



Vol 4, Issue 2, February 11, 2011  
Prepared by Lonnie Fontenot

# COUNCIL

*Information for*

The *Council Connection* is a monthly newsletter featuring news, activities, technology transfer, and

## CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, along with contest sponsor, Alcoa Foundation announce:

### Louisiana's Ninth Environmental Awareness STUDENT ART & LANGUAGE ARTS CONTEST

*Theme for 2011: Louisiana Outdoors: A Beautiful Experience!*

**The purpose of the contest is encourage children to be aware of and enjoy the outdoors, leading them to become better stewards in the future.**

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 21, 2011. An official entry form and a signed release must accompany each entry. Entries that do not comply with contest rules will be disqualified. For more information, full contest guidelines, and contest entry form, please follow this link [Art Contest](#), or contact Juliet Raffray at [jraffray@wlf.la.gov](mailto:jraffray@wlf.la.gov).

## Citizens Engage in Water Quality Mo

One of the most successful strategies for protecting surface water is through the involvement of interested volunteer groups. In November of 2009 Cajuns for Bayou Tech pulled out many boatloads of trash from the bayou. Volunteer labor needed to accomplish the dirty and difficult task of cleaning up the bayou was a day well spent. From this single event, the "Water Sentinel" program was created by the Cajuns for Bayou Tech, Acadiana RC&D

Funding support from the three organizations was combined to monitor local and guest instructors from the Sierra Club

# LEEC CONNECTION

## *or a Changing Environment*

newsletter that provides current information on Acadiana RC&D Council upcoming events, conservation news and highlights from projects.

Louisiana students may enter their original work in the art and/or the language arts area of the contest.

**Contestant categories:**

- Group 1 – Ages 5-7
- Group 2 – Ages 8-10
- Group 3 – Ages 11-13
- Group 4 – Ages 14-18

**Prizes categories:**

- 1st place in each category – \$200
- 2nd place in each category – \$100
- 3rd place in each category – \$75

Winning art and language arts entries will be published in the 2012 LEEC calendar!

All winners will be honored at a reception to be held at the Governor's Mansion.

## Monitoring

*Article and picture submitted by Woody Martin,  
Water Sentinels program coordinator*

Water quality has been the adoption of streams and watershed by Bayou Teche held a fundraiser and a volunteer day during which members from nonprofit organizations and businesses donated the equipment to monitor the bayou, and at the end of the day, everyone agreed that it was time to form "Water Sentinels" — a volunteer based water monitoring group. The group is supported by the Acadiana RC&D Council, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Sierra Club Delta Chapter.

Participants will purchase sampling kits for basic surface water quality

and attend two water quality monitoring workshops to train

monitoring. Local and guest instructors from the Sierra Club and other volunteers to perform water sampling and analysis, and report on the results they have successfully monitored water quality at five different locations.

The five sampling teams ran their tests independently, but at the same time to monitor the water quality. Additional field observations made at the time of the sampling were conducted include: water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. Sampling dates in May, August and November of 2010 have produced good water quality. Plans are to continue monitoring four times per year in a variety of sampling locations as possible. In time an added test for E. coli will be added to provide information on bacteriological contamination in the water. Even more detailed observations of streambed small organisms will be added. Our next training workshop for volunteers will be on May 12, 6:00 to 8:30 pm in Natchitoches Parks and Recreation Oak Room, which is located at 300 Parkway.

Bayou Teche Water Sentinels is looking for interested persons to become volunteers to monitor additional sampling locations along the Bayou Teche. On a small budget of donated funds to buy sampling and safety equipment, we are always looking for funding help to keep the program going.

Persons interested in participating as a volunteer or helping with the program for support can contact Woody Martin at [hrmartin2sc@gmail.com](mailto:hrmartin2sc@gmail.com) or call 337-235-8551.

## Youth Activity on benefits Atchafalaya

The Evangeline Area Council Boy Scouts of America have announced a Tree Planting Event. The Scouts are looking to build on the success of last year's event and almost 5,000 cypress trees were planted.



to 4:00 p.m., participants and volunteers will meet at the Evangeline Center (I-10 exit 121) for the event. The goal is to plant 10,000 hardwood tree saplings to enjoy! Volunteers and sponsors are encouraged to bring a picnic.

To register for the event please visit [www.evangelinebsa.org](http://www.evangelinebsa.org) or call Pierce at (337) 235-8551 ex.111.

## National Recognition for Local Environmental Work

Blake Couvillion, spearhead of Cajuns for Bayou Teche, a community organization dedicated to the restoration of Bayou Teche, is the recipient of the "e-chievement award". Each year the award is presented to a prestigious award in recognition of "remarkable individuals who have made a difference in their communities and beyond. We take pride in celebrating the success of these individuals and their things."

Blake and 100s of volunteers have worked to improve Bayou Teche and transform it into a waterway fit for kayaking, canoeing and fishing. The award ceremony will be held at Bayou Teche and all the good work happening to restore it during the event. **at noon on Tuesday, February 22nd.**

This e-chievement award reflects Blake's efforts to help restore Bayou Teche with the help of volunteers, parish sheriffs, local and parish governments and citizens. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Bayou Teche a better place to live, work and play. Thanks to a

ducted two water quality monitoring workshops to train  
ing of results. Five volunteer sampling teams were formed and  
ocations along the Bayou.

the same date and time to establish a continuous profile of the  
each sampling further complete the picture. Test criteria  
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or 337-298-8380.



## Atchafalaya Basin

announced their second annual Atchafalaya Basin Dedication and  
success of last year's event in which 1,500 people participated  
and trees were planted on state land. On March 26, 2011 from at 9:00 a.m.  
volunteers will again gather at the Atchafalaya Basin Welcome  
Center. Event organizers hope to attract 2,000—2,500 participants,  
musicians, and vendors. There will be live music, swamp tours, food and fun  
activities. Sponsoring organizations are being solicited.

[www.eacbsa.org](http://www.eacbsa.org) Interested sponsors should contact Ben



EVANGELINE AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## Environmental Effort

community non-profit group that cleans debris and trash from  
each week National Public Radio program **e-town** gives this  
group a platform. They are working hard to make a positive difference in their  
community. Success stories of ordinary citizens accomplishing extraordinary

efforts. Blake has been recognized for his work on the bayou for over 2 years by cleaning the bayou in an effort to  
improve water quality. You can hear Blake receive the award and talk about  
his work on the broadcast. **Please tune in or stream [KRVS](http://KRVS), 88.7FM,**

at the Bayou Teche, but also the dedication of hundreds of  
volunteer and civic organizations who give their time and resources to make  
a difference. Thank you to all of you and congratulations to Blake for being an exemplary

spokesman! Blake was nominated for the e-chievment award by Acadiana RC&D.

Every **e-town** show is taped in front of a live audience, highlighting our culture and our environment. Interestingly, producers at **e-town** had a Cajun musical feature on their show. They were pleasantly surprised to see a Cajun band from Bayou Teche! Marc will be featured on the broadcast. The show has just gotten better!



Picture by  
Barre  
Anya L

Cajuns for Bayou Teche is a program of the TECHE Foundation. It is not intended to solicit an exempt monetary contribution or learn how to

## Quotable

By becoming active partners, people start to reverse the damage at the source.



Questions or Comments? Call 337-8  
To

Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. focuses on the environmental and economical concerns of south central Louisiana. Our resources in Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafa

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by Kristen Kordecki, Bayou Teche watershed coordinator at

ting top musicians as well as information about communities  
booked Louisiana singer/ songwriter, Marc Broussard, as a  
to learn that Marc Broussard actually volunteers in the efforts  
ast along with Blake. A great reason to tune into the show has

ed left to right: Blake Couvillion, Marc Broussard, Port  
Mayor Gil Savoy and Richard Burgess. Photo courtesy  
Burgess.

Project. You can learn more about them, make a tax-  
w to volunteer at [www.techeproject.com](http://www.techeproject.com).

**ers in regenerating the health of their localities...  
soul-numbing patterns of exploiting and abusing  
of so many life-sustaining gifts.**

*Elan Shapiro*

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ur primary focus is on the conservation, development and utilization of natural  
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