

Crab Lines



Vol. 20

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Dear Friends of the Estuary,

Do your kids or teenagers like to get dirty? Would you like to see them use their getting-muddy powers for good? Do you secretly really just wish you could get dirty for a good cause too? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then a host of partners in the region have the answer for you and your kids.

Thanks to a community-based restoration grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Nicholls State University (NSU), The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and The Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) are teaming up to offer two vegetative planting field trips for kids and families in November.

These field trips, which are scheduled for November 4th and November 18th, are great opportunities for kids, families, scout groups and classes to get out into newly-restored coastal lands, get muddy, and get the opportunity to plant new life in our precious coastal wetlands.

The November 4th trip will take participants to Fifi Island, a small barrier island just north of Grand Isle, where participants will get to plant coastal plants like smooth cordgrass and marsh hay cordgrass on a hundred-acre site recently restored using dredged sediments from near Grand Isle. Because of the large area, very short boat ride, and stable, sandy soils of Fifi Island, this outing is perfect for younger kids and lots of people. The BTNEP will provide bus transportation from the Thibodaux and Raceland areas for this effort as well as lunch for all participants in the field. For more information regarding this activity, contact Joni Blanchard with BTNEP at (985) 447-0838 or by email at joni@btnep.org

The November 18th trip will take participants to Leeville, near the foot of the existing bridge over Bayou Lafourche. Participants will plant marsh plants to help hold together the newly pumped site near the Leeville Bridge. Because of the mucky nature of this site, this outing is better suited to teenagers and adults in smaller numbers working from boats and/or the shoreline. The BTNEP will provide lunch for this effort in the field as well as transportation if enough participants from one region sign up for this project. For more information regarding this activity, contact Joni Blanchard with BTNEP at (985) 447-0838 or by email at joni@btnep.org

Both of these field trips offer you and your family the chance to touch and see real coastal restoration projects, to make a difference for the health of our coast and to learn first-hand from real scientists and graduate students how the science of coastal restoration works.

How to Get Involved...

If you are interested in this or other volunteer activities within the estuary region, contact the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program at (985) 447-0868, email Joni Blanchard at joni@btnep.org or visit <http://volunteer.btnep.org>

Sincerely,



Kerry St. Pé
Program Director