

LEEC NEWSLETTER

A COMPILATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NEWS FROM LOUISIANA AND BEYOND



LEEC NEWS

WATERSHED WEBS

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission is nearing completion of our multi-year environmental education project, Watershed Webs. With funding from NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education Training program (Gulf B-WET), we were able to directly impact 64 educators and 596 students, and hopefully provide indirect impact to thousands of students in the years to come.

At three 4-day workshops in 2016 and 2017, and one 1-day short course in 2016, teachers learned how to collect water quality and marine debris data, participated in beach and bank cleanups and received lessons, activities and classroom materials to help integrate their new skills and knowledge into their curriculum.

We followed up with 12 student field experiences, Ranging from one to two-days, LEEC, UNO and LSU staff led students on beach and bank cleanups on the Louisiana coast and in their own back yards. Students learned valuable data collection skills, how debris in their own inland watersheds ends up in the Gulf of Mexico, and the important role that each person has as a steward of our shared natural resources.

We would like to thank all of the teachers and students, their schools, NOAA, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), LDWF Grand Isle Fisheries Research Laboratory, University of New Orleans, Louisiana State University, and everyone else who helped to make this project a resounding success.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

PLANET OR PLASTIC?

This month, National Geographic has launched *Planet or Plastic?*, a multiyear initiative aimed at raising awareness of this challenge and reducing the amount of single-use plastic that enters in the world's oceans. Doing so will not only benefit the thousands to potentially millions of marine animals that become entangled in, suffocated by, or ingest plastic each year, but will also contribute to the overall health of the planet's marine ecosystems and all who rely upon them.

Find out more on [National Geographic's Website](#).



Right: National Geographic's stunning June 2018 cover coincided with the launch of their *Planet or Plastic?* initiative.

DID YOU KNOW? Global production of plastic increased from 2 million tons in 1950 to 380 million tons by 2015, a growth rate 2.5 greater than that of the global economy. Half of that amount was produced in just the last 13 years.

Source: [The Ocean Conservancy](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WEBINAR: USING WASTE AUDITS TO IMPROVE RECYCLING & RECOVERY PROGRAMS

On June 14, 2018 at 12 p.m. Central, presenters from UC-Davis will share an in-depth case study about how they organize audits of different campus waste streams and how they're using the results to strategically move the school closer to its zero waste goals.

Find out more and register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/831554436716378113>.

DOLPHIN TALES: STUDYING THE WHO, WHEN, AND WHERE OF HABITAT USE

June 6, 2018 at 5 p.m. Central, join Dr. Tammy Silva as she discusses when and where dolphin species occur so that the research can inform ecosystem management and mitigate human impacts. This presentation will focus on the biology and ecology of dolphins, current threats, and how technology is helping us learn about their occurrence and distribution.

This webinar series will provide educators with educational and scientific expertise, resources and training to support ocean and climate literacy in the classroom.

Find out more and register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3780381950359732994>.

LAGNIAPPE

SCHOOL OF FISH

The [John C. Burrus School of Fish](#) will be held on Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13 from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) New Canal Lighthouse. Children ages 8 through 15 will be taught how to tie basic knots, fish ID, casting, and fishing with rods and reels by LPBF and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries educators and volunteers. Children can attend one of the two half-day camps. The cost is \$25 per child for LPBF members and \$30 for non-members. Registration is now open.

Visit <https://lpbf.wufoo.com/forms/m7icclj010ywc5/> to register.

STRAWLESS OCEAN PROJECT FUNDING

[Lonely Whale](#) is now accepting applications to its Mini Grants For A Strawless Ocean program! Open until June 11th, Mini Grants For A Strawless Ocean will award individuals, non-profit organizations, and community representatives funding to support their impact campaigns to measurably reduce single-use plastic straws.

Apply at <https://lonelywhale.typeform.com/to/vftWfj>



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

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

BRIAN GAUTREAU *Green Schools Coordinator*
(225) 765-2864 bgautreau@lsu.edu



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