

## Wetlands Education Theater



Children Enjoy Lessons during Wetland Theater

**Project Year:** 2008

**Category:** Birds

**Status:** Complete

**Project #:** None

**Location:**

Barataria and Terrebonne Bays

### Project Partners:

Chase Kamata, Carl Walker, C C Lockwood, JoAnn Burke, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Erica Olson, Audubon Nature Institute.

### Problem Addressed:

The residents of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary are on the front lines of the battle against coastal land loss. When provided with the proper resources the inhabitants of coastal Louisiana are the best suited candidates for the job of education and restoration.

### Problem Description:

The BTNEP Mini-Grant program provides funding for small-scale projects that can have large-scale impact. Each year, applicants submit project ideas for up to \$5,000. Funding allows those most affected to help play a part in the restoration of their home.

One Mini-Grant recipient used performing arts to introduce students to Louisiana's wetlands. A one-hour, in-class presentation for elementary students in Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary schools, the Wetlands Educational Theater Outreach was designed to offer a different point of entry for learning about the importance of the coastal wetlands of Louisiana.

The program incorporated several activities, including: a 10-minute professional theatrical presentation, "Treasure of the Wetlands," performed by Chase Kamata and directed by Carl Walker, with a power point slideshow of wetland photographs by nature photographer C C Lockwood; a lively 20-minute discussion about Louisiana's wetlands, led by JoAnn Burke, of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; and a 30-minute presentation of wetland animals by handlers from the Audubon Zoo's "Wetland Express"; led by Erica Olson of the Audubon Nature Institute. The students also received a take-home sheet on how they can help the wetlands. Mindy Mayer was project director and writer.

During the fall and Winter of 2008-2009, the Wetlands Educational Theater Outreach conducted 10 in-school presentations, reaching more than 400 students in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. The grades of the students ranged from 1st to 4th, and the size of audience for each presentation varied from 21 to 67.



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