

Louisiana State University



Agricultural Center
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service



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Louisiana Wetlands News

March

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Directory of Louisiana Wetland Delineators Being Developed

Faculty within the LSU Agricultural Center's Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) are often called upon by landowners, developers, financial institutions, and business owners for wetland delineation assistance on private lands throughout the state. Wetland delineations are often required before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) can determine if an area is a jurisdictional wetland. If an area is determined to be a wetland according to currently used COE criteria, special section 404 Clean Water Act permits are generally required before traditional activities can be conducted on the site. Activities requiring wetland permits may include digging, ditching, leveling, leveeing, dredging, tree removal, just to name a few.

In an effort to provide wetland delineation assistance in this area, the LSU Agricultural Center (LCES) and the LSU Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute are jointly developing a directory of wetland delineation professionals. If you are now providing this service and would like to be included in the directory, please submit your name, firm name (optional), address, zip, phone, fax, e-mail (optional), professional certifications, and geographic of coverage in Louisiana (statewide, southwest, south-central, southeast, Florida parishes, northwest, northeast) to Dr. Paul Coreil, Wetlands and Coastal Resources Specialist, P.O. Box 25100, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5100, phone (504) 388-2266, fax (504) 388-2478, e-mail: pcoreil@agctr.lsu.edu.

All professionals responding will receive a free copy of the directory. Anyone else can receive a copy by contacting Dr. Coreil or your parish Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) office. The directory should be available in May 1998.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office.

1998 Wetland Delineation Training Workshops

Overview

The Louisiana State University Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute is offering several short courses on various aspects of wetland identification and delineation. These courses are designed to provide the participants with practical field experience as well as a thorough understanding of the principles and science behind the course topic. All courses will be held in Baton Rouge, La. The following courses will be offered in 1998:

Wetland Delineation Training - May 18-22, 1998

This course will provide the participants with a thorough understanding of wetland soils, vegetation, and hydrology in conjunction with the procedures used in the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. This course combines both classroom lectures and field exercises covering soil chemistry, soil taxonomy, hydric soil indicators, Munsell color charts, hydrophytic plant communities, wetland hydrology, use and interpretation of the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, and field measurement techniques. **The primary emphasis is on field identification of jurisdictional wetlands.** Successful completion of the course will result in a certificate from the LSU Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute documenting 40 hours of training in the use of the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. This certificate does not constitute certification by the Corps of Engineers. Tuition is \$950 which covers the cost of a course notebook with all handouts, a Munsell color chart, a ferrous iron test kit, a copy of "Field Guide for Wetland Delineation," transportation to and from field sites, and refreshments. Participants are responsible for their own travel to Baton Rouge and per diem. Instructors: Faulkner, Sanders, and Touchet.

Advanced Hydric Soils - June 8-10, 1998

This three-day course will provide the participants with more advanced instruction in soil taxonomy, soil morphology and genesis, and field indicators of hydric soils. It is recommended that the participant already have taken Wetland Delineation Training or equivalent. This is an advanced soils course and assumes the participant has a basic understanding of soils. Tuition is \$650 which includes a course notebook with all handouts, a copy of the most recent version of "Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States," Keys to Soil Taxonomy, transportation to and from field sites, and refreshments. Participants are responsible for their own travel to Baton Rouge and per diem. Instructors: Faulkner, Touchet.

Wetland Plant Identification - October 6-9, 1998

This four day course will concentrate on field identification of wetland plants. Both coastal and inland freshwater wetland plants will be included in the class. Tuition is \$650 which includes a course text, handouts, a copy of the "List of Plants That Occur in Wetlands," plant press, transportation to and from field sites, and refreshments. Participants are responsible for their own travel to Baton Rouge and per diem. Instructors: Mendelsohn, Chabreck.

For more information, contact Karen Gros, Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute, at (504) 388-8806, fax (504) 388-6423, e-mail: wetland@premier.net

Nonpoint Source Watershed Conference Set

On April 6-9, 1998, EPA Region 6 will sponsor a Nonpoint Source (NPS) Watershed Conference in Baton Rouge at the Hilton Hotel. The conference will include a variety of field trips (April 6) and a full array of NPS topics covering row crop agriculture, forestry, animal waste, individual sewage systems, and urban technologies.

For more information, contact Ms. Jan Boydston at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), P. O. Box 82215, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2215, Phone- (504) 765-0546, Fax-(504) 765-0546

Private Property Improvement Act of 1997

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Private Property Rights Improvement Act of 1997 (HR 1534) in late 1997, and it is now in the U.S. Senate. The Act would make it easier for landowners with claims that the government has "taken" their property without due compensation to reach federal court, thereby bypassing state and local regulatory schemes (such as county zoning and planning boards). "Takings" claims by property owners are frequently based on reduced property value caused by environmental regulations.

For a status report or to get more information, contact my office in Baton Rouge.



President Clinton's FY 1999 Conservation Budget

President Clinton's proposed FY 1999 budget includes a \$4.6 billion combined budget for the Forest Service (FS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding public land management, research, fire suppression, land acquisition, private land conservation, watershed improvements, pollution prevention, urban conservation assistance, and wetland protection. Conservation program budget highlights include the following:

- ❑ *Environmental Fund for America*: The budget recommends \$83 million – \$60 million in FS and \$23 million in NRCS- to boost clean water efforts. This funding will address streambank protection on private lands, toxic chemicals from abandoned mines, run-off pollution, watershed monitoring, healthy forests, and rangeland improvement.
- ❑ *Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)*: 164,000 additional acres of wetlands will be protected through WRP. By the end of the year 2000, 975,000 acres of land will be preserved through WRP.
- ❑ *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*: This program, created by the 1996 Farm Bill, provides flexible technical and financial assistance to landowners seeking to address natural resource challenges that affect soil, water, and related resources, including grazing lands, wetlands, and wildlife. The FY 1999 budget will increase EQIP funding by \$100 million to a total of \$300 million.
- ❑ *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*: The FY 1999 budget estimates funding of \$20 million for WHIP, which aids landowners in the protection of threatened and endangered wildlife. USDA expects to enroll 130,000 acres in FY 1999.
- ❑ *Recreation Increases*: The Forest Service budget includes \$225 million for recreation and wilderness management, an increase of \$21 million, to meet the rising public demand for recreational use of our national forests.
- ❑ *\$337 million for the Forest Service* to fight forest fires and restore fire depleted eco-systems.
- ❑ *\$163 million* for private forest owners to improve stewardship of their lands, support urban forest conservation, and fight forest pests. The Administration is seeking \$579 million for NRCS to help carry out its long-standing commitment to work cooperatively with conservation districts to conserve and protect soil, water and wildlife habitats.
- ❑ *\$25 million for the Conservation Farm Option*, which will provide 10-year contracts to protect our nation's farmland.
- ❑ *Funding of \$10 million for USDA's contribution* to an interagency Climate Change Technology Initiative. Programs encouraging the use of cleaner burning fuels and the use of plants to remove carbon from our air to address global warming.

Source: USDA News Release

Fur Exports Remain Safe Under Breaux

Louisiana's fur trade benefited from the backing of Senator John Breaux earlier this month. Under Breaux's leadership, the United States reached an agreement that will allow U.S. fur producers to continue exporting fur to important markets in France, Germany, Italy, and other European countries.

Imports of U.S. fur were to be banned December 1, 1997, by the European Union in response to intense political pressure from animal rights groups opposed to the use of leghold traps. This landmark agreement was reached after years of mediation as Senator Breaux worked hard with federal and state officials including Greg Linscombe of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The settlement represents a well-balanced achievement for all parties involved. Under the agreement, the fur trade will remain open, protecting Louisiana's right and ability to manage wildlife. At the same time, work is under way to establish a meaningful international standard for humane trapping.

Louisiana has 2,000 licensed trappers, leading the nation in wild fur production. Louisiana exports over one-half million furs annually, making significant contributions to local economies.

The agreement allows LDWF to continue to manage wildlife, protect endangered species, protect humans from animal-borne diseases such as rabies and control costly animal damage.

Nutria population control, implemented by trappers and paid for by fur exports, plays a vital role in expensive coastal wetland restoration projects throughout the state. Likewise, timber and agricultural interests in the northern part of the state depend on an effective program to reduce what would be extensive beaver damage.

Source: LDWF Newsletter 6(52)

Caernarvon Biological Monitoring Report

The Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure Biological Monitoring Program Postconstruction Report has recently been released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The report focuses on the period from 1988 through 1994 and displays and discusses the data collected in an intensive monitoring program.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Bruce Baird, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Analysis Branch, CELMN-PD-RP, P. O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-2526.

NOAA Targets Coastal Pollution under President's Clean Water Initiative

As part of the Clinton Administration's Clean Water Action Plan unveiled last week, the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is initiating a multi-agency Clean Water Initiative to reduce polluted runoff. NOAA will work with the Environmental Protection Agency to help 29 coastal states and territories complete development of nonpoint source pollution management planned by December 31, 1999, to reduce polluted runoff.

NOAA has requested \$22 million in FY 1999 to support the Administration's Clean Water Initiative. Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Reduction Plans must help reduce the flow of pollution into coastal waters from nonpoint sources such as agricultural fields, city streets, and other areas.

Coastal nonpoint plans would help empower the states to manage their own marine and Great Lakes resources by including voluntary and incentive-based programs and state enforceable policies and mechanisms, coupled with increased federal technical and financial support.

The state coastal nonpoint plans will generally include measures to:

1. manage nutrients and fertilizers applied to agricultural fields and lawns
2. control stormwater runoff from new development
3. reduce pollution from recreational boats and marinas

For more information on coastal nonpoint pollution programs, contact my office in Baton Rouge.

Source: NOAA New Release

Salt Intrusion Threatens State's Citrus Industry; LSU Ag Center Scientists Working on Solution

When the salt of the sea becomes the salt of the earth, there can be problems — especially for Louisiana's citrus industry, situated near the Gulf of Mexico in the state's most southeastern tip.

"We're beginning to have some problems with saltwater intrusion," said Dr. Wayne Bourgeois, associate professor at the LSU Agricultural Center's Citrus Research Station near Port Sulphur. "It's beginning to hurt yields."

Nearly 200 Louisianians grow citrus on about 1,000 acres, mostly in Plaquemines Parish, for a gross farm value to the state's economy of about \$3.6 million.

Salt intrusion poses a greater threat than any previous problem the industry has faced, because there is no obvious, short-term solution, Bourgeois said. And if a solution is not found in the next three or four years, the salt will kill the citrus trees.

"We found a way to solve freeze problems. We can find ways to solve insect and disease problems," he told a group of about 60 growers gathered for the station's annual field day October 22nd. "But we're not sure how to solve this problem in the relatively short time we have."

However, Dr. Robert Edling, an Experiment Station agricultural engineer with the LSU Ag Center, is in the second year of testing a system of pipes laid in trenches designed to drain salt away from the trees before it touches the roots. The challenge is to keep the salt from rising to the level of the roots and still keep the roots watered.

Another way to attack the problem is to find rootstock tolerant to salt. Bourgeois will be testing some salt-tolerant rootstock from Florida.

Source: LSU Agricultural Center News Release

DNR Begins Program to Clean Up Underwater Hazard in Coastal Waters

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will soon employ divers and other professionals who will survey, locate, and remove underwater obstructions and debris in coastal Louisiana waters. The new program known as the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program is administered by the Office of Conservation and was established by Act 666 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature. Diver surveys and hang removal work are expected to begin in May.

Underwater obstructions, commonly called "hangs" by shrimpers, have cost mariners and the oil and gas industry millions of dollars in damages to nets and boats. In 1980, the state legislature created the Fishermen's Gear Compensation Program to compensate fishermen and shrimpers who suffer equipment losses to underwater hazards. Over the past years, this program has paid out millions of dollars. Now, DNR officials say the removal program will complement the existing program by identifying the hang, marking it, and removing it from coastal waters.

Final rules for the Underwater Obstruction Removal Program were published in the Louisiana Register in February, and an initial budget of \$1.6 million has been authorized. DNR is currently soliciting contractors for diving and salvage services. All work will be awarded under the provisions of the Public Bid laws.

Additional information about the program can be obtained by contacting Program Manager Bruce Ballard, DNR Office of Conservation, P.O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, or call (504) 342-6293.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection & Restoration Act (Breux Act) Notice of Public Meetings

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force will hold a series of meetings to aid in the selection of projects for its 8th Priority Project List (as authorized under the Breux Act). Candidate projects presented at the meetings will be carefully evaluated for their effectiveness in preserving, restoring, protecting, or creating wetlands. The Task Force will make final selections from among these candidates in December 1998.

The purpose of these meetings is to solicit proposals for potential candidate projects and receive related comments on these projects for the 8th Priority Project List. Projects recommended for inclusion on the 8th Priority Project List should preferably be taken from the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Plan. The Task Force will consider new projects that fit within the overall restoration strategy defined in the Plan. New projects will be incorporated into the Plan prior to selecting the 8th Priority Project List projects. Proposed project submittals should contain the following information: project location, a description of the problems in the area, a description of the project objectives, a description of the project components, and project vicinity and location maps.

Nomination meetings are scheduled as follows:

Teche-Vermilion, Atchafalaya, Mermentau, and Calcasieu-Sabine Basins ~ April 1, 1998 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Vermilion Parish Court House ~ 100 Tivoli St. ~ Abbeville, La.

Pontchartrain, Mississippi River Delta, Terrebonne, Barataria, and Breton Sound Basins ~ April 3, 1998 ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ District Assembly Room ~ New Orleans Corps of Engineers District Headquarters ~ 7400 Leake Ave. at Prytania St. ~ New Orleans, La.

The purpose of the April 1st and 3rd 1998 meetings is to provide a forum for the public and their local government representatives to propose projects for consideration under the 8th Priority Project List. Public comments on projects are encouraged.

The Task Force is specifically interested in projects that have widespread benefits and restore natural wetland processes. Priority will be given to projects that are cost-effective and can be easily implemented. While large-scale projects may be nominated, generally

projects with costs higher than \$25 million should have a feasibility study. Please contact your parish representative or local coastal zone management coordinator for more information.

Meeting of the Breux Act Agencies to Discuss Nominees:

Coastwide Nominated Projects ~ April 22, 1998 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ District Assembly Room ~ New Orleans Corps of Engineers District Headquarters ~ Foot of Prytania St. ~ New Orleans, La.

The purpose of the April 22, 1998, meeting is to identify the technical merits and any potential problems in implementing the proposed projects and discuss modifying or adding to the list of nominees developed by the public and local government representatives. The Breux Act agencies will meet with academic advisors and Coastal Zone Management coordinators. Public comments are welcome.

Meeting to Select Candidate Projects for Evaluation:

Coastwide Nominated Projects ~ April 24, 1998 ~ 10:00 a.m. ~ Louisiana Room ~ Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Building ~ 2000 Quail Dr. ~ Baton Rouge, La.

The purpose of the April 24, 1998, meeting is to select the candidate projects which will be further evaluated and developed. Approximately 10 candidate projects for the 8th Priority Project List will be selected for evaluation by the Planning and Evaluation Subcommittee. The 8th Priority Project List is scheduled to be approved by the Task Force in December 1998. The list will likely be made up of funded and unfunded projects. Please note: For the April 24, 1998, meeting attendees, do not park in front of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building.

Meeting Format

All of these meetings are open to the public. The meetings will be conducted by Tom Podany of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. Coastal Zone Management (CZM) coordination will be conducted with coastal parishes to develop proposals.

For more information about these meetings, feel free to call my office in Baton Rouge.

Source: COE News Release

1998 Breaux Act Project Overview

Construction starts totaling \$128.7 million are planned in 1998 to save Louisiana's coastal wetland under the Breaux Act, formally known as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act.

This year, 33 new-construction starts have been scheduled by the federal-state task force charged with carrying out the 1990 law. The 33 projects scheduled for 1998 would protect or restore 27,514 acres of coastal wetlands. They are up from 23 new construction starts scheduled for 1997 (17 projects are rescheduled from 1997 to 1998).

Task force officials are also optimistic that, compared with last year, construction will begin on a larger proportion of the scheduled new starts. In 1997, construction began on only five of the 23 starts scheduled. The other 18 projects were held up for several reasons, including land-rights issues, potential harm to oyster beds, design changes, and permitting problems. Seventeen of these projects are included in the 1998 list, and one will be rescheduled later.

"What makes 1998 a more promising year is that 22 of the 33 starts are scheduled to begin construction in the first six months," said Col. Bill Conner, chairman of the task force and commander of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. All of the 1998 projects are expected to start no later than October 1.

Six wetlands projects were completed in 1997. Two were begun during the year, the Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration and the Channel Armor Gap Crevasse, together benefiting or creating more than 900 acres of wetlands. Four more were begun in previous years and completed in 1997: the Cameron Creole Watershed Hydrologic Restoration benefiting almost 500 acres; Clear Marais Bank Protection, benefiting more than 1,000 acres; Point Au Fer, benefiting almost 400 acres; and Bayou Savage No. 2, benefiting almost 1,300 acres.

More projects are being planned. The task force meeting in New Orleans on January 16 chose 10 projects for its 7th Priority Project List, designating four of these projects to receive money for construction. Funding for the other six projects will be considered if more money becomes available. Under the Breaux Act, the federal government provides 85 percent of the money, and the state provides 15 percent for the Louisiana wetlands projects.

The task force approved these four projects, totaling \$13.9 million: (1) \$10.34 million, Barataria Basin Land Bridge Shoreline Stabilization along Bayou Perot and Rigolettes Phase I, about three miles south of Lafitte in Jefferson Parish. About 27,000 feet of shoreline will be protected with rock riprap, other reinforcing matting, or PVC sheet piling, Lead agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service. (2) \$2.19 million, Pecan Island Terracing, in Vermilion Parish about five miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Earthen terraces will be built to convert open water back to vegetated marsh. Lead agency: National Marine Fisheries Service. (3) \$928,900, Vegetative Planting of a Dredged Material Disposal Site on Grand Terre Island, at the mouth of Barataria Bay Waterway, east of Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish. Vegetation will be restored. Lead agency: National Marine Fisheries Service. (4) \$443,000, Thin Mat Floating Marsh Enhancement Demonstration, in northwestern Terrebonne Parish about six miles south of Amelia. Lead agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Beyond 1998, another 10 wetlands projects are scheduled for construction—eight in 1999, and one each in 2000 and 2002. Fourteen projects are as yet unscheduled including the 10 selected by the task force this month for the 7th priority list.

For more information on the Breaux Act, contact my office.

LDWF To Monitor Davis Pond Diversion

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists are set to take part in a three-phase venture spanning more than 50 years to monitor effects of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure. The overall monitoring effort is being led by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Work began on Davis Pond in St. Charles Parish in January 1997. By the year 2000, the project will divert up to 10,650 cubic feet per second of Mississippi River water into the Barataria Basin estuary.

The diversion project aims to imitate spring overflows which historically brought a rush of marsh-supporting

freshwater, nutrients, and sediment to Louisiana's coastal zone. Levee construction along the Mississippi for flood control has since blocked spring overflows, causing wetland loss across coastal areas. The Davis Pond project intends to compensate for this by providing a controlled flow of nutrients and freshwater from the Mississippi into a target area in the Barataria Bay estuary to benefit thousands of acres of marshland.

The first, or preconstruction phase, of the LDWF venture will last three years. Biologists will determine conditions in areas expected to be influenced by Davis Pond before the structure goes on-line. When the diversion is complete, the post-construction monitoring phase will begin a four-year-long intensive study of biological effects of the diversion. The final phase of the study is set to last 46 years and will monitor extended effects of the projects.

"The Department will play a crucial role in biological monitoring of Davis Pond. We will be evaluating changes in marsh vegetation, nutria, alligator, and waterfowl populations and commercial fishery harvests," said LDWF Program Manager Dr. Glenn Thomas. "To determine how fish and shellfish

populations change, we'll also collect thousands of oyster, shrimp, crab, and finfish samples at stations situated from the diversion outfall to the Gulf."

In addition, LDWF biologists will take water quality readings at 38 locations within the basin each month, to provide a complete picture of how salinities and flow patterns are changing. "The first samples of the preconstruction monitoring program have been collected, and we are excited about our role in this vital effort to maintain the health of our coastal ecosystems," said Thomas.

It has been predicted that over the next 50 years, Davis Pond will preserve about 33,000 acres of marshland and benefit about 777,000 acres of marshes and bays, providing important habitat for fish and wildlife. The project is expected to provide annual average benefits of \$15 million for fish and wildlife plus \$300,000 for recreation.

For more information, contact Dr. Glenn Thomas at (504) 765-2956 (thomas_rg@wlf.state.la.us)

Source: LDWF News Release

Training Workshops Set

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of the Department of the Interior is presenting a series of topical workshops pertaining to mapping, vegetation, photo-interpretation, remote sensing, and Geographical Information Systems. The workshops are part of an effort to exchange information and provide access to spatial technologies developed at the center for natural resource survey. The workshops are available to the general public, educators, state and federal agencies. Workshop participation by the international community is also greatly encouraged.

Most of the workshops are three days long, creating compact presentation of materials. No previous experience in any of the topical workshops is assumed, except for advanced workshops. Appropriate handouts, photos, maps, and other forms of distributed materials are provided to the workshop participants. Some workshops will have scheduled field exercises. Hands-on exercises are used to involve workshop participation. Specialized workshop topics and transient workshops can be arranged based upon consultation and number of workshop participants. Scheduled workshops are subject to change, therefore, you may want to contact the workshop coordinator for workshop information. (Phone: {318} 266-8500)

April 14-16	Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation
May 12-13	Introduction to Pitcher Plant Bogs and Wet Pine Savannas of the Southeastern United States
May 19-20	Introduction to the Identification of Coastal Prairie Plants
June 16-18	Introduction to Desktop GIS (Arc View) for Natural Resources
June 24-25	Introduction to the Identification of Wetland Forest Trees
August 4-6	Introduction to GPS for Natural Resource Assessment & Survey

October 21-23	Introduction to Wetland Remote Sensing & Mapping
October 26-28	Advanced Wetland Photo-interpretation
November 17-19	Introduction to Desktop GIS (ArcView) for Natural Resources
December 1-3	Introduction to GIS (Arc/Info) for Natural Resources

All workshops will be held at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center Annex in Lafayette, La.

Louisiana-sponsored Oil Spill Research Symposium

On May 6, 1998, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office/Office of the Governor, in conjunction with the Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development Program, will sponsor and host a one-day symposium on Louisiana-sponsored oil spill research. The Research Symposium will be held at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Pennington Conference Center, 6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge. At this meeting, 10 projects plus a Spill of Opportunity and special presentation will be showcased:

- ✓ Survey of Louisiana Seabird Colonies to Enhance Oil Spill Research - Louisiana State University;
- ✓ Research, Compilation, and Digitization of Undocumented and Abandoned Louisiana Pipelines for the Statewide Digital Database - Louisiana State University;
- ✓ Phytoremediation for Oil Spill Cleanup and Habitat Restoration in Louisiana Coastal Marshes - Louisiana State University;
- ✓ Composting Technology for Practical and Safe Remediation of Oil-Spill Residuals - Louisiana State University;
- ✓ Utilization and Integration of the Oil Spill Awareness Through Geoscience Education (OSAGE) Curriculum and CD for Education and Industry in Louisiana - Northeast Louisiana University;
- ✓ Unassisted and Enhanced Remediation Studies for Onshore Oil Spills: Concept Development - Louisiana Tech University;
- ✓ Development of a Sensitivity Index for Plant Responses to Applied Oil - Louisiana Tech University;
- ✓ Engineered Application Bioremediation to Oil Spills in Coastal Wetlands: A Field Trial - Louisiana State University;
- ✓ The Interaction Between Oil Spills, Chemical Responses, and Fresh Marsh Types in Determining Toxicity to Indigenous Aquatic Animals and the Detail of Hydrocarbon Analysis Required to Predict this Toxicity - University of Southwestern Louisiana;
- ✓ Effects of Crude Oil and Spill-Response-Options on Microbial Functions and Oil Disappearance in Salt Marsh Soils - University of Southwestern Louisiana;
- ✓ Oil Spill in Lake Barre: Economic and Social Consequences - Louisiana State University; and
- ✓ New & Improved: The Oil Spill Contingency Plan May CD for Windows 95™ - Louisiana State University

The principal investigators for these projects will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 1998, to discuss their research results during a one-day symposium hosted by the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators's Office. Also as a special presentation DeWitt Braud will present the newest version of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan Map CD, which will work in Windows 95™. We are in the early planning stages of this symposium and hope you, or a member of your organization, will attend this event.

The Louisiana Oil Spill Research Symposium '98 is being designed to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and allow the scientists funded through the Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development program an opportunity to highlight the scientific, technical, and economic aspects of their individual research. A broad range and highly diversified series of topic will be presented.

Although the meeting is being planned to focus on the individual scientist research efforts, the Oil Spill Coordinator's Office would like a broad cross-section of people involved in the Symposium, because one of the office's goals is to use this event to encourage scientists, engineers, planners, and policy makers to develop a meaningful dialogue on the multifaceted nature of the oil spill business. If you are interested in more information on the Louisiana Oil Spill Research Symposium '98, or would like to be added to the program's mailing list, please contact: The Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development Program, Oil Spill Research Symposium'98, E302 Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, Phone: (504) 388-3481/3477, Fax: (504) 388-0403, E-mail: osradp@ibm.net.



Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act

Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island joined, by Louisiana Senators John Breaux and Mary Landrieu and 14 other senators, recently introduced the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act (SB 1222). If approved, this legislation authorizes a new level of partnerships for doing coastal restoration projects in Louisiana and elsewhere.

The new bill would create a competitive grant program that would supplement any work done under the Breaux Act and would allow for a much broader range of partnered projects than those currently authorized. For example, a habitat restoration project proposed by a local government could be eligible for federal funding—subject to a local match—not more than 75% and generally not less than 35%—if it meets certain standards. All project proposals would be evaluated by a multi-agency council that would review proposals to see if the project deserves funding. Priority would go to projects that (1) are part of an approved federal estuary management or habitat restoration plan (such as the Breaux Act restoration plan or the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program plan), (2) address a restoration goal set forth by the council's estuary restoration strategy, (3) match the federal investment on more than a 1 to 1 basis, and (4) are subject to a program that would reduce the risk that upstream nonpoint source pollution would re-impair the restored area. No projects required as mitigation under any law would be eligible for funding under the new program.

Call my office if you would like to get a copy of the bill.

Source: CRCL Newsletter

For more information about any topic discussed in this newsletter, or to obtain wetland or coastal resource-related educational information, contact your parish Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Coreil".

Paul Coreil, Associate Specialist
(Wetlands and Coastal Resources)

Visit our website at: <http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/wwwac>

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, William B. Richardson, Chancellor
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Jack Bagent, Vice Chancellor and Director

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