Bring Your Own Bucket . . .
Continued from page one
hurdles. Like any other restoration project, it will require permits. It also requires a
donation of land and a group willing to
manage it.
"It should not cost any money beyond permitting, and everything would be done
through donations. The idea is great, but
getting the property owners to commit is
difficult," Cheramie explained.
He also has a few rules for his proposed
project. It must be on private land that will
remain free of development, with surface
rights donated in perpetuity. It must be
managed and monitored by the group.
It's feasible and possible for some work
to be done by the group. A majority of
time, money and effort will be a community
and we want to keep it that way," one
information sign reads.
Parish. Both are near major highways and are
what he describes as "critical areas."

Coastal Clips
No. 12
Winter
2009

On the Web:
KLRZ FM Talk on the Bayou, Webcast at
khrzfm.com

LSU to Receive $300,000 to Teach Teachers

More teachers in Louisiana and Mississippi are expected to
get their hands dirty and wet thanks to a $300,000 grant to
Louisiana State University's College of Education from the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as part of the
agency's highly competitive Bay Watershed Education and Training
Program (B-WET).

LSU's Pamela Blanchard will use the funds to partner with
Nancy Rabalais and Murt Conover from the Louisiana Universities
Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and with Gary Bachman of the
Coastal Research and Extension Center at Mississippi State
University to expand the work of two hands-on educational environ-
mental stewardship projects -- the LSU Coastal Roots Program and
LUMCON's Bayouside Classroom.

Both programs engage students to learn about the environment
and to take an active part in its preservation and restoration. Each
meets specific state educational standards and includes field work.
Teacher recruitment and training are critical to the success and
longevity of these novel instructional approaches.

Blanchard developed Coastal Roots in 2000 when she worked
as Louisiana Sea Grant's education coordinator, and Sea Grant has
funded the project since its inception. Students involved
in Coastal Roots grow native trees and grasses in nurseries
at their schools and transplant them to local wetlands to reduce or prevent erosion
and to restore habitat. In
LUMCON's Bayouside
Classroom, participants
learn about estuaries,
watersheds and water
quality while conducting
scientific data collection.

"These are very powerful,
positive classroom
activities for students to
enrich their educational
experience," Blanchard said.
"These projects give the

LSU Coastal Roots Leaders Recognized

Ed Bush and Linda Messina, both instrumental figures in the
LSU Coastal Roots Program, have been honored for their work.

Messina, a science teacher at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge,
was selected as a 2008 American Star of Teaching. The program is a
component of the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) Teacher-to-Teacher
Initiative, designed to honor the nation's most effective educators who have
successfully incorporated the "No Child Left Behind Act" into their classrooms.

It recognizes individuals dedicated to "improving student achievement,
increasing opportunities for students and using innovative strategies
to make a difference in the lives of their students," according to the DOE.

The selection committee is comprised of former K-12 teachers
employed by the DOE, and it chooses only one teacher from each of the 50
states and District of Columbia for the honor each year. Messina was selected from
among 5,000 nominations and was one of only five
Hazard Workshops

A series of workshops based on the Louisiana Coastal Hazard Mitigation Guidebook were held in the fall. Videos of those presentations are available online at www.lsu.edu/sg/legal/projects/completed.htm along with a downloadable copy of the book. Copies of the book also can be ordered from the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, 105 Sea Grant Building, LSU, Baton Rouge, 70803. Please include $5 for shipping and handling. Copies of the book can be picked up for free from the Sea Grant Building.

Both projects have been going on for a number of years,” said Blanchard. “We know how to do the programmatic part. The next step is to focus on professional development training and resources for the teachers.” Blanchard is the principal investigator on the winning grant application titled “Integrated Professional Development and Resources to Enhance Educational Goals of Two Environmental Stewardship Programs in Louisiana and Mississippi.” She is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Theory, Policy and Practice in LSU’s College of Education. Her project is one of five on the Gulf Coast to receive a share of $1.3 million in B-WET funding in 2008.

This is the first year that NOAA has offered B-WET grants in the Gulf of Mexico, New England and Pacific Northwest. Successful programs previously were funded in Chesapeake Bay, California and Hawaii.

private school teachers receiving the award for 2008. St. Joseph’s Academy was a pilot school in the LSU Coastal Roots Program, and Messina’s input was influential in the coastal stewardship project’s development. Additionally, Messina’s science students are heavily involved in outreach, and their peer teaching is a welcome addition to Louisiana Sea Grant’s annual Ocean Commotion event and area Earth Day observations.

Ed Bush, an LSU associate professor of horticulture, has been recognized as the Grand Prize winner in the 2008 Garden Crusader Awards, specifically for his ongoing leadership in the LSU Coastal Roots Program. He was chosen from over 500 nominees. The award was developed by Gardner’s Supply Company to recognize people who improve the world through gardening.

Bush worked with Pam Blanchard, LSU College of Education, in the early days of Coastal Roots to design a working nursery yard that would help schools raise their seedlings. He continues to help new Coastal Roots schools install their plant nurseries where students grow native trees – like bald cypress, mangroves, wax myrtles and grasses like Spartina alterniflora – for restoration planting in parks and degraded wetlands. Bush co-directs the Coastal Roots Program and works on community outreach to promote the program.

On the Web:
American Stars of Teaching

Garden Crusaders