



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

Dear Louisiana EE Community,

The EPA is asking for feedback on environmental education obstacles, needs, current programs, and ideas as they relate to our EE communities. Please consider providing us with information to the questions below and we will in turn organize your comments and submit to EPA in a united voice from Louisiana. Submit comments to Venise Ortego vortego@wlf.la.gov.

Deadline for comments is Tuesday, September 10th.

Question 1: What are some major obstacles to improving environmental education?

Question 2: What are the personal skills, education and training that are needed to respond to current and future environmental problems?

Question 3: Could you describe the extent and quality of environmental education programs that exist in your area?

Question 4: What are some national or local programs that could serve as models for future environmental education initiatives?

Thank you,
Louisiana Environmental Education Commission

LEEC GRANT

DEADLINE APPROACHING!

2013-2014 LEEC SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT (SIP) - Deadline September 6, 2013

This grant is being offered by the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC), which is under the direction of Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF). The LEEC is offering this grant in order to encourage sustainability initiatives in the EPA Region 6 area. Volunteer opportunities, educator workshops, and other projects that have a fundamental environmental education component and clear sustainability message will be considered. Projects are to involve environmental stewardship initiatives that focus on voluntary commitment, behavior, and action that result in environmental protection or improvement. Open to local education agencies (accredited public & private schools), colleges, universities, state education or environmental agencies, or 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations in **Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Maximum award: \$5000. Round 1* Deadline: September 6, 2013** *Additional rounds will be offered as funding permits. Project funds are provided via a grant from the EPA Office of Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program to LDWF.

Go to <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/grant-opportunities> for grant guidelines and application.

Contact Venise Ortego vortego@wlf.la.gov if you have questions about this grant opportunity .

WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

NGCP Webinar: *Increasing Equity and Diversity in the STEM Workforce: Issue and Strategies*—September 26, 2013; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM Pacific/2:00 PM-3:00 PM Eastern

In this webinar, participants will gain a better understanding of the issues that impede efforts to diversify the STEM workforce and learn strategies that promote equity, fairness, and diversity. Dr. Kimberly Tanner, Director of the [Science Education Partnership and Assessment Laboratory \(SEPAL\)](#), will present findings from research on why talented individuals leave the biological sciences, as well as examples of successful efforts and problematic attempts towards diversifying the biological sciences. Kimberly Bryant, Founder of [BlackGirlsCode](#), will present information on the racial and socioeconomic digital divide and resources for computer science programs.

Register: <http://www.ngcproject.org/increasing-equity-and-diversity-stem-workforce-understanding-issues-and-strategies-addressing-it>

Frameworks for K-12 Science Education Professional Development Workshop—September 28, 2013

Explore the three Dimensions of the Framework, the vision for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This 4 hour LSTA sponsored workshop is the first of two sessions to introduce science teachers to the NGSS. The workshop is designed for all teachers of science in grades K-12.

Presenters: Tera LaPrarie, LSTA President and Science Teacher, Christy Flinn, Science Teacher.

September 28, 2013, 8:00 am-12:00 pm at Alexandria Middle Magnet School.

See attached flyer for more information.

CONFERENCES

Green Schools National Conference Presentation Proposals: Deadline September 30, 2013

Share your best practices at the Green Schools National Conference, and submit a presentation proposal today! Learn more about the conference themes and how you can join our presenters to make our fourth annual conference the best ever!

<http://greenschoolsnationalnetwork.org/conference/programming/request-for-proposals>

Louisiana Science Teachers Association's 2013 PK-16+ Professional Development Institute - *October 31-November 2.*

THE NEW FRONTIER: NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA. See attached flyer for more information. **Register TODAY: www.lsta.info**

7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and 24th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society- November 1-5, 2014

Inspiring Action, Creating Resilience; Restore America's Estuaries and The Coastal Society are proud to announce a new collaboration to present the first ever National Summit that will bring together the restoration and coastal management communities for an integrated discussion to explore issues, solutions and lessons learned. The integration of our communities is long overdue. The collaboration provides an opportunity to address many of the issues we have in common in a more holistic way and offers a more cost-effective way to convene discussion. Through this joint Summit the interdisciplinary group of presenters and audience will be able to expand networks, develop relationships, and leverage opportunities to find solutions for common problems. To this end, we strongly encourage colleagues to work together across disciplines when responding to the Call for Proposals, forthcoming in October.

We hope that you will share in our excitement as we embark on this new collaboration to lead the first national effort to bridge the restoration and coastal management communities. We look forward to seeing you November 1-5, 2014 at the Gaylord National Convention Center just outside Washington, DC!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Marsh Grass Planting near Vermillion Bay—September 6, 2013

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 Christian Marsh (west of Vermillion Bay). Volunteers will plant nearly 8,000 plants along newly constructed marsh terraces to help prevent further erosion and to stabilize the soil.

When: Friday, September 6th, 2013, 9 a.m. to no later than 4 p.m.

Where: Intracoastal City Public Boat Launch (20 miles south of Abbeville, LA).

Directions and additional information will be provided to registered volunteers via e-mail a few days prior to the event. This is a **dirty and strenuous** activity so physical fitness is required. Volunteers will meet at the Boat Launch and be transported by boat to the planting site (about a 20 minute boat ride). 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. We request that all volunteers **please register** so we can plan for the correct number of volunteers. You can complete an online registration form by clicking [HERE](#) or call the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 1-(888)-LACOAST for more information.

Back to the Beach! In Shreveport—September 7, 2013

Join others this Saturday, Sept. 7, from 8:30 – 11:30 AM at Hamel's Beach off of Clyde Fant Parkway (just north of the Jimmie Davis Bridge) for...

8:30 – 9:30AM beach cleanup (bags, bins, and gloves provided)

9:30 – 10 snack & discussion (watermelon provided)

10 – 11:30 water play (canoe, kayaks, and stand-up paddle board provided)

Bring water, snack, sunscreen, water shoes, PFD (few will be available for use and must be worn while in boats), and boat if you have one. Park at the parking lot and follow tire trail down to beach access trail. Boats can be dropped off before parking. There are no bathrooms. All participants will receive a free, very cool Euro-style B2B decal for being a LOUISIANA WATERSHED PROTECTOR.

<https://thebayoupierwatershedproject.shutterfly.com/>

Lake Pontchartrain Habitat Restoration—September 20, 2013

Join the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps and volunteers attending The National Land Conservation Conference RALLY 2013 as we plant trees and grasses in the Bonnet Carré Spillway on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain to protect habitat. **FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 20, 2013, 9 am to 12 pm.**

Volunteers should dress for the weather and be prepared to get wet and muddy. Please bring sunscreen, water and we urge you to bring boots as well. All necessary equipment and training are provided. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Johnson Clawson at jclawson@americaswetland.com or call 504-293-2610.

To view the full color flyer, [click here](#)

LPBF's 24th annual Beach Sweep presented by Toyota—September 21st

[Volunteer now!](#) LPBF is again coordinating with Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup to present the [24th annual Beach Sweep presented by Toyota](#). Clean ups will be done all around the Pontchartrain Basin.

To volunteer, or be a sponsor or partner email kati@saveourlake.org.

Clean up to be followed by celebration thank you picnics for registered volunteers.



RESOURCES

The Journal of Coastal Research Summer 2013 Special Issue 67 is dedicated to the Louisiana 2012 Coastal Master Plan Technical Analysis

The *Journal of Coastal Research (JCR)* is one of the international journals for coastal studies and processes, and is published bi-monthly by the **Coastal Education & Research Foundation [CERF]**. By covering the entire field of coastal research, the **JCR** encompasses all subjects relevant to natural and engineered environments (freshwater, brackish, or marine) and the protection/management of their resources in the vicinity of coastlines of the world. Even though the journal broadly focuses on immediate shoreline zones, the **JCR** also embraces those coastal environments that either reach some indefinite distance inland or that extend seaward beyond the outer margins of the sublittoral (neritic) zone. The **JCR** strives to disseminate accurate information to both the public and research specialists around the world on all aspects of coastal issues in an effort to maintain or improve the quality of our planet's shoreline resources. The link to the issue can be found at <http://www.jcronline.org/toc/coas//67?seq=67> / [Citation](#) | [Full Text](#) | [PDF \(1539 KB\)](#)

Environmental Education App.

Earth Day Carol (www.earthdaycarol.org) is a green retelling of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. In this version, Plastic Bottle Scrooge is visited by the ghosts **Plastic Past, Plastic Present, & Plastic Future**. The message of "reduce, reuse, & recycle" is conveyed through animation, pop-up facts, & kid-friendly narration. The app is most appropriate for the elementary and middle school levels & can be a starting point for discussions about the importance of protecting the environment.

EarthCam for Kids

You'll find kid-friendly, fun, & educational webcams from around the globe at www.earthcamforkids.com. Select the "cam" category of your choice (Amazing Animals, Weather or Not, Out of this World, etc.) & search for footage to enhance your elementary science instruction.

EVENT

World Water Monitoring Day: September 18, 2013

Many of you are gearing up for events around the official World Water Monitoring Day (September 18). We have plenty of resources available to help—everything from lesson plans, to puzzles, to storybooks. Visit the [Resources](#) section of the WWMC website to learn more. Don't wait until the last minute to [order your test kits!](#)

LAGNIAPPE

'Twinning' Opportunity Available for Grades 4–6

WWMC partner RiverXchange is seeking fourth- to sixth-grade classrooms (approximate ages 9 to 11) anywhere in the world willing to become high-tech pen pals with classrooms in New Mexico, USA. Students will engage with one another and learn about their local rivers by following a curriculum that integrates science, social studies, and math. [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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