

BTNEP ESTUARY RESOURCES

Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program's On Line Estuary Education Resource Module



The Mini-Grants Program

*BTNEP Mini-Grant
Request for Proposal*

Application Timeline

Application Guidelines

Selection Process

FAQ

Program History

*2005 Mini-Grant
Recipients*

*2006 Mini-Grant
Recipients*

*2007 Mini-Grant
Recipients*

*2008 Mini-Grant
Recipients*

*2009 Mini-Grant
Recipients*

Contact Us

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2009 Mini-Grant Winners!

BTNEP is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Mini-Grants Program

Audubon Invasive Cichlid Exhibit and Outreach

Biological invasions by fish species pose a grave threat to the living resources of the Barataria and Terrebonne Estuaries. Non-native fish such as the Rio Grande cichlid can negatively impact native species by competition for food and nesting space, disruption of predator-prey relationships, aggressive interactions, and predation on smaller fish and fish eggs. Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishing industries would stand to lose a great deal if this species were to become widely established.

The Rio Grande cichlid has been known to inhabit freshwater canals on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain since the mid-1990s. Recent evidence indicates that the species is increasing its range, traveling through, and perhaps even nesting within the saltier waters of the Pontchartrain estuary. This does not bode well for the Barataria and Terrebonne systems. Thus far, this population has not spread to the westbank of the Mississippi River, but the potential for invasion and widespread establishment is great.

These project will support the development of two live exhibits that will plainly illustrate to millions of visitors what we stand to lose to biological invasions.

Homegrown Roots

Pointe Aux Chenes is an area ravaged by hurricanes and left lifeless through immense coastal erosion. Nine year old students can remember a time when the road was lined with land and the bayou wasn't as salty. The land of Pointe Aux Chenes has washed away before the residents' very eyes. What can we do about it? That is a question that is often answered with "huh" by students. The problem for them seems too great, too vast. Students aren't given a chance to take ownership in their backyards. Students aren't educated on the ways in which their land can be restored and recaptured.

Through "Homegrown Roots", students will be given the opportunity to get their hands dirty and help in the effort to revitalize the Louisiana Coast without ever leaving their community. Students will take ownership in knowing that they have impacted their environment in a positive way. Students will be actively growing and planting native species to the area. The students will learn that native species are vital to the survival of the estuary. In coordination with the Coastal Roots program already running in multiple schools throughout Louisiana's coastal zone, students will harvest the plants they grow and participate in plantings for coastal restoration projects.

Click here to visit the Coastal Roots Program: <http://coastalroots.lsu.edu/>