



Crab Lines

September 2017

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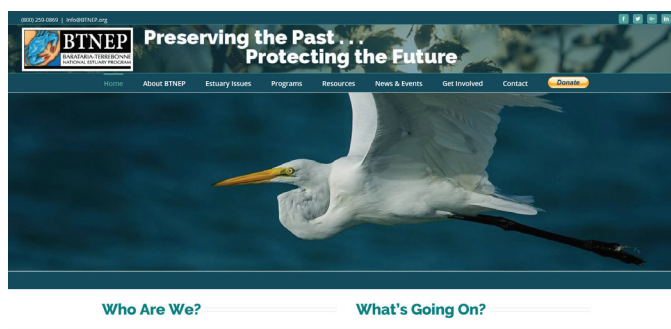
*Celebrate our
Estuary during
National
Estuaries Week
Sept. 17-23, 2017*

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BTNEP Launches New Newsletter and Redesigned Website

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is pleased to announce the launch of its quarterly newsletter, *Crab Lines*. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed of BTNEP's endeavors and achievements as the program protects and restores the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. A list of upcoming events, status on projects, and other BTNEP happenings will be featured.

We are also happy to show you our redesigned website at www.BTNEP.org. This redesigned site offers quick and easy access to essential information regarding the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System (BTES). It also offers updated information on estuary issues, information on the different BTNEP programs, public resources, and volunteer opportunities just to name a few.



For more information regarding any of BTNEP's resources call our office at 985-447-0868 or email us at info@BTNEP.org.

Meet the BTNEP Staff

Do you know the members of our BTNEP Staff? Maybe there are new faces to the program that you do not recognize. We would like to reintroduce our staff to you. If you have any questions regarding our estuary and/or our program, all of our staff members would be more than happy to assist you.

Front Row L-R: Andrew Barron (Water Quality Coordinator), Nicole Babin (Office Coordinator), Alma Robichaux (Education/Outreach Coordinator), Natalie Waters (Bird Conservation Coordinator), Siva Nunna (Water Quality Scientist), Delaina LeBlanc (Migratory Birds Coordinator), Susan Testroet-Bergeron (Program Director), and Kristy Monier (Media/Public Relations Coordinator).
Back row L-R: Matt Benoit (Habitat Restoration Coordinator), Richard DeMay (Sr. Scientist), Dean Blanchard (Deputy Director), Michael Massimi (Invasive Species Coordinator), and Seth Moncrief (Public Involvement Coordinator).



BTNEP CCMP Under Revision

BTNEP operates under the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, also known as the CCMP. The CCMP was developed through consensus by the Management Conference and is a formal management plan with specific action plans that was developed to promote and preserve the Barataria-Terrebonne estuarine complex. The original CCMP contained 51 action plans that were designed with the following 12 goals:



- Preserve and restore wetlands and barrier islands,
- Realistically support diverse, natural biological communities,
- Develop and meet water quality standards that adequately protect estuarine resources and human health,
- Promote environmentally responsible economic activities that sustain estuarine resources,
- Create national recognition and support,
- Implement comprehensive education and awareness programs that enhance public involvement and maintain cultural heritage,
- Create an accessible, comprehensive database with interpreted information for the public,
- Create clear, fair, practical, and enforceable regulations,
- Develop/maintain multi-level, long-term, comprehensive watershed planning,
- Be compatible with natural processes,
- Forge common ground solutions to estuarine problems, and
- Formulate indicators of estuarine ecosystem health and balanced use.

The CCMP is currently being rewritten to address the dynamic ecosystem and its users. The revised CCMP now contains 36 action plans. Public review will open up sometime in the month of October and will be open for comments for approximately three weeks. BTNEP is scheduled to deliver the final document to EPA in December.

BTNEP would like to thank committee members who took time out of their busy schedules to aid in the revising of our CCMP.

Upcoming BTNEP Volunteer Events

Would you like to take part in cleaning up our estuary? BTNEP has two upcoming clean up events, and the public is welcome to participate.

A Community Cleanup is scheduled for Friday, September 22, 2017. BTNEP and the Central Lafourche High School Junior ROTC will be cleaning up the area of Bayou Lafourche near Highway 90 overpass, along LA 1 and Hwy 308. The event will be held from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Gloves, trash bags, snacks, and drinking water will be provided.



On Thursday, December 7, 2017, BTNEP will once again team up with the Junior ROTC from Central Lafourche High School to conduct a Beach Cleanup on Elmer's Island to clean up marine debris. The event will be held from 10:30 am – 2 pm. Gloves, trash bags, snacks, and drinking water be provided.

For more information on these events or any other volunteer opportunities, please e-mail Seth Moncrief at Seth@BTNEP.org or call the office at 985-447-0868.

*Want to join our volunteer email list?
Visit our website at <https://volunteer.btnep.org/join-us/>*

BTNEP's Estuary Artworks

Celebrating National Estuaries Week

BTNEP will be hosting its 4th Annual Estuary Artworks contest in collaboration with National Estuaries Week. This year's theme is *Our Estuary...My Future: Protecting the Colors of the Estuary!*

BTNEP would like to invite all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade who live in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System (BTES) to participate in BTNEP's contest. Students are invited to submit their artwork for judging by Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 4pm to the BTNEP office. Anyone wanting to participate can contact the BTNEP office for a rules and registration packet. Children are encouraged to use their creative ideas and relate it to life in the estuary!

Contest categories will be broken down by grade consisting of K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Prizes will be awarded to first place winners in each category. Nine additional students will be selected and all will be featured in the 2018 Estuary Artworks calendar. All 13 winners will receive passes that can be used at any of the Audubon Nature Institute parks or museums including the zoo, aquarium, or insectarium.

National Estuaries Week will be held September 17-23 to promote the importance of estuaries and the need to protect and restore them by raising awareness of the vital role estuaries play in our society. Activities across the country sponsored by various groups are creating awareness and public interest about the significance of estuaries in the environment. BTNEP's goal with the Estuary Artworks event is to educate children more about the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System, its importance, and its value to the community. As the estuary disappears, so does the culture and heritage of its people.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

BTNEP in partnership with LDWF and NSU will be conducting a beach cleanup at Elmer's Island on Saturday, September 16, 2017. The event begins at 10am until 1pm.

The event is being held in coordination with International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and National Estuaries Week. The ICC is an annual global event that is coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy. The event is projected to clean approximately 1145 acres or 2.5 miles of shoreline. The goal of the event is to increase awareness of the problem of marine debris and make volunteers good stewards of our estuaries.

Preregistration to volunteer is required. Water will be provided, but participants are asked to bring refillable water bottles in order to reduce trash. Snacks and lunch will also be provided.

For more information or to register to volunteer, please contact Alma Robichaux at alma@btnep.org or call the office at 985-447-0868.



BTEF Hosts 3rd Annual White Boot Gala

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation (BTEF) will be hosting its 3rd Annual White Boot Gala in coordination with National Estuaries Week. The event will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, from 6-9pm at Spahr's Seafood in Des Allemands. Ticket donations are \$60 each. The event will include wonderful food, auction, and a cash bar. Suggested attire is business/cocktail with White Boots! For more information or to purchase a ticket please call the office at 985-447-0868. Tickets are limited.



BTEF was incorporated as a non-profit environmental organization with a mission to involve a representation of a broad base of people to support BTNEP. This includes supporting the mission of stewardship of the cultural, economic and ecological resources of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.

BTNEP Hosts 80th Management Conference Meeting

On Thursday August 3, BTNEP held its 80th Management Conference Meeting at Nicholls State University. The meeting featured three presentations given by Nathan Cotton of Louisiana Science Teachers Association, Dr. Rodrigo Diaz of LSU Ag Center, and Nick Matherne of APTIM on behalf of LA SAFE.



Nathan Cotton, on behalf of Louisiana Student Standards for Science (LSSS), presented “The New Standards” for science curriculum. According

to Cotton, the current standards were 20 years old. On March 8, 2017, BESE approved the adoption of new standards. The need for the new standards was important due to recent studies showing that students begin forming complex ideas and explanations at an early age, that content and the process of learning must be taught in tandem and it has been proven that depth is more important to student learning than breadth. Louisiana Science Standards are broken down into five domains: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science, Environmental Science, and Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science.

The new science standards can be found at www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards. Be sure to select LSS science standards for a particular grade or subject.

Dr. Diaz is an LSU AgCenter entomologist who is studying a small insect that has damaged vegetation key to the survival of Louisiana coastal marsh. For his presentation, Dr. Diaz gave an update on the insect called the Phragmites scale. The insect has damaged a considerable amount of Roseau cane in Plaquemines Parish from Venice to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Roseau cane is a common plant for erosion control at the mouth of the river. The roots of Roseau cane hold marsh soil in place, and it helps with coastal land loss. According to Dr. Diaz, it is one of the best plants for preventing erosion. It grows in the deep water and stems reduce wave action. Some of the affected Roseau has



begun regrowth, but the scales have already established colonies on the new growth.

How the Phragmites got to Louisiana is still unknown. The insects originate from China or Japan. The scales are known to damage plants by massive depletion of its nutrients. They feed on the plant's sap and reduce plant energy resources. The scales are present in the section of the stem right above the water. The female scales, which are oval, pale yellow to brown in color and measure slightly less than a half inch long, cling to the stem. Dr. Diaz stated that scales are present in 11 Louisiana parishes but die-offs are mostly occurring in Plaquemines Parish.



Dr. Diaz mentioned his group is still researching to learn more about the Phragmites scales, but wanted the public to know that they can aid in the research as well. Anyone interested in taking part should go to www.surveymoney.com/r/PhragmitesSurvey. There you will find instruction and survey questions to answer. As of right now, the extent of the damage or the long term implications of the die-offs are unknown.

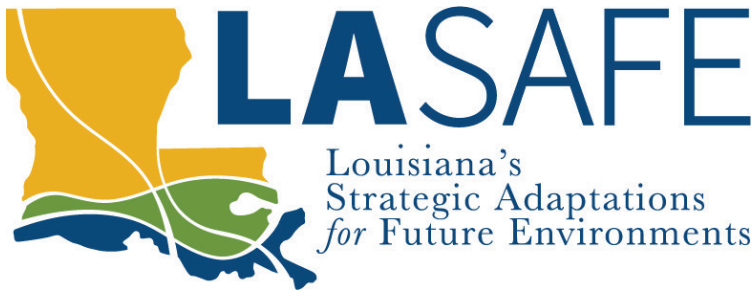
The final presentation was given by Nick Matherne of APTIM on behalf of LA SAFE (Louisiana Strategic Adaptations for Future Environment). According to its website, LA SAFE is a group made of passionate leaders and organizations committed to enabling our community members to take proactive steps towards mitigating risk and increasing resilience against coastal issues. The group is working together to acknowledge that adaptation and restoration must go hand-in-hand with addressing community growth and contraction, as well as realizing our most vulnerable coastal communities will need to contemplate resettlement over the next 50 years.

According to Matherne, LA SAFE is conducting a pilot program in six parishes: St. John, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Tammy, Jefferson and Plaquemines. The group is

BTNEP Hosts 80th Management Conference Meeting continued

looking for the next step after the State Master Plan. The group is 100% community driven. All points of view and knowledge are recognized. The group has conducted parish meetings discussing understanding change and goals, local meetings discussing needs and opportunities, and are in the process of completing parish-wide meetings to discuss projects, policies, and programs. Two more sets of meetings are planned parish-wide. The goal is to have the Final Adaptation Plan by the end of 2017. Matherne stated that even if the Master Plan were fully funded, risk would still increase for Louisiana. For more information on LA SAFE and its mission, please visit lasafe.la.gov.

To complete the meeting, the Management Conference



decided on a resolution expressing support for continued action to reduce the size and growth of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone and in support of research on the topic.

The next Management Conference Meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2017, in the Plantation Room at Nicholls State University.

Upcoming Management Conference Meetings:

November 2, 2017

February 1, 2018

May 3, 2018

August 2, 2018

All meetings begin at 9:30 AM and are tentatively scheduled to be held on the NSU campus.



Surviving Hurricane Harvey

BTNEP would like to thank all of the BTNEP Management Conference Members, BTEF Board Members, and Friends of the Estuary Program who have committed to helping those affected by Hurricane Harvey. We know many of you have already loaned a hand in the recovery efforts.

We are working with our sister National Estuary Program organizations in Texas, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuary Program in Corpus Christi and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program in Houston, to find the most direct way to help the local residents. BTEF will be collecting monetary donations for our sister organizations to share with schools during this time. In the past, we have supported school efforts after natural disasters. As other needs arise, we will keep you informed.



This type of tragedy will require a long term recovery effort. We certainly empathize with that!

BTNEP and BTEF are committed to helping. We stand united!



Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

The mission of BTNEP is the preservation and restoration of the estuarine system. BTNEP strives to rebuild and protect the estuary for future generations through the implementation of a science-based, consensus-driven comprehensive conservation management plan that utilizes partnerships focused on the estuary's cultural, economic, and natural resources. BTNEP is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's 320 Clean Water Act, the State of Louisiana, and the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Foundation, a 501(c)3.

What does BTNEP do?

- Ecological Management Projects
- Habitat Enhancement Projects
- Projects that protect native species and reduce invasive species
- K-12, Public Education, and Outreach
- Production of Science-based Publications for Public Education
- Provide an Open Forum to Discuss Estuary Issues.
- Water Quality Projects
- Scientific Research
- Species Assessments
- Promotion of Nature-based Recreation
- Volunteer Activities

