



WETSHOP

Louisiana Wetland Teacher Workshop

PROJECT STATUS

Project Year:	Ongoing
Status:	Ongoing
Category:	Education
Location:	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Facility on Grand Isle
Project Partners:	The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LA Sea Grant, BTNEP, CWPPRA, Keep Louisiana Beautiful

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM ADDRESSED

This project provides teachers with an intense look at wetland issues related to wetland habitats, botany, ecosystem, birding, history, coastal land loss and restoration, water quality, oil and gas exploration, fishing, seining, trawling, and fisheries management. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and partnering agencies furnish the training. This project furnishes teachers with one week of training on the above-mentioned topics. Teachers are required to participate in a variety of activities that will improve their content information on wetland related issues and provide phenomena-based lessons. As a stewardship project, teachers continue the WETSHOP message by returning to their parishes to conduct teacher workshops or implement projects for their co-workers, students and/or community.

CCMP ACTION ITEMS ADDRESSED

SR = Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement

SR-1: Community Engagement

SR-6 : Continuing and Informal Education Programs

MORE ABOUT WETSHOP

www.wlf.la.gov/wetshop



BTNEP | Nicholls State University | N. Babington Hall, Rm 105 | P.O. Box 2663 | Thibodaux, LA 70301
Phone 985.447.0868 | Toll Free 1.800.259.0869 | www.BTNEP.org

LONG TERM OUTCOMES

- Increase awareness among educators about wetland issues
- Improve educator access to information
- Increase educators' knowledge about wetlands
- Provide educators with tools for improved wetlands classroom education.

The most valuable long term outcome is that students will be educated by trained teachers who have had field experience.

CWA CORE PROGRAMS ADDRESSED

- (2) Identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them,
- (4) Addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution,
- (5) Protecting wetlands
- (6) Protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program
- (7) Protecting large aquatic ecosystems.

SAMPLE WETSHOP AGENDA

Day 1

- Wetland Activities/Plant Presses
- Mississippi River History
- Introduction to LA Wetlands
- Oil Spill Facts
- Grand Isle Maritime Forest History
- Coastal Edible Plants
- Grand Isle Research Lab Programs
- Histology Lab
- Trawling
- Age & Growth Lab
- Hurricane Lines of Defense
- Hurricane Mapping
- Journaling
- Evening Dock/Boat Fishing

Day 2

- BTNEP presentation
- Leave for Restoration Ridge
- Restoration Ridge – Geomorphology
- Restoration Projects
- Lunch @ Port Fourchon
- Port Fourchon Presentation
- Tour of Port
- Restoration of Coastal LA
- BTNEP Lessons
- Invasive Species
- Marine Litter and G. Terre
- Evening Dock/Boat Fishing

Day 3

- Coastal Birding
- Elmer's Island presentation
- Depart to Elmer's Island / Marine

Debris Survey

- LDWF Lab - lunch
- Water Quality Instruction
- Visit Queen Bess / View Fort Livingston
- Depart to Grand Terre / compare Elmer and Grand Terre beaches
- Plant Transects, Flotant Marsh presentation

Day 4

- Depart for Houma Fire Station
- First sample site, then Depart for LUMCON by boat – tour through wetlands (Fresh to Salt water marshes), wetland ecology.
- Lunch at Falgout Canal Marina
- Arrive at LUMCON - Tour Facility, Analyze Data
- Depart for Grand Isle: Bus will transport group back to LDWF Facility
- Dinner
- Wetland Games
- Evening Dock/Boat Fishing

Day 5

- Breakfast then Group Photo
- Follow up wetland activities: Drop in a Bucket, Wetland Metaphors
- Oil spill activities: Oil Spill in a Pan, Smell/Taste Testing Post Test – Evaluations

PARTNER PERSPECTIVES

“Most Louisiana teachers are not going to be able to take their students on a field trip to the southeast Louisiana coast, but they can certainly bring what they have learned back into the classroom and teach a phenomenon-based experience for their students,”

-- LDWF BIOLOGIST ANGELA CAPELLO

“I never fail to be inspired by the passion that the week of WETSHOP brings out in everyone. By the end of the week you aren't strangers, you are bonded by the week you have experienced. You walk in the land that is disappearing, you meet people who have lost their history, you see the species who have faced habitat loss, it becomes very personal. You aren't just reading about it, you are experiencing it. As a teacher, WETSHOP prepares you to bring that back to your students. You have a perfect phenomenon to use in your classroom, and all the resources you need to share it with your students.”

-- CHRISTY FLYNN, VETERAN WETSHOP VOLUNTEER.