



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

LEEC AND LDWF HOST QUANTIFYING DEBRIS WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS

Members of the LEEC and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff hosted almost 100 students, their teachers and chaperones at Quantifying Debris workshops during the month of November.

Engaging students in a dialogue and encouraging positive action regarding conservation, coastal ecology and civic responsibility, Quantifying Debris workshops are cross-curriculum activities suitable for upper elementary through high school and beyond.

This month, students put math and science skills to the test while learning about Louisiana's fragile coast and making a positive impact by removing hundreds of pounds of debris from Holly and Rutherford beaches in Cameron Parish, and Chef Menteur Pass in Jefferson Parish.



Plastic water bottles were among the most common forms of debris collected by students.



Students from Ridgway Christian School in Pine Bluff, AR pose with the debris they collected.

During the day-long workshops, students learned about the concept of watersheds and engaged in learning activities that demonstrated how discarded items flow through drains, streams and rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. On the shore, they measured plots, then counted, recorded and collected debris. Finally, the students sorted and weighed what they collected.

Special thanks goes to LEEC member Dinah Maygarden, UNO's Coastal Education Research Facility, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PLANT CYPRESS TREES

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and the St. Tammany Parish Government are inviting volunteers to participate in a two-day tree planting event near LaCombe, La. Volunteers will plant 500 Cypress trees in the Cypress Bayou detention pond. These native trees will improve water quality, reduce flooding, create wildlife habitat, and create beautiful natural scenery. This project is part of St. Tammany Parish's coastal forest restoration efforts. Register at [the CRCL event website](#).

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS, CONT'D

DISCOVERING COASTAL WATERS SCIENCE: A FAMILY EVENT

Hands on field and lab activities to give participants an insight to the coast of Louisiana.

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2013

Time: 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Location: De Felice Marine Center/LUMCON

8124 Hwy 56

Chauvin, LA 70344

Cost: \$8/person (including children)

Registration: Online <http://blogcwc.weebly.com/events.html>



Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium facility in Chauvin. Photo courtesy of biology.ucs.louisiana.edu

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE 2014 PASCO STEM EDUCATOR AWARDS

PASCO has partnered with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to reward selected K-12 STEM educators who have created and are utilizing modern and effective STEM curriculum in the classroom. All entries for the 2014 awards have to be received by November 30th, 2013.

Find more information at <http://www.pasco.com/resources/pasco-stem-educator-awards/index.cfm> .

COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA OPENS SEARCH FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) is a non-profit advocacy organization established in 1988 to unite business interests, scientists, landowners, national and local conservation groups, local governments, hunters, anglers and a broad spectrum of concerned citizens in a shared mission of restoring and protecting a sustainable coastal Louisiana.

CRCL seeks to hire an Executive Director (ED) that is responsible for executing the strategic goals and objectives of the organization. The ED is the chief executive officer of CRCL. The ED reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for working with the Board to develop strategic plans, programs and budgets to advance the mission of the Coalition. The ED is responsible for the execution of those plans and programs and for directing and overseeing the staff, contractors, and volunteers employed to implement them.

For more information, visit <http://lacoast.gov/ocmc/MailContent.aspx?ID=1776> .

GRANTS

CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS MINI-GRANTS

Every year, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology invites organizations, educators, and youth to apply for mini-grants to help fund creative neighborhood events. All mini-grant applicants are offered materials and training to support their events (even if their proposals are not funded). Mini-grants average between \$100-\$750. The application period closes on December 31st, 2013.

Find out more at <http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/community/minigrants/articles-tab/> .

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

LOUISIANA YOUNG HEROES AWARDS

Each year teachers have the chance to recognize a student in grades 7-12 who has excelled in the classroom, served their community or shown great courage in overcoming adversity. Nominations are now open for the 2014 LOUISIANA YOUNG HEROES AWARDS. To be eligible students must be enrolled in a Louisiana school or homeschooled and cannot be older than 19 years of age. Students who have been nominated in past years may be re-nominated for this year's awards; however, previous winners are not eligible.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from LPB's website www.lpb.org/heroes or submitted online.

RESOURCES

FREE ONLINE SCIENCE GAMES

Sheppard Software has an online arcade of educational games including: life cycles, deep sea science, food chains and more. Visit <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/science.htm> .

MAKE A MICROSCOPE OUT OF YOUR SMARTPHONE

Utilizing about \$10 worth of materials and less than half an hour to assemble, you can make a surprisingly powerful microscope out of an ordinary smartphone. [This YouTube video](#) demonstrates how, using the lens from a laser pointer, a small sheet of clear acrylic, plywood, and a few nuts and bolts.

ANIMAL WEBCAMS

[Explore.org](http://explore.org) has set up more than 50 cameras across the world showing animals from puppies to puffins in action, live and streamed online. Watch [brown bears](#) catching salmon at Brooks River in Alaska's Katmai National Park, a [litter](#) of golden retrievers that will be trained as service dogs for wounded veterans, a [honey bee](#) colony in their hive in Germany, and many more animals on explore.org.

TOOLS FOR AMBITIOUS SCIENCE TEACHING

Great teaching can be learned. This web site provides tools and resources that support ambitious science instruction at the middle school and high school levels. Ambitious teaching deliberately aims to get students of all racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds to understand science ideas, participate in the discourses of the discipline, and solve authentic problems. They describe four core instructional strategies that support this kind of teaching. These "high-leverage" practices make up the Science Learning Framework, and have been selected based on extensive research of how young people learn science, on authentic forms of science activity, and how teachers learn to appropriate new practices. <http://tools4teachingscience.org>

JOIN THE LORAX AND HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

[Energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) features games and puzzles with environmental themes based on the Dr. Seuss classic, the Lorax. Visit <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=kids.lorax> .

VENISE ORTEGO *Coordinator*
(337) 948-0255 vortego@wlf.la.gov

THOMAS GRESHAM *Assistant Coordinator*
(225) 765-0124 tgresham@wlf.la.gov

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