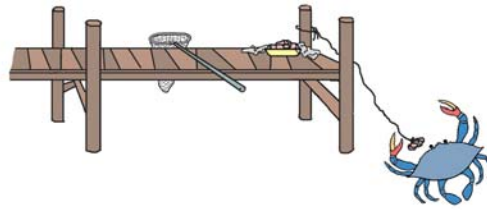




# Crab Lines



Dear Friends,

I know it's difficult to believe, but La Fête d'Ecologie Barataria Terrebonne is right around the corner. Our 8<sup>th</sup> annual celebration will be held this Saturday, September 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Peltier Park in Thibodaux.

If you have visited our festival in the past, you are already aware that this event is designed to showcase the rich and diverse culture, ecology, economy and environment of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System, the place we call home. If you are first time visitor or exhibitor, you are in for a true delight as the uniqueness of our region is brought to life through music, food, duck calling and cast-net throwing contests, as well as craft demonstrations and environmental displays.

This year, our festival entertainment will include a return performance by 14-year-old Cajun fiddler Amanda Shaw at noon. Shaw performed on the Rosie O'Donnell Show and teamed up with Cyndi Lauper as the opening act for the VH1 Divas/Cher Farewell Tour at the Superdome in New Orleans. The Mandeville native has received rave reviews for her performances at the Festival Internationale, the French Quarter Festival and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

La Fête d'Ecologie helps celebrate National Estuary Day, a nation-wide campaign to promote the natural treasures found within an estuary and to educate the public about the importance of restoring estuaries throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Children's activities include presentations by the Baton Rouge Zoo, an ecological treasure hunt, fishing with real poles in an imaginary marsh, participation in a mock oil spill clean up, flint knapping and painting with fish. Festival participants will also have the opportunity to meet *The Estuarrians* as they team up with their friend, Mr. Bill, to educate the public about the American Wetlands Campaign through a series of public service announcements that will be unveiled at the festival.

Ducks Unlimited will also sponsor its Green Wing education day in conjunction with the festival. Green Wing Day will include a duck calling contest as well as hunter safety instruction and more.

The festival will feature live Cajun music with performances by The Cajun Toujours of Golden Meadow, LA; Southern Image of Houma, LA; and The Creole Zydeco Farmers of Lafayette, LA. The Des Allemandes Elementary School dancers, The Allemand Cajun Dancers, will also perform.

In addition, you will be able to learn more about the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and our other upcoming activities, including the second annual Wings over the Wetlands Festival in Lafitte, Louisiana and our "Back to the Bayou Paddle Trip" scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on the festival, call (985) 447-0868 or 1-800-259-0869 or log on to our website at <http://lafete.btnep.org>.

We hope to see you at this year's La Fête d'Ecologie Barataria Terrebonne! Please make sure you visit the BTNEP booth.

With Warm Regards,

Kerry St. Pé