



## BARATARIA-TERREBONNE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Kristy Monier

Phone Number: 985.447.0868

Email: [kristy@btnep.org](mailto:kristy@btnep.org)

### **BTNEP GEARING UP FOR 2017 BAYOU LAFOURCHE CLEANUP SATURDAY**

*Volunteers are still needed for this year's event.*

**THIBODAUX, LA** – The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is in the final stages of preparations for Saturday's Bayou Lafourche Cleanup event.

Over 800 volunteers have signed up to 'get the trash out of the splash.' Volunteers include families, governmental agencies, parish officials, schools, churches, chambers and small and large companies. The cleanup will be done mostly from boats, but volunteers are also needed to clean locations around bridges and along the bayou side. Twelve volunteer site captains will set up their teams in different areas along the bayou.

The event is projected to clean up 106 miles of the bayou from Donaldsonville to Leeville. In the past five years, over 4,000 volunteers have donated their time to cleaning up the waterway that supplies drinking water to residents of Lafourche, Terrebonne and Assumption parishes.

"BTNEP's goal is to bring awareness to the littering problem and restore pride in our natural resources," said Alma Robichaux, BTNEP Education and Outreach Coordinator.

This year an appreciation party, which is free to all volunteers will be held from 3-6 pm at the Lafourche Central Market on Hwy 1 in Raceland. Food, drinks, and music will be provided.

For more information or to volunteer for the 2017 event please email Alma Robichaux at [Alma@btnep.org](mailto:Alma@btnep.org) or call 985-447-0868. Visit [www.btnep.org](http://www.btnep.org) to sign up online.

BTNEP would like to thank the 2017 Bayou Lafourche Cleanup corporate sponsors; Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District, T. Baker Smith, Regions Bank, Rouses, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Entergy, LA 1 Coalition, Pelican Waste & Debris, Valentine Chemical, Waste Pro, Lafourche Parish Government, John Deere, Acadia Land Surveying, and Synergy Bank.

**BTNEP is one of the 28 national estuary programs in the United States. All or parts of sixteen Louisiana parishes are located in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary system. The organization was established under the EPA Clean Water Act to protect coastal resources. BTNEP is a partnership of government, businesses, scientists, conservation organizations, agricultural interests and individuals for the preservation, protection, and restoration for the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary in southeast Louisiana. For more information on BTNEP, visit our website page at [www.btnep.org](http://www.btnep.org) or like us on Facebook.**

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