



Louisiana Wetland News

Summer 2003

Amendments 1, 2, & 3

The 2003 Louisiana legislature came to a close on June 23rd with three constitutional amendments that could drastically affect the future of coastal wetland restoration in this state for years to come. The amendments are the manifestation of two major realizations that have become abundantly clear over the past decade.

First, Louisiana does not have enough funding to sufficiently address its coastal land loss crisis. According to the Coast 2050 report published in 1999, the state's current level of restoration funding is less than one tenth of what would be required to merely sustain the coastline as it exists today. Without a way of generating larger amounts of funding, Louisiana will not be able to embark on the \$14 billion restoration program needed to fully address coastal land loss.

Secondly, it has become increasingly clear that any hope of sustaining, much less restoring, Louisiana's coastline hinges on the ability to reintroduce vast quantities of nutrient and sediment-laden Mississippi River water to coastal marshes. Yet, large scale diversions of the Mississippi River have resulted in numerous stakeholder conflicts, including \$2.2 billion in lawsuits awarded to oyster leaseholders in the marshes east of New Orleans. Clearly, some mechanism is needed that will provide for reasonable compensation to those truly affected by coastal restoration projects while limiting the state's liability against frivolous lawsuits.

Understanding the Amendments

Amendment #1 would let the state use at least \$35 million a year in mineral settlement money and in other one-time revenues to match federal dollars for coastal restoration. It would add coastal restoration to the list of uses for this one-time money, money that can't be used for education or health care. It also raises the cap from \$40 million to \$500 million for unobligated funds that can be deposited into the state's Coastal Restoration Fund.

Amendment #2 provides that if the state sells the remaining 40 percent of its tobacco settlement, it can use up to 20 percent of that money for coastal restoration, but only if the federal government matches the money. This could mean up to \$130 million for the

state to use as its share of the costs and shows the state's commitment to the effort.

Amendment #3 sets the state's liability for damages caused to private property from coastal restoration projects, based on the fair market value of that property. This amendment provides that all past, present, and future claims would be addressed consistently, and that if property must be taken to accommodate for a restoration project, the value will be determined by the fair market value of that property – just like current federal law allows. Almost all other states in our nation handle claims such as these in this manner.

Financing Measures

The first two amendments are financing measures that allow Louisiana to secure some of the dollars needed to cost-match a multi-billion dollar restoration program without raising taxes. For example, the \$7.8 billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program approved by Congress in 2000 was based on a 50/50 federal/state funding match. Florida's share of the match was generated using a combination of bond funding, self-levied taxes, and general revenues.

Retroactive Protection

Over the summer, oyster leaseholders who were awarded large judgments over the Caernarvon restoration project have begun offering to settle the suits for significantly reduced amounts. Proposals of 20 cents on the dollar and less have been made from lawyers representing oyster leaseholders in the Lake Borgne and Breton Sound areas. Representatives of the plaintiffs are reportedly making the offers "in an effort to end a decade of legal wrangling." However, the prospect of retroactive liability protection via Amendment 3 is likely to be the primary motivation behind the offers.

Up to the Voters

The fate of amendments 1, 2, and 3 will be up to the voters when they head to the polls for statewide elections on October 4th. According to Governor Foster, support of the amendments will "... send a strong message to Washington about the critical help we need to save our vanishing coastline."



What does it really mean to “close” the MRGO?

(Updated) Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO): Environmental and Economic Considerations.

Provides a synoptic overview of this 40 year-old navigation channel from project inception through modern day. Economic and environmental impacts related to the MRGO are documented for St. Bernard Parish and potential restoration scenarios are described.

The cover features a map of the MRGO area and a globe. Text on the cover includes: "Closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: Environmental and Economic Considerations", "In Review... Background on MRGO, Impacts to the region, Calls for action, What does it mean to 'close' the MRGO?, Future considerations", "PROJECT HISTORY: The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) is a man-made navigational channel connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the City of New Orleans. Approved by the U.S. Congress under the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1956, construction began in 1956 and was completed in 1959 at an initial cost of approximately \$92 million. Authorized to a depth of 36 feet, a surface width of 650 feet, and a bottom width of 500 feet, the 76-mile channel bisected the marshes of lower St. Bernard Parish and the shallow waters of Chandeleur Sound. Rationale for MRGO construction was primarily economic, because the 40-mile shorter route through St. Bernard promised a safer and more efficient passage than the Mississippi River below New Orleans. Proponents originally touted the project as a means of great industrial development for St. Bernard Parish.", "Environmental: The habitats traversed by the MRGO are dominated by shallow estuarine waters and sub-delta marshes. Since the construction and operation of the MRGO, several basic impacts on the region have become evident. These include land loss caused by excavation of the channel, soil erosion, and shifts in habitat type because of increased salinity. The New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers speculates that the loss of land in the area approaches nearly 3,400 acres of freshwater/marine marsh. More than 10,300 acres of brackish marsh, 4,200 acres of saline marsh, and 1,500 acres of cypress swamps and levee forests have been destroyed or severely altered.", "MIRGO IMPACTS: Environmental: The habitats traversed by the MRGO are dominated by shallow estuarine waters and sub-delta marshes. Since the construction and operation of the MRGO, several basic impacts on the region have become evident. These include land loss caused by excavation of the channel, soil erosion, and shifts in habitat type because of increased salinity. The New Orleans District of the U.S. Corps of Engineers speculates that the loss of land in the area approaches nearly 3,400 acres of freshwater/marine marsh. More than 10,300 acres of brackish marsh, 4,200 acres of saline marsh, and 1,500 acres of cypress swamps and levee forests have been destroyed or severely altered.", "Dramatic habitat shifts have occurred because of project-altered salinity regimes. At one estuarine location, Shell Beach, salinities increased from an average of 3.5 ppt in 1950-1963 to an average of 12 ppt in 1962-1964. Estimates of habitat transition include more than 15,000 acres of fresh/intermediate marsh and cypress swamps converted to brackish marsh and more than 19,000 acres of previously brackish marsh converted to saline marsh. Widespread die-off occurred dramatically as a result of project-induced saltwater intrusion. Far fisheries were also affected by the transition.", "Excavation of the MRGO could result in major ecological change with widespread and severe ecological consequences", "US Dept. of Interior, 1998", "Cypress swamps along channel formed the habitat corridors that occurred after the MRGO channel was constructed."

Additional information is provided on the time and financial resources required to fully address the environmental degradation caused by the MRGO. (Written by Rex H. Caffey and Brian Leblanc, 4 pages).

Is the Mississippi River clean enough to use for coastal restoration?

(Updated) Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration. Provides information regarding chemical, biological, and physical parameters of Mississippi River water quality.

The cover features a map of the Mississippi River and a globe. Text on the cover includes: "Mississippi River Water Quality: Implications for Coastal Restoration", "In Review... River modifications and coastal/wetland loss, Indicators of Mississippi River Water Quality, Diversions and salinity, A long-term perspective", "ALtered Hydrology: For thousands of years the Mississippi River flowed freely in the heart of North America, draining 41% of the continental U.S. and parts of Canada. The River changed course every 1000 to 2000 years, and banks and levees were built to manage the river's frequent course changes. With increased settlement along the River in the 1700s, people began building flood protection levees to protect their homes and property. As the levees grew larger, the 'wild' nature of the River was restricted. This ultimately reduced the frequency of sediment and nutrient-rich over bank flooding and new delta lobe formation so critical to the creation and maintenance of wetlands in coastal Louisiana. After the Great Flood of 1927, Congress authorized funding for major Mississippi River flood control projects including a system of contiguous, reinforced levees that allowed for increased settlement and development along the river and its distributaries.", "Coastal Wetlands Loss: Levees provided the needed flood protection, yet prevented vital land building sediments from recharging and elevating deteriorating marshes. The result was increased areas of open water and higher rates of erosion. Additional alterations have compounded the problem. The dredging of canals for improved access and navigation has accelerated saltwater intrusion. Combined with natural causes such as subsidence and hurricanes, these forces result in the loss of 25-35 square miles of Louisiana's coastal wetlands each year.", "Dimensions and Water Quality Concerns: Scientists estimate that from 22% to 25% of the projected land loss over the next 50 years could be reduced by the coastal restoration projects approved to date. However, even with these efforts, the state is expected to lose as much as 1000 square miles of marsh by the year 2050. There is a growing consensus among experts that controlled freshwater diversions offer the best hope for combating the severe deterioration of our coastal marshes. With adequate funding and public support, large, system-wide diversion projects could reduce these projected losses by up to 95%. Nevertheless, the perception among many citizens is that the Mississippi River is highly contaminated by a wide variety of compounds and that the adverse effects of these pollutants outweighs the benefits of additional freshwater, sediments, and nutrients. While the Mississippi River does have some problems with certain contaminants and nutrients, overall the river is cleaner and healthier than it has been in decades.", "After the Great Flood of 1927, Congress authorized funding for major Mississippi River flood control projects including a system of contiguous, reinforced levees that allowed for increased settlement and development along the river and its distributaries.", "Coastal Wetlands Loss: Levees provided the needed flood protection, yet prevented vital land building sediments from recharging and elevating deteriorating marshes. The result was increased areas of open water and higher rates of erosion. Additional alterations have compounded the problem. 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The report addresses public concern over the potential pollution associated with using the Mississippi River for coastal restoration projects. This collective analysis of scientific studies suggests that the River poses little or no threat of pollution in diversion projects. Trade-offs between potential water quality risks and diversion benefits are presented. (Written by Rex H. Caffey, Paul Coreil, and Dennis Demcheck, 4 pages).

What are the facts about the effects of freshwater reintroduction on coastal fisheries?

(Updated) Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Reintroductions. Provides an overview of the historical aspects of Louisiana fisheries in the context of pre- and post-levee construction on the Mississippi River. Data from the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion is used to describe the relationship between freshwater reintroduction and estuarine fisheries productivity. The report characterizes the conflict between Louisiana's short-term and long-term goals of coastal restoration and coastal fisheries management. (Written by Rex H. Caffey and Mark Schexnayder, 8 pages).

The cover features a map of the Mississippi River and a globe. Text on the cover includes: "Fisheries Implications of Freshwater Re-introductions", "In Review... Historical aspects of Louisiana fisheries, How have levees altered fisheries production?, Fisheries Impacts From the Caernarvon diversion project, Balancing coastal restoration and fisheries management", "BACKGROUND: Large-scale coastal wetland restoration projects involving the re-introduction or diversion of fresh water from the Mississippi River require several years of planning and evaluation, and can cost hundreds of millions in construction and operating expenditures. Despite the enormous time and expense involved, such projects may represent the best available technology for combating Louisiana's high-rates of coastal wetlands loss, which, at 25-35 square miles per year, comprises about 80% of coastal wetlands loss nationally. Yet, as these projects have been implemented, questions have emerged over their effect on coastal fisheries. The geologic history of south Louisiana and its corresponding fisheries provides an initial context for evaluating this issue.", "FLOODS AND FISHERIES: The expansive coastal wetlands of Louisiana are situated at the terminal end of the world's third largest river basin. This strategic location on the Mississippi River has made Louisiana the perennial leader in fisheries landings among the lower 48 states. Prior to the 20th century, the tremendous estuarine productivity of this region was sustained by the river's distributaries and periodic floodwaters, which deposited millions of tons of sediments and nutrients on adjacent coastal marshes. The beneficial impact of this annual re-charge to marshes to fisheries was recognized by early native inhabitants and is documented in formal reports dating back to 1908. The same floods that revitalized Louisiana's coastal productivity also caused tremendous losses of life and property. Levees constructed for flood protection first appeared in New Orleans in 1717. By 1800, a network of crude embankments extended more than 100 miles north of the city. Breaches in those earlier levees, historically referred to as "crevasse", were quite common and over time became associated with subsequent increase in local fisheries landings. In 1927, Percy Vorhies, Jr., state director of the agency that would eventually become the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), described the effect of a crevasse in an address to the American Fisheries Society: "a crevasse in reality results in the restoration of our wet lands... the effect of a crevasse is also in the cultivation and fertilization of farm lands and might be termed wholesale agriculture".", "Prior to the 20th century, the tremendous estuarine productivity of the Mississippi River basin was sustained by the river's distributaries and periodic floodwaters, which deposited millions of tons of sediments and nutrients on adjacent coastal marshes. The beneficial impact of this annual re-charge to marshes to fisheries was recognized by early native inhabitants and is documented in formal reports dating back to 1908.", "The same floods that revitalized Louisiana's coastal productivity also caused tremendous losses of life and property. Levees constructed for flood protection first appeared in New Orleans in 1717. By 1800, a network of crude embankments extended more than 100 miles north of the city. Breaches in those earlier levees, historically referred to as 'crevasse', were quite common and over time became associated with subsequent increase in local fisheries landings. In 1927, Percy Vorhies, Jr., state director of the agency that would eventually become the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), described the effect of a crevasse in an address to the American Fisheries Society: 'a crevasse in reality results in the restoration of our wet lands... the effect of a crevasse is also in the cultivation and fertilization of farm lands and might be termed wholesale agriculture'."

The ITS reports are written and produced by the Marine Extension Project, a collaboration of the LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Sea Grant College program. Printed copies are available through marine extension agents, or by contacting Rex H. Caffey (rcaffey@agctr.lsu), Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, LSU, Baton Rouge, La 70803. Electronic (PDF) copies are available online at the sites listed below.

- www.lsuagcenter.com
- www.SeaGrantFish.lsu.edu
- <http://lacoast.gov/reports/its/index.htm>
- www.agecon-extension.lsu.edu/CaffeyWeb/TopicSeries.htm



2003-2004 Migratory Waterfowl Seasons

Source Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



Ducks and coots (except pintail and canvasback ducks)

60 days total

West Zone: Nov. 8-Nov. 30, Dec. 13-Jan. 18.

East Zone: Nov. 15-Nov. 30, Dec. 13-Jan. 25.

Within the 60-day season, pintail and canvasback may be taken for only 30 days with pintail legal for the first 30 days of hunting in each zone and canvasback legal for the last 30 days of hunting in each zone. For both species the limit is one per day. In the West Zone pintail may be taken November 8-30 and December 13-19 and canvasback may be taken December 20 through January 18. In the East Zone, the pintail season is November 15-30 and December 13-26. Canvasback may be taken December 27 through January 25.

Bag limits

The daily bag limit on ducks is six and may include no more than four mallards, three mottled ducks, one black duck, two wood ducks, three scaup and two redheads. During the pintail and canvasback seasons, the daily bag limit is one.

The daily bag limit on coots is 15. In addition to the daily bag limit for ducks, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five, only one of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

Geese

Light geese and white-fronted geese will have an 86-day statewide season. The first split will open on November 1 and close on November 30. The second split will open December 13 and close on February 6.

The daily bag limit on light geese is 20, with no possession limit. The daily limit on white-fronted geese is two, with a possession limit of four.

The Statewide Conservation Order for Light Geese will open on December 1, and the first split will close on December 12. The second split will open on February 7 and close on March 7. During this time, only snow, blue and Ross' geese may be taken and daily bag and possession limits are eliminated. Shooting hours during the order begin one-half hour before sunrise and extend until one-half hour after sunset.

The special permit required Canada Goose season will be January 17-25 in all of Louisiana, except for a small area in southwest Louisiana. The special \$5 permit may be obtained from any license vendor.

Rails: Nov. 8-Dec.31. 54 days. For King and Clapper rails, the daily limit is 15 in the aggregate, with a possession limit of 30. For Sora and Virginia rails, the daily and possession limit is 25 in the aggregate

Gallinules: Nov. 8-Dec. 31. Daily bag limit is 15 with a possession of 30.

Shooting hours for migratory bird hunting, except for the Conservation Order, are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.



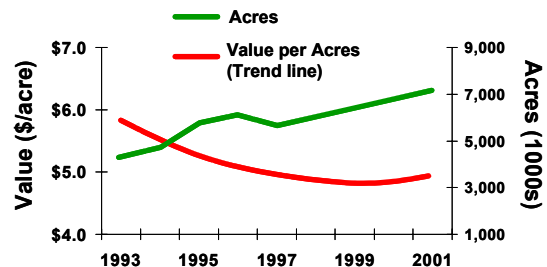
Duckonomics 101

The setting of the 2003-2004 migratory waterfowl season signals another 60-day period in which hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent in Louisiana for the pursuit of ducks and geese. These expenditures will provide much-needed income for Louisiana's beleaguered landowners, many who have become highly dependent on the revenues generated from waterfowl leases. However, data from state and federal sources indicate that troubled times may be ahead for Louisiana's hunting lease sector.

According to the LSU AgCenter, the gross farm-gate value of hunting lease revenues in Louisiana in 2002 was \$35.5 million. Of 7.2 million acres leased, agricultural wetlands generated the highest lease values. Avid duck and goose hunters paid as much as \$70 per acre for prime rice fields. However, the average value of all private hunting leases was a substantially lower \$4.91/acre. This value represents a 25% decrease from the average hunting lease values reported in 1993.

One explanation for the decline is the threefold increase in hunting lease acreage during the past decade. Expansion of conservation easements and foreign competition have helped to fuel this growth, as declining profitability forces more and more farmers into conservation programs and fee-based hunting.

Hunting lease acreage in LA is increasing and lease value is decreasing



Though economic expenditures associated with Louisiana hunting have remained relatively constant over this period, the number hunters in Louisiana has dropped 14% since 1996, according to a recent report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Continuation of this trend in combination with global market forces could be problematic for landowners who lease property for hunting. As additional acreage is made available to fewer hunters, the intersection of supply and demand shifts further inward, exacerbating the reduction in lease value and ultimately decreasing the lease revenues.

For additional information, see the USFWS 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation and the LSU AgCenter Summary of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

<http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>

www.lsuagcenter.com/Communications/agsum/2002agsum.htm



New Websites Offer Content and Utility

More than 100,000 websites are posted to the Internet each day, most having no more than a flashy exterior and little or no useful content. However, sites occasionally come along offering a bit more - here are two.

Louisiana Fisheries (www.SeaGrantFish.lsu.edu) is a new website published by Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter that is packed with helpful and historic information related to commercial and recreational fisheries. The new site compiles more than 30 years of marine extension publications and programs developed specifically for Louisiana. The information is partitioned into five fisheries-related topics areas, including biology, management, habitat, legal and socio-economic issues.

From the onset, developers of the site were intent on providing content and depth. That meant that several hundred publications developed prior to the digital age had to be scanned, converted, and otherwise archived before the website debuted.

The most difficult of these tasks involved the electronic archiving of 25 years of the monthly newsletter *Lagniappe*, written by extension fisheries professor Jerald Horst. Every issue since the newsletter's inception in 1977 can be now be accessed online or downloaded as a PDF file.

More than a mere archive, Louisiana Fisheries also contains frequent news releases on fisheries-related information and provides contact information for marine extension personnel in coastal Louisiana. The website is designed to be a resource for Louisiana and Gulf Coast commercial and recreational fishermen, sports and outdoors writers, and all others with related interests.



More than 30 years of marine extension publications are now available through the Louisiana Fisheries website.
www.SeaGrantFish.lsu.edu



The Louisiana Fisheries website is searchable, and most publications are free, and available electronically or by simple order. For additional information and comments, contact Marilyn Barret Oleary, at <moleary@lsu.edu>.

SONRISE GIS Interactive Mapper for Louisiana

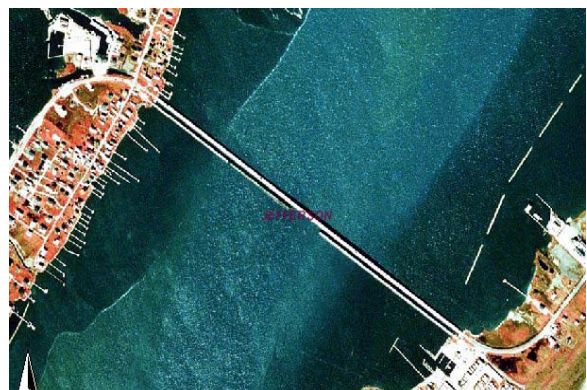
(<http://sonris-gis.dnr.state.la.us/website/sonris/viewer.htm>) is an online Geographic Information System (GIS) of coastal Louisiana maps and data that is maintained by the Coastal Restoration Division (CRD) of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Information contained within the GIS database include satellite imagery, aerial photography, coastal restoration project boundaries, elevation benchmarks, and monitoring stations. Users can perform a wide range of custom queries on many of the GIS data layers available to refine and summarize information.

Through use of this GIS technology, it is possible to seamlessly link directly to the project monitoring database and download ecological data, geospatial data, and project reports from any coastal restoration project to which this information is available.

While the concept of an online, interactive GIS databases is not new in itself, what's novel about SONRISE is that anyone can use the site, no special software or GIS skills are required. According to CRD geoscientist Bradford Miller, "we developed this site primarily for monitoring coastal restoration projects, but we've discovered just how useful it is to variety of other users, including landowners, researchers, consultants, fisherman, and duck hunters."

The SONRISE interactive mapper contains a user-friendly tutorial that shows users how to isolate and print out detailed coastal maps and images. For additional information about SONRISE contact Brad Miller, 225-342-4122.



This color image of the Grand Isle bridge illustrates the type of output that is easily generated by the SONRISE mapper.
<http://sonris-gis.dnr.state.la.us/website/sonris/viewer.htm>



Newcomer and Native Offer Books with a “Bayou” Perspective

Two books debuted this summer which offer in-depth characterizations of the rich cultural history of southern Louisiana. On many levels the volumes prove complementary. One is a noteworthy attempt by an outsider to digest the dilemma of coastal Louisiana’s vanishing physical and cultural landscape. The second provides a glimpse into the psyche of more than 80 unique individuals that populated that landscape over the past century.

“Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast,” by Mike Tidwell has been nationally acclaimed since its release earlier this summer. Tidwell’s book is credited as one of the best-written and descriptive novels to date amongst an expanding literary genre which seek to address Louisiana’s unparalleled coastal crisis.

As Tidwell hitchhikes his way through bayou country, he describes our landscape and culture in the objective manner that only a non-native can truly provide. An excerpt from Publisher’s Weekly portrays Bayou Farewell as a lyrically intense travelogue:

“Here, among the great blue heron, spoonbill, gar and gator, the reader meets bayou folk—from the honest and generous fishermen, who provide the author with room, board and transport for his work as a deck hand, to the disheveled backwoods healer who intrigues and tantalizes the writer with his shamanistic spells and incantations.

It is these portraits of people on the edge of survival, living in a world where the land is sinking into the sea at a rate of 25 acres a day, that truly engage the reader... The author’s descriptive powers, especially of people, provide the reader with enduring snapshots of a water-bound way of life that is sinking into history.”

Bayou Farewell is a must-read for anyone who is even remotely concerned with the future of coastal Louisiana’s wetlands and culture. Yet, as much as Tidwell’s novel provides an in-depth, objective snapshot of this vanishing “water-bound way of life”, some readers may desire even more cultural fodder. For additional detail, an insider’s perspective is required.

“Voices from the Bayou: An Oral History,” is the latest work of Charles W. Frank, a Louisiana resident and one of the nation’s leading authorities on the history and art of carving and painting duck decoys. In *Voices*, Frank provides an exhaustive narrative on the heritage of Louisiana’s wetlands by transcribing 40 years of taped interviews with waterfowl decoy enthusiasts. Through the lens of pirogues and poule d’eaus, 82 craftsmen reflect on a century of coastal

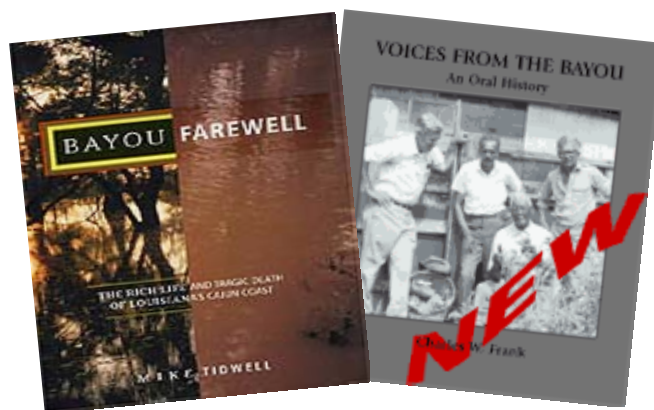
Louisiana living, providing first-hand recollections of the people, places, and events that are foundation for stories like *Bayou Farewell*. The rationale for writing *Voices from the Bayou* is found in Frank’s own words...

*“As my 81st birthday passes, I want to leave these memories of lifetime spent studying and recording our wetland heritage in a more permanent and accessible form. *Voices From The Bayou*, chronicles many of these old voices in a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Every wrinkle, every crease in their faces, the leathery sheen of skin blasted with salt spray and hurricane force winds tells the story of their fight to survive.*

Voices From The Bayou tells the story in print of the years spent recording in audio form their memories of an earlier year. *Theirs* was a generation that lived off the land. Money was scarce so barter was frequently substituted. Devout, unlettered, family-oriented, the sincerity of their beliefs shines through in their recollection of the long ago. They speak of shooting ducks by the basket full from a source that at the time seemed unlimited.”

Voices adds to two previous works by Frank, *Wetland Heritage: The Louisiana Duck Decoy* and *Anatomy of a Waterfowl*. All of Frank’s books are available for purchase online at his website “The Duck Decoy Man” located at: <http://www.duckdecoyman.com/index.html> *Voices from the Bayou* retails for \$50.

Bayou Farewell is available at most major bookstores, including Barnes & Noble and Books-a-Million, and is also available for purchase online vendors through vendors such as Amazon.com. Bayou Farewell retails from \$16-23.



Mike Tidwell’s new book “Bayou Farewell” has gained widespread acclaim as a compelling story of the colorful past and bleak future of the wetlands and people of coastal Louisiana. More serious connoisseurs of coastal culture will enjoy Charles W. Frank’s “Voices from the Bayou”, an exhaustive oral history spoken through 82 interviews.

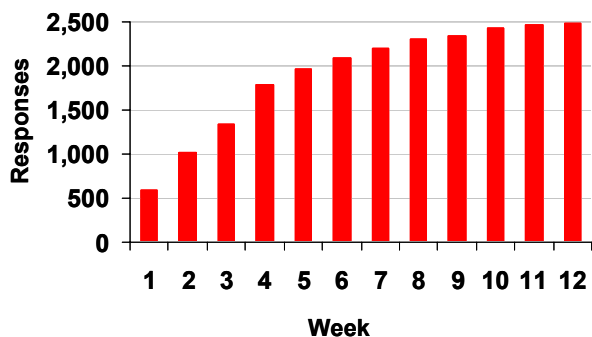


Tremendous Response to Elmer's Island Coastal Recreation Survey

The 1,700 acre tract of coastal marsh and beachfront known as Elmer's Island was closed in early 2002 after being open to the public for more than 30 years. Closure of the island has negatively affected thousands of people who for decades have had access to the island for the purposes of fishing, camping, and birding.

Negotiations are now underway that could ultimately result in public ownership of Elmer's Island as state park or wildlife management area. To provide assistance with these negotiations, Louisiana Sea Grant recently sponsored a survey to gauge the public's preference for state purchase and management of the property. Results were astounding. In less than 12 weeks, 2680 respondents weighed in on the subject, with the majority of them (2,473) completing the survey via the Internet.

**Elmer's Island Coastal Preference Survey
Cumulative On-line Responses
May 15th – July 31st**



Though data from the survey is still being coded and evaluated, preliminary results indicate a strong preference (96%) for state purchase and management of Elmer's Island. Look for additional information in the upcoming Fall 2003 edition of the Louisiana Wetland News. For additional information on the survey contact Rex H. Caffey (rcaffey@agctr.lsu.edu) 225-578-2266.



Upcoming Meetings and Events in La.

- Sep. 8 **Terrebonne Coastal Advisory Committee**, 6:00 pm. James Miller (985) 580-8145.
- Sep. 9 **Cameron Coastal Advisory Committee**, 5 pm, Tina Horn (337) 775-5718.
- Sep. 15 **Plaquemines Coastal Advisory Committee**, 6:30 pm. Andrew MacInnes (504) 297-5320.
- Sep. 16 **Lafourche Coastal Advisory Committee**, 7:00 pm. Jess Curole (985) 632-4666.
- Sep. 17 **Breaux Act Tech. Committee Meeting**, 9:30am. La Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Julie LeBlanc, (504) 862-1597, www.lacoast.gov

- Sep. 24 **St. James Coastal Advisory Committee**, 6:00 pm. Jody Chenier (225) 562-2262.
- Sep. 24 **St. Bernard Coastal Advisory Committee**, 7:00 pm. Mike Hunnicutt (504) 278-4308.
- Sep. 25 –26 **Estuary Live**, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Deborah Schultz (800) 259-0869, www.estuaries.gov
- Sep. 27 **LaFete d'Ecologie**, Thibodeaux, La, Peltier Park, 10 am. Leslie Robichaux, (800) 259-0869
- Oct. 3-5 **Wings Over The Wetlands Birding Festival**, (504) 589-2330, ext. 29, www.wowbirdfest.com
- Oct. 10 **Environmental State of the State VIII**, Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, La., www.ercla.org/EsosConference.htm
- Oct. 12-13 **Attakapas Boat Landing Ground Breaking**, Atchafalaya Basin Program, Sandra Thompson, (225) 342-6437. <http://www.dnr.state.la.us>
- Oct. 14 **Long-Distance Pipeline Transport of Dredged Material Technical Workshop**, Metairie, La. Beverly Ethridge (225) 389-0737.



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Thank you,

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