



**Youth Wetlands Program
Update**



Project Updates

- First Jr. WHEP Contest Scheduled
- Setting up a meeting with NRCS to move forward with the internship promotion
- Working to develop links between CWPPRA and YWP
- Develop partnership with Alexandria Zoo to co-host Wetland Days
- Working to start a 4-H Environmental Science Club in East Baton Rouge parish

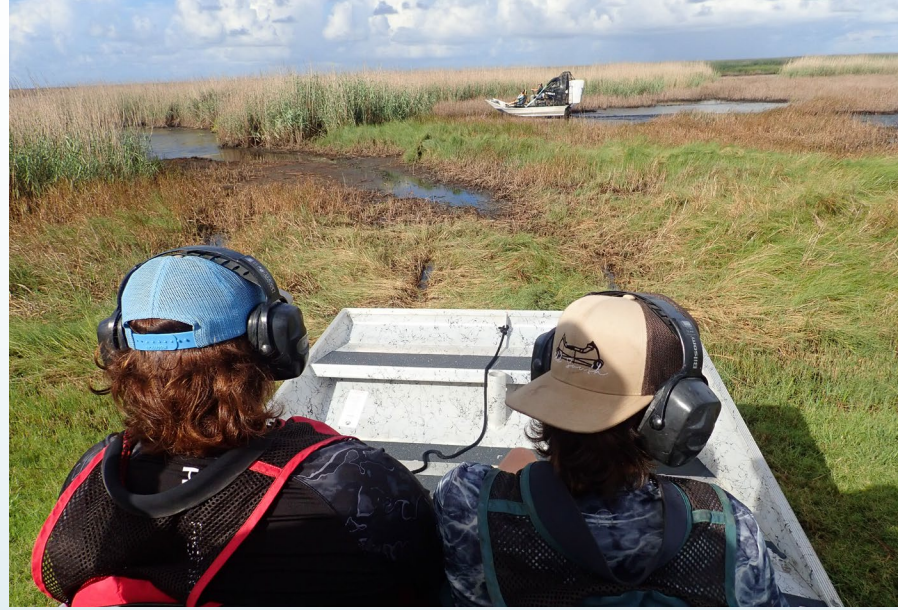
Outreach Opportunities

- BREC Wonders of Wildlife
- LDWF National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Coastal Community Day at LSU Center for River Studies
- Louisiana Sea Grant's Ocean Commotion
- Wetland Field Trips at 4-H Camp Grant Walker
- School Field Trips



Formal Education

- **Curriculum: HS Environmental Science**
 - Have a pacing guide for a complete unit complete
 - Roughing out pacing guides for rest of the units
 - December will bring one complete unit based on LDOE Scope and Sequence
- **YWP Lesson Conversion**
 - All enrichment lessons are being converted to Louisiana Student Science Standards with revisions to lesson objectives and evaluations to make enrichment lessons more applicable to formal education
 - Adding to the YWP resources that are available to both non-formal and formal educators.



Marsh Maneuvers

An educational program of the 4-H Youth Wetlands Program in cooperation with Louisiana Sea Grant



Overview

- A coastal education summer camp program
- For high school youth who have finished the 9th grade through 12th grade.
- Four five-day camps run throughout the month of July.
- 16 youth (8 boys and 8 girls) are selected each week from Louisiana's 64 parishes.



Program Impact

- ▶ Over 1,900 youth have participated since 1987.
- ▶ Around 10-15 participants per summer indicate they want to pursue a career in an environmental, coastal, or policy-related field
- ▶ In 2023, the average increase in scores on the knowledge-based pre- and post-test was 67%





Daily Agenda

- ▶ Each day the youth have a different experiential learning focus
- ▶ Includes lecture-style lessons and hands-on activities for the different topics and coastal commodities

Day 1

Shrimp Industry & Introduction to Louisiana's Coast

- ▶ Learn about the shrimp life cycle and shrimping industry
- ▶ How to catch, clean and cook shrimp
- ▶ Introduced to coastal wetlands and the organizations involved in wetlands restoration and management



Day 2

Coastal Restoration, Alligators, & Crabs

- Starts with airboat tour of a marsh
- Shown restoration efforts along the coast of Joseph's Harbor at Rockefeller Wildlife Reserve
- Learn about alligators, conservation efforts, and assist in an alligator egg dissection
- Youth go crabbing and are taught how to catch, clean, cook, and eat blue crabs.



Day 3

Paddle Trip, Menhaden, & Otoliths

- Canoe down Coulee Kinny to observe wildlife and kill the eggs of invasive Apple snails
- Tour Omega Protein Processing Plant to learn how menhaden are harvested, processed, and packaged
- Dissect Speckled trout heads to learn about otoliths and how biologists use them to age fish



Day 4

Marsh Grass Planting, Avery Island, & Oysters

- ▶ Harvest *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) from an area of abundance then replant at in an area that needs protection
- ▶ Tour Avery Island and learn the history and geology of the area
- ▶ Oyster industry lesson at Shucks Seafood Restaurant



Advanced Marsh Maneuvers

- A three-day camp offered to 16 youth who participated in the summer camp sessions
 - Selected based on active participation, attitude, and pre/post-test results
- Focuses on freshwater marsh ecology and waterfowl habitat management
- Held at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area during the duck season split in December





Partners

- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- McIlhenny Company
- Omega Protein
- LSU College of Agriculture
- Gulf South Seafood
- Shucks Seafood Restaurant