

Cyclone . . .

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the storm passed, he provided hindcasting to guide aid and rescue efforts to locations that had been hardest hit.

"I actually thanked my father-in-law the other day for bringing me the map," Mashriqui said. "I also thank the managers of the LSU supercomputing system. If anything in the chain of information would have broken, my attempt would have failed. Luckily, everything fell into place. LSU has one of the nation's

leading hurricane research centers when it comes to knowledgeable people and computing power."

The death toll from Sidr is estimated to be at least 3,500 – tragic, and more than twice the number of dead from Hurricane Katrina – but significantly fewer than in past cyclones. Mashriqui wants to ensure that Bangladesh scientists and emergency planners gain the same predictive powers that save lives in the Gulf of Mexico. While they have the ability to track and forecast

tropical cyclones, they do not have the tools or training to predict storm surge. Mashriqui plans to participate in upcoming seminars with government officials and to help them access the supercomputing power they will need to generate their own models.

"This will save lives. Furthermore, this is a chance for the United States to make a powerful, positive statement in a Muslim country," Mashriqui said.

Information on Mashriqui's work is available online at www.stormsurge.lsu.edu/.

Sea Grant Assists European Documentary

Louisiana environs and the people who work to conserve them will be the subject of a 52-minute documentary to air on French television in early 2008.

Paris-based reporter/director Ania Szczepanska and videographer Robert Iseni spent two weeks traveling the coast, interviewing experts and trekking through wildlife refuges for the program *Sentinelles de la Nature (Guardians of Nature)*, which will be broadcast on TF1, Ushuaia TV, the National

positive about this state – not only the impacts of Katrina and Rita."

Before their arrival, the filmmakers were assisted by Louisiana Sea Grant Communications Manager Roy Kron and Editor Paula Ouder, who helped the pair make contact with relevant subjects. A current and a former LSG affiliate will be featured in the documentary.

David Bourgeois, associate area agent with LSG and the LSU AgCenter, took Szczepanska and Iseni on a day-long boat tour in and around the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area in Terrebonne Parish. He shared his personal and professional insights, as well as the sights, sounds and tastes of a Louisiana marsh.

"They wanted to film more and more of the birds, fish and even some jellyfish underwater," Bourgeois said. "I shucked some fresh oysters I picked for them. The highlight of the day was when Ania and Robert conducted an interview sitting on a dead oak tree log on Bayou Point au Chenes. It was soft and muddy and they both got covered with mud."

The next day, Bourgeois arranged a filming with teachers and students from Montegut Middle School planting native trees for the Coastal Roots program.

LSG's recently retired invasive species coordinator Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary, who continues to work on invasive species issues as an independent project manager, also is scheduled to appear in the documentary. Szczepanska said she was impressed with Barrett-O'Leary's ability to thoroughly explain the threat posed by some non-native flora and fauna and feels viewers will learn a great deal from the segment.

Barrett-O'Leary and James Seales from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries took the journalists on a boat tour

of Caddo Lake in north Louisiana to learn about the invasive plant, giant salvinia.

"I was delighted that French television was interested in some of Louisiana's conservation efforts," Barrett-O'Leary said. "It demonstrates that they recognize that conservation issues are global. Our shrinking planet is important, and we must all make an effort to conserve water and biota for present and future generations."



David Bourgeois prepares to take documentary filmmakers Ania Szczepanska and Robert Iseni on a tour of the Louisiana marsh.

Geographic Channel and various other foreign stations.

"The goal of our program is to show places, regions or countries of the world, with special regard to their natural resources, beauty and the human interventions implemented to save and preserve them," Szczepanska said. "For each sequence, we go and meet scientists, site guards, naturalists and other enthusiasts involved in protection and preservation. We chose Louisiana because we wanted to show something

Bui Named New Extension Agent

Thu Bui is the new Marine Extension agent in St. Mary, Iberia and Vermilion parishes for Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter.

"Thu is resourceful and makes a great addition to Sea Grant," said Rex Caffey, LSG Extension leader. "She grew up in a fishing family. She's worked in the fishing industry. And being fluent in Vietnamese, she'll help Sea Grant better serve the Vietnamese fishing community."

Bui earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Louisiana State University. She served as assistant director for Gulf South Inc. in Intracoastal City and as an interpreter and bookkeeper for two fishing vessels.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work with the fishing community in this new role," said Bui. "I want to provide fishermen with programs that help them make the best decisions possible."

Bui can be reached at 337/828-4100, ext. 300, or tbui@agcenter.lsu.edu.



Thu Bui