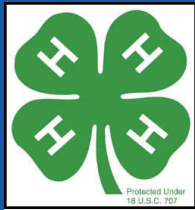
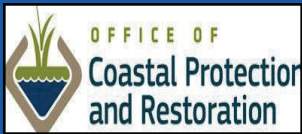


4-H Youth Development Office  
 176 Knapp Hall  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
[www.lsuagcenter.com/yww](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/yww)



Check out these wetland websites:

- [www.americaswetland.com/](http://www.americaswetland.com/)
- [dnr.louisiana.gov/teach.ssi](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/teach.ssi)
- [www.lacoast.gov](http://www.lacoast.gov)
- [www.btneq.org/home.asp](http://www.btneq.org/home.asp)
- [www.lamer.lsu.edu/projects/coastalroots/](http://www.lamer.lsu.edu/projects/coastalroots/)
- [www.crcl.org/home.html](http://www.crcl.org/home.html)
- [www.nwrc.usgs.gov/wetlandwatchers.org/](http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/wetlandwatchers.org/)
- [www.wetland.org/](http://www.wetland.org/)



Everyone was all smiles after a great Wetlands Exploration Day! We love our Entergy volunteers!

# Youth Wetlands Program

provided by LSU AgCenter

ISSUE 3 (2011-2012) DECEMBER 2011

## Heaux, Heaux, Heaux!!!

Happy Holidays! Registration for the 2011-2012 Youth Wetlands Program is closed and we so excited that there are 79,000 students registered for the program! This awesome accomplishment is because of YOU, so thank you educators, 4-H agents, and 4-H volunteers for promoting the YW Program and registering youth!

For new participants, welcome to the YW Program! The YW newsletter will be sent every month to inform you of wetland-related happenings across the state. We hope you and your students will get out of the classroom and get into the wetlands!

For returning educators, thank you for your continued participation and support! It just keeps getting better and better every year!

The 2012 Youth Wetlands Week will be held the week of April 23-27, 2012. This week was chosen because it falls after LEAP testing and coincides with Earth Day, which is April 22, 2011. All registered educators will receive their YW curriculum binder and box of materials in March 2012. Although our promotional week is slated for one week during the year, we understand that this schedule may not be conducive to every school schedule. We encourage educators to utilize the YW Program curriculum year-round.

Thanks again for your participation in the program! We look forward to a great, WET year!

GEAUX TIGERS!

*Ashley*

### ? Did You Know ?

- Louisiana loses nearly 25 square miles of land every year!
- Every 2.7 miles of wetlands absorb 1 foot of storm surge during hurricanes!
- Louisiana's wetlands provide habitat for more than 5 million migratory waterfowl!

## Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (Deadline: December 30, 2011)

The Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators Program recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. It is a partnership between DEQ and the EPA. Two teachers from each EPA region will be selected to receive the award. [Application Website](#)



Students participate in lots of awesome activities at YWP's Wetlands Exploration Days!





## Youth Wetlands

### America's WETLAND Foundation's annual *Keep Your Eye on the Prize* (Deadline: January 15, 2012)

The America's WETLAND Foundation's annual *Keep Your Eye on the Prize* contest is designed to encourage students across the state to consider the significance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands to their own lives by writing essays, creating artwork, or taking photographs on the topic. The subject of the 2012 contest essay entries will be "How can Louisiana adapt to coastal land loss and what changes should be made?" The subject of the 2012 art/photo entries will be, "Why should the area known as America's WETLAND be saved?" Two winners will be awarded in each of the following categories: grades 1-2; grades 3-5; grades 6-8; and grades 9-12; two overall winners will be named. Winning students' classes will be awarded a \$5,000 grant from the America's WETLAND Foundation to be used for a wetland planting project, along with a school visit by The Estuarrians, the nine action hero mascots of the Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana. Complete contest guidelines are available at [www.americaswetland.com](http://www.americaswetland.com).

### Are You an Eco-Hero? (Deadline: January 15, 2012)

Your students can share their environmental activism and creative work with Action for Nature to receive a cash prize. Action for Nature is proud to honor the work of young people between the ages of 8 and 16 who have done creative environmental projects. The winners of AFN's International Young Eco-Hero Awards program receive a cash prize and a special certificate, as well as public recognition on AFN's website and elsewhere. Please visit <http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero-awards> for more information.

### Announcing EPA's New Student Blog

Teachers, students, and parents, tell EPA about your favorite website about nature, plants, or water. They may even write a blog about it. They can also help you get started writing your own blog entry about an environmental service project. This blog is a place where you can read about what kids are doing to protect the environment. You will also find information about contests and cool environmental sites. Comment on EPA's posts and tell them about all the great things you are doing to help the environment. Teachers and parents visit the blog to find out about all the great things kids are doing for the environment and how you can help them become future Environmentalists! The blog site is <http://blog.epa.gov/students/> From this blog, you can check out EPA's new students site which includes resources for both students and teachers.

### Environmental Education Symposium Registration is NOW OPEN!

On March 9-10, 2012, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Environmental Education Association will host the 15th Annual Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium-"Our Environment...Our Future" at the Lafayette Crowne Plaza in Lafayette, Louisiana. Join them for a day of exciting environmental education sessions and earn needed CLUs! Many sessions will focus on how to use the outdoors to enhance the classroom experience! Visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/environmental-education-commission> for more information and to register.

### \$100 Stipend-Oil spill professional development for teachers

Through a grant supported by the NOAA Office of Education, professional development as a video conference will be offered to formal and informal educators who teach middle to high school grades or those professionals who work with the K-12 community. It will be offered with an opportunity to earn a \$100 stipend at three locations in Louisiana: LSU Baton Rouge, Aquarium of the Americas-New Orleans, and the Bossier Instructional Technology Center-Bossier City on Saturday, January 28, 2012 from 9am to 12 noon (sign in at 8:30). For more information, contact Dianne Lindstedt at Louisiana Sea Grant, LSU at [lsged@lsu.edu](mailto:lsged@lsu.edu) or 225-578-1558. To register go to [http://fs9.formsite.com/louisianaseagrant/oilspillpd/secure\\_index.html](http://fs9.formsite.com/louisianaseagrant/oilspillpd/secure_index.html)