummit.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastrestorationsummit.org) or see the [website](#).

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## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### **KAB Youth Advisory Council Opportunity**

**Deadline extended: May 31, 2013, 5:00 PM, HST**

Keep America Beautiful is accepting applications for the National Youth Advisory Council for ten high school students (15—18 years old). KAB is seeking to infuse the youth voice into its programs and build on the model of youth leadership seen in our local and state affiliates. Members will serve as ambassadors and represent KAB within their community and state. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **EPA's 2nd Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge to Begin in September**

EPA is preparing to launch its second annual Campus RainWorks Challenge to encourage faculty and students on college and university campuses across the country to develop innovative approaches to sustainable stormwater management. The goals of the competition are to help raise awareness of green design and planning approaches at colleges and universities, and train the next generation of landscape architects, planners, and engineers in green infrastructure principles and design. Challenge registration will begin this September. To see last year's challenge winners and for details on this year's challenge competition, see [EPA's Campus RainWorks Challenge website](#). Details on this year's challenge will be available beginning in late July.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### **Volunteers Needed—Planting Marsh Grasses to Restore Wetlands Near Vermilion Bay**

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL), the Rainey Alliance and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority are looking for volunteers to participate in a marsh restoration project at Coles Bayou (west of Vermilion Bay) on June 7, 2013 from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Physical fitness is required. Minimum age for volunteers is 13, but all minors must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment (shovels, gloves, etc.) will be provided. Lunch and drinks will be provided to all volunteers. [Please register](#) online or call the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 1-(888)-LACOAST for more information.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **GIS Coordinator position at Grand Bay NERR**

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is looking for a GIS Coordinator to join their team. Please see attached announcement. **Application deadline: June 7th**

## RESOURCES

### **Special Report: Tornadoes**

"The devastation that tornadoes such as the one in Moore, impact not only the people but also the wildlife, and is a stark reminder of the increasing impacts from climate change," says a special online report from the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program. Visit this [website](#) for information, articles, and curriculum that can help students understand why natural disasters happen and why this storm in particular made such an impact.

### **Rock Around the World**

Involve students of all ages in real-world science with this [citizen science project](#) at Arizona State University's (ASU) Mars Space Flight Facility. Students send rock samples to ASU for analysis in the university's Thermal Infrared Spectral Laboratory. Each rock is read by a thermal spectrometer, and a resulting spectral graph is created, showing what the rock is made of. Data from "Earth" rocks can then be compared to data from "Mars" rocks, providing both students and scientists with information about the similarities and differences between the planets.

### **Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN) Resources**

This [digital collection](#) of vetted teaching materials for students in grades six to college contains activities, visualizations, and videos on climate science, climate change, and energy concepts. The resources can be used in biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science or engineering, geology, and geography courses. Educators can search the collection by topic, resource type, or grade level. In addition, users can join the CLEAN community to participate in webinars, workshops, and discussions about climate change.

### ***The New Green Giants***

Bullfrog Films presents, *The New Green Giants*, a film examining some of the bigger questions surrounding organic food. Is it really healthier? Is it truly organic? Is it possible to grow from a mom-and-pop operation to become a huge supplier of major grocery chains? Is it actually sustainable? Is it realistic to think the world can be fed organically? <http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/print/ngg.html>

### **"The Gift of Sunrises"**

<http://thegreenregister.com/blog/2013/04/24/the-gift-of-sunrises-a-father-and-daughter-nature-experience/>

### **Green Recycling Solutions**

<http://thegreenregister.com/blog/2013/05/15/the-green-minute-solutions-for-hard-to-recycle-items-notebooks-wine-tips/>

### **The Green Minute: Summer Driving Tips**

<http://thegreenregister.com/blog/2013/05/13/the-green-minute-summer-driving-tips/>

### **EcoTech's New Quarterly Jobs Report**

<http://thegreenregister.com/blog/2013/05/08/ecotech-institute-posts-new-quarterly-clean-job-index-report/>

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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