



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

## LEEC NEWS

### **HONORÉ ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS AT STATE SYMPOSIUM**

With all of the persuasive power one would expect from a former Army General whose new mission is to mentor leaders in the environmental and education communities, mixed with a generous dose of humor, Lt. General Russel L. Honoré (U.S. Army, Retired) took to the stage at the 17th Annual Environmental Education State Symposium in Shreveport last weekend.

“You have to teach your students,” he instructed attendees, “that ‘environmentalism’ is not a bad word.” Honoré recounted how, as a youth, his 4H group in Lakeland, LA would plant trees “because that is what you did. And nobody called you a tree-hugger.”

Honoré, best known for leading the humanitarian relief effort in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, identified clean, potable water as the key environmental issue on which society needs to focus, noting that we have a finite supply of it, and that demographers expect the world’s population to reach 10 billion people this century.

Find out more about Honoré at his website, <http://www.generalhonore.com/>.

### **PLAYMAKERS OF BATON ROUGE STAGE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLAY**

Playmakers of Baton Rouge, in partnership with the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staged the very first performance of **Zoe’s Watershed Adventure** at the Environmental Education State Symposium on Feb. 21, 2014.

In the play, targeted toward early elementary age children, Zoe learns about her role, and that of her fellow humans in keeping her watershed safe and healthy from an unexpected source, the animals who live in it!

Playmakers of Baton Rouge, Inc. ([playmakersbr.org](http://playmakersbr.org)) is Louisiana’s only professional theatre dedicated to bringing quality live theatrical productions to young audiences across the state. Founded in 1982, Playmakers is proud to continue providing excellent educational and entertaining opportunities to thousands of children and adults, through the annual Summer Neighborhood Tour, Spring Elementary School Tour, Drama Classes and Camps, Season Productions , and the Wally Wise Guy Educational Safety Mini-Tour.



At the Feb. 21 performance, Frankie tells Zoe about the watershed in her back yard.

The LEEC is funding a spring tour of the play and educators may apply to stage a performance at their underserved schools at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/playmakers>. For more information, contact Thomas Gresham, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Assistant Environmental Education Coordinator, at [tgresham@wlf.la.gov](mailto:tgresham@wlf.la.gov) or 225-765-0124

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### **CCA HONORS LDWF & HEAD FISHERIES OFFICIAL WITH JERRY STONE CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fisheries, Randy Pausina, received the Jerry Stone Conservationist of the Year Award from the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana.

“It is with great humility that I accept this award on behalf of the Department’s Office of Fisheries,” said Pausina. “Without the hard work and enthusiasm of our employees and the leadership of our Secretary and Commission, we would have not been able to achieve such significant accomplishments as an agency.”



Left to right: Executive Director of CCA Louisiana David Cresson; LDWF Assistant Secretary of LDWF Randy Pausina, CCA Habitat Chairman John Walther

Read more at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/37491](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/37491).

### **WATERY WORLD**

Saturday, March 8, from 4-8 p.m., enjoy an all-ages party focused on the different aspects of our water, including drinking water, water quality, and flooding. This community event held at 612 Piety St. New Orleans, and featuring lots of activities for children and adults, is meant to engage new audiences and create greater awareness of the importance of water in Southeast Louisiana.

Contact Jennifer Roberts at [jennifer@waterworksia.com](mailto:jennifer@waterworksia.com) for more information.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **2014 STUDENT POETRY CONTEST**

The CPRA and 4-H Youth Wetlands Program have announced a student poetry contest to coincide with Youth Wetlands Week 2014.

The contest is open to Louisiana students in three divisions — Upper Elementary (grades 3 – 5), Middle School (grades 6 – 8), and High School (grades 9 – 12). Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each division.

This year’s theme is “Louisiana’s Coast: What does it mean to you?” All entries must be received by April 7, 2014.

[Download the flyer](#) or [visit the webpage](#) for more information.

### **2014 THACHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CONTEST**

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies invites U.S. high school students to participate in the 2014 Thacher Environmental Research Contest. This annual event allows students the opportunity to show off their science and technology skills by submitting research projects focused on the use of remote sensing and analysis tools. Students are asked to identify a U.S. protected area of interest, and design a research project that identifies why the area is unique, why it significantly contributes to our society, how this area has changed over time, and ways remote sensing and geospatial tools can be used to monitor these environmental treasures.

For more information, visit [strategies.org/education/student-contests/thacher-contest/](http://strategies.org/education/student-contests/thacher-contest/)

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES, CONTD.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IN FOCUS VIDEO CONTEST**

The National Environmental Education Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are partnering to bring middle school students and teachers a climate change video contest. Create a video that is 30-120 seconds long that answers these two questions:

- Why do you care about climate change?
- How are you reducing carbon pollution or preparing for the impacts of climate change?

Prizes will be awarded to the top three Grand Prizes Winners. And the first 100 applicants will receive a free subscription to National Geographic Kids magazine!

Submission deadline: March 18, 2014

View the full contest info, and apply at [neefusa.org/climatecontest](http://neefusa.org/climatecontest).

## ADULT EDUCATION

### **SEASIDE SPARROWS: MARSH SENTINELS**

The Coastal Waters Consortium (CWC) and LUMCON are hosting a Gulf Lagniappe Adult Education Workshop Series event March 8, 2014 at the DeFelice Marine Center in Cocodrie, LA. Featuring Dr. Sabrina Taylor (LSU AgCenter) and Dr. Phil Stouffer (LSU), the workshop will focus on Seaside Sparrow populations and current research being done by CWC scientists. Participants will get to interact with the scientists and take part in a demonstration of the techniques being used to learn about our feathered friends. The workshop will also include a trip on one of LUMCON's vessels for a tour of the surrounding marsh or Terrebonne Bay. Lunch is provided. Complete the registration form online at [cwc.lumcon.edu](http://cwc.lumcon.edu).

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### **DEEP-SEA DISCOVERIES IN THE ATLANTIC ONBOARD THE NOAA SHIP OKEANOS EXPLORER: AN ONLINE WORKSHOP TO ADVANCE TRANSATLANTIC OCEAN SCIENCE LITERACY**

The College of Exploration and NOAA have joined in partnership to offer a 5-week online workshop entitled Deep-sea Discoveries in the Atlantic onboard the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer: An Online Workshop to Advance Transatlantic Ocean Literacy.

The workshop will run from March 3 - April 4, 2014, and is free to all participants. Keynote speakers will join educators, scientists, policymakers and others interested in learning more about deep-sea features, ecosystems and biological hotspots in the Atlantic.

Participants will have the opportunity to advance conversations about transatlantic ocean literacy within this construct.

For more information, visit <http://www.coexploration.org/oe2014/> or download the flyer at [http://www.coexploration.org/oe2014/assets/NOAA\\_COE\\_OcSciLit2014.pdf](http://www.coexploration.org/oe2014/assets/NOAA_COE_OcSciLit2014.pdf)

## RESOURCES

### **HOW WOLVES CHANGE RIVERS**

Introduce your students to the fascinating concept of "trophic cascades." Discover how one species can affect an entire ecosystem, and explore the surprising connection among predator, prey and habitat in this four-and-a-half-minute video. <http://youtu.be/ysa5OBhXz-Q>

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