



LOUISIANA SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2010

President's Message from Shannon Lafont



At the beginning of a new year, we are sure off to a great start! As we move past Mardi Gras and celebrate the Saint's Super Bowl victory, your LSTA Board is diligently working to make the 2010 Monroe Science Institute the best science experience. The Planning Committee and Board are excited about our first trip ever to the Monroe area. LSTA members will be delighted with the wonderful opportunities and experiences waiting for them in the northeast corner of our wonderful state. The LSTA Monroe Conference theme is "**LSTA 2010: Putting Science on Top.**" In this issue, you will find a short course/field trip form. LSTA needs your help!! More updates will be available soon....concurrent session proposal forms, conference agenda, hotel information, travel grant applications, LSTA Award Nomination forms, etc. This will be a science institute you do not want to miss. Start planning now! It will soon be time for science textbook adoption. LSTA members interested in serving on the textbook review committee should check with their district leadership and learn about the process in place to be selected to work on the committee. Being a part of the adoption committee allows the sharing of

information to ensure that the adoption provides a strong continuum for science learning as well as meets the needs of your students.

Ready for NSTA in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania! Many teachers are looking forward to NSTA this year on March 18-21, 2010. It is not too late to register and reserve a room. I am looking forward to attending the Region VII meeting as an LSTA president. While in Philly a few members of the LSTA Board will meet with **Melissa Miller**, the NSTA District Director for Region VII, and members of the leadership teams from Arkansas and Mississippi. We are pleased that Louisiana will be represented on the National Congress on Science Education Planning Committee. **Charlotte Bhim**, LSTA Past President, is working on the committee to plan the 2010 "Imagine and Invent: Create a Great Future" program.

Please keep your regional representative informed of the science events in your area and of good things happening in your classrooms. We want to hear from you. I wish everyone a wonderful spring and great finish to the 2009-10 school year.

Shannon Lafont

LSTA Board and Regional Representatives

Members of the LSTA Executive Board

Shannon Lafont President slafont@lafourche.k12.la.us	Jean May-Brett NSTA Liason/BaP Coordinator jean.may-brett@la.gov	Tina Savoie Region 5 Representative tina_savoie@camsch.org
Charlotte Bihm Past President/Membership crb3739@slp.k12.la.us	Pateece Davis Exhibit Co-Chair Gpdavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us	Tera Robinson-LaPrarie Region 6 Representative robinsont@rapides.k12.la.us
Cathi Cox Vice President ccox@lincolnschools.org	Dru Foret Administrative Assistant dforet@tpsd.org	Sue Ottesen Region 7 Representative sue.ottesen@bossierschools.org
Shavonne Garner-Price Secretary sprice9455@aol.com	LSTA Web Master	Lyndsey Ewing Region 8 Representative lyndsey.ewing@mcschools.net
Jean May-Brett Treasurer jean.may-brett@la.gov	Sean Hudson Region 1 Representative hudsosp@gmail.com	Ann Wilson La Science Program Coordinator ann.wilson@la.gov
Jan Graff Awards Coordinator jlgraff@bellsouth.net	Jan Mistich Region 2 Representative Janiece.Mistich@stpsb.org	Jessica Schexnayder LASER Editor jsche15@lsu.edu
Brenda Nixon Special Projects Coordinator bnixon@lsu.edu	Michelle Morvant Region 3 Representative mmorvant.tes@lafourche.k12.la.us	G. Pateece Davis-Hardy Historian gpdavis-hardy@caddo.k12.la.us
Paul Johnson Membership pjohnson@tpsd.org	Mitch Robinson Region 4 Representative jmr2424@slp.k12.la.us	Joyce Tate Parliamentarian joyce.tate@mcschools.net

NSTA - Common National Standards

Science Anchors: Moving to Common National Standards

A call for common state standards for education has gained considerable support over recent months. We think the time has come for all states to work together to adopt a common core of concepts and abilities in science that every student needs to be scientifically literate. Efforts surrounding common standards strongly support the goal of the Science Anchors initiative to provide model standards that states can use to establish the same clear learning objectives for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. NSTA feels it is imperative that multiple stakeholders are at the table and have a voice in framing a single document that will lead the way to a new generation of science standards that all states can support.

NSTA will continue to engage its members with updates, discussions, and forums to ensure that the common core effort reflects the broad experience of today's science educators and district and state educational leaders. A pdf of the complete document can be found at: <http://scienceanchors.nsta.org/>

News from the Department of Education

Update from State

We hope to help you take advantage of having a new year for a new start. In that spirit, below is information on current programs of interest to science educators.

Online assessment for GLEs through the EAGLE system (Enhanced Assessment of Grade-Level Expectations) has been active for math and English language arts for some time. It is now being developed for high school science courses. Teachers find it to be a valuable tool in developing classroom quizzes and for acquiring data on student performance on premade unit tests. For additional information on EAGLE, go to <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/saa/2273.html>. Item review is proceeding for high school science course GLE assessment items. In May of 2010, expect to see the EAGLE program post high school science course assessment items and premade unit tests.

The End of Course (EOC) exam for Biology I has been mapped and test items are being reviewed. The Biology I EOC exam will be field tested in May of 2010. It is scheduled to be operational in December of 2010-11.

The Instructional Materials adoption process for science began February 11th and will continue through the fall of 2010. I hope to see some of you on the state adoption committees.

For the Career Diploma graduation requirements, curriculum for two courses are being developed that can align to a Career-Technology Education (CTE) track, yet can count for a science credit toward graduation. These two courses are Food Science and Forensic Science.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions relating to the Science Program or need assistance.

Ann Wilson, Science Program Coordinator, LDOE
Ann.wilson@la.gov

Save the Date:

NSTA Area Conference on Science Education
New Orleans, LA
November 10-12, 2011



Go to <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/> for more information



Louisiana Science Teachers Association

LSTA 2010: Putting Science on Top

Monroe Civic Center, Monroe, Louisiana

November 4-6, 2010

www.lsta.info

Short Course/Field Trip Proposal Form (Thursday, November 4, 2010 – 3 Hours or 6 Hours)

Please type or print:

Lead Presenter Name _____ Agency/School _____

_____ Preferred Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

(____) _____ (____) _____ (____) _____
Work Phone Home Phone Fax Email*

****An e-mail address is required***

Co-Presenter(s) Names and Contact Data (Attach a separate sheet to this form and include the above information for each person.)

Session Title _____

Description (30 words or less) _____

**** PLEASE NOTE: If this session is to be held off site please identify the location and site contact person with phone number.**

Location _____ Contact _____ Email _____

Check all that apply:

<u>Session Type</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hands-on
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration
<input type="checkbox"/> Exemplary Program
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Experience

<u>Intended Audience</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> High
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> General
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative

<u>Preferred Length</u>	<u>Time</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 – 11:30 am <input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 – 4:30 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30am – 3:30 pm
<u>Preferred Participant Number</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 50

*****We may not be able to honor all preferences***

<u>Focus Discipline</u> (Select no more than two)	<u>Cross Curricular</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Science as Inquiry	<input type="checkbox"/> Physics
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth/Space
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Reading
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Math
	<input type="checkbox"/> Science/Social Studies

<u>Special Requests for SHORT COURSES ONLY</u>
Rooms with Special Needs (water, computer lab, etc):
<i>**Computers and projectors will NOT be provided</i>
<i>**Notification to be sent if need can be met</i>

Mail, Fax, or E-mail (preferred) form by June 25, 2010 to:
Cathi Cox, Lincoln Parish ACHIEVE, 410 South Farmerville St, Ruston, LA, 71270; 318-255-7624;
ccox@lincolnschools.org

Thanks for supporting the 2010 LSTA Science Institute! It can't happen without YOU!

LSTA Regional News

◆ Region I News ◆

Congratulations to **Sabrina Smith** Elementary Math Consultant in Jefferson Parish on becoming President of the Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (LCSM) and **Jean Pinney**, Principal with RSD South for her election as President of the Louisiana Association of Science Leaders (LASL). Both of these wonderful educators are MSP Project Directors. Also best wishes on her new position as Executive Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation to **Anne Rheams**. Anne was the first Education Director with LPBF.

LSTA members in Region 1 and from around the state recently said goodbye to **Carol Hester** the long time Director of School Programs and Education at the Audubon Zoo. Carol was the 2008 recipient of the LSTA Distinguished Informal Science Educator Award. She never met a school group she didn't love and continues to volunteer on a schedule of her own choosing at the zoo.

Ann Smart of Cabrini High School made the trip to Houma to attend the first LSTA LSC3 workshop. Anne Rheams and **Sue Ellen Lyons** with Holy Cross High school served on a video review panel for LPB as part of the Global Change grant the station is working on. **Marie Tizzard** (Jefferson Parish) and **Andrea Walker** (NOPS) recently served as committee members working with the LDE to prepare EAGLE questions for the high school science courses. This will be the first time science questions will be available on the EAGLE site for teachers to use.

LSTA members will want to visit UNO's new Shea Penland Coastal Education and Research Facility. **Dinah Maygarden** recently announced the opening "We are excited to be finally beginning our programs at our "CERF" building out at Chef Pass! After a long time and a lot of hard work on the part of many people we can now show off the facility to our friends and colleagues." There will be an Open House on March 13th.

◆ Region II News from Jan Mistich ◆

On January 13th the first meeting of the Task Force for k-12 Student Competitions met in Baton Rouge. Over 20 different competitions such as Academic Games, First Lego League, Math COUNTS, and You Be the Chemist were presented in a follow-up to the State STEM Initiative held in December. STEM Steering Committee members **Derek Reese**, **Brenda Nixon**, and **Jean May-Brett** met with the competition representatives in a first step to preparing a state calendar and expanding participation in all the academic programs available. More information on a competition calendar will be available soon.

Lisa Redmon of Zachary Schools will be recognized as this year's winner of the Council of Elementary Science International's (CESI) Muriel Green Award. The Muriel Green Award recognizes young science teachers with a passion for teaching and inspiring science in students. The award recognizes outstanding beginning elementary science teachers and encourages them to take an active role the science education community. As the 2010 recipient Lisa will receive a two year membership to CESI and NSTA, as well as, be recognized in national publications and journals. The award will be presented March 19th, 2010 during the CESI Luncheon at the NSTA Convention in Philadelphia. Congratulations, Lisa!

Mandeville Public Works Environmental Interpretive Program has several new environmental offerings for teachers in St. Tammany Parish. Now available for 1-2 week loan to teachers are several new Environscape models, including Wetlands Functions & Values, Coastal Use and Protection, Drinking Water Protection and Wastewater Treatment, Groundwater Kit, and a Riparian Kit. Junior High and High School teachers can check out one of two water quality testing kits or arrange for demonstration lessons in your classroom by teacher educator, **Connie Marciante**. Also being offered by Mandeville's Environmental Interpretive Program is "The Secret Life of a Mosquito," a professional development

opportunity developed by St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement on April 7, 2010, from 4:00-6:00. Each participant will receive a CD of games, videos, and student resources plus a wooden model mosquito kit. To reserve your spot, please contact me at janmistich@cityofmandeville.com.

US Fish and Wildlife Service is offering new programs for students at Big Branch, Bogue Chitto, and Atchafalaya NWR this spring. You can learn about them by contacting **Jody DeMeyere**, Park Ranger, at (985) 882-2024. Don't forget to send me your science news at Janiece.Mistich@stspb.org.

◆ Region III News from Michelle Morvant ◆

An **EPA** Grant made it possible for **LSTA** to host workshops across the state entitled "Louisiana Schools Chemical Cleanup Campaign" (**LA SC3**). The first of several workshops, to be presented throughout the state, was held in Houma, Saturday January 30th to a full house. **Chris Brown** from South Terrebonne High, **Adrianna Dupre** from Terrebonne High and **Natalie Pittman** from Point Aux Chenes Elementary provided much needed information on the importance of safety, classroom hazards, chemical exposures, chemical waste disposal, and general procedures to keep safe in the classroom. Response was great!



Michelle Morvant and **Fran Naquin** from Thibodaux Elementary presented two science sessions at the LDE's Annual Preschool and

Kindergarten Conference. In "Science Galore" participants explored science through inquiry



as they investigate plants, animals, magnets and mixtures. In "The Science of Mixology" workshop,

participants focused on learning through the driving force of student inquiry. Activities were explored that focused on the actions which engage learners as they "do" science. Teachers went away with an up close and direct professional development experience as they explored the activities to successfully implement the LCC their classrooms.

Wow! We have great teachers in Region III. **Sandi Prejean** from Vanderbilt Catholic High was asked to present a Chemistry Share-A-Thon at the NSTA national conference on science education in Philly. Best of luck in Philly!

The Math Science Partnership Project was busy at work, February 6th as Karen Ansberry and Emily Morgan engaged participants in the Picture Perfect Science Workshop. Teachers were instructed on using informative literature to guide inquiry based science learning.

If you have information on school news, grants, awards, activities and pictures to share in your area you can send it to me at mahmorv@yahoo.com so I can submit it to the LASER. In the subject line please include LSTA News.

LASC3 - Louisiana Schools Chemical Cleanup Campaign Workshop



**REMINDER! Next LASER Deadline, Saturday, April 3rd!
Contact your Regional Representative with your good news!**

◆ **Region IV News from Mitch Robinson** ◆

Greetings from Region IV! **April Stone** and **LaShondra Taylor** of South Street Elementary in Opelousas recently won a \$5000 NEA Student Achievement Grant for their Louisiana Wetlands and Habitats Writing Across the Curriculum Project. They will use the grant funding to create lessons, take field trips, conduct research, and use curriculum strategy writing assignments to explore Louisiana Wetlands and Habitats. Additionally, April's third graders at have been working with digital microscopes to learn about their school's pond habitat. Students gathered samples of living organisms and water to study through the pond unit. Students completed journal entries, researched, and discussed pond habitats. They used the microscopes to take video and pictures of tiny organisms, as well as algae. April will demonstrate using digital microscopes in the classroom at the St. Landry 3rd Annual Technology Share Fair.

Leonville Elementary in St. Landry Parish has some interesting news to report. **Arlene Mistic**, science instructor, states, "I have been writing for the Institute of Children's Literature and recently received back a story that I wrote on photosynthesis." **Susan Ludwig** (my instructor and editor) has encouraged me to get it published after I make a few minor revisions." Arlene plans on revising and editing her work this coming summer. Arlene also wanted to add that the fire that consumed Leonville Elementary's gym and adjacent classrooms could not destroy the students' excitement over scientific investigation. Modifications had to be made due to limitations of available space, but students were still able to complete and present science projects.

Lafayette Parish school system students could be the first in the world to participate in Russia's International Space Olympics from their own hometowns via teleconferencing. Financial constraints and timing of this event are huge challenges. Hopefully, Lafayette Parish Schools will be able to participate.

Thank you to **Charlotte Bihm** for sending me this next contribution. **Emily Morgan** and **Karen Ansberry**, authors of the NSTA Press Picture Perfect Science series were guest presenters at the St. Landry Parish Math Science Partnership Project workshop on February 4th and 5th. Attendees included Acadia, Avoyelles, Iberia, and St. Landry project teachers, special guests **Cynthia Osborne** and **Dianne Madden** from the Ouchita MSP project, and non-project teachers from St. Landry, Acadia, and the Diocese of Lafayette. See photos below.



Andrea Vidrine (Opelousas Catholic) and **Sherrel Fontenot** (Grand Prairie Elementary)



Donna Jeansonne (Bunkie Elementary), **Karen Ansberry** (Author), and **Agnes Fogleman** (Palmetto Elementary)



Susan Crowley (South Crowley Elementary) and **LaShondra Taylor** (South Street Elementary)



Karen Ansberry (Author)

◆ Region V News from Tina Savoie ◆

Hi from Region V. We are busy working toward State Science Fair. We are all buzzing with little time to tell our news, however, we have an update on STARLAB. There are over 70 STARLAB Portable Planetariums throughout the state. Does your school district have a STARLAB? Is it being used in classrooms? If not, maybe teacher training is in order. If you are interested in reviving your STARLAB program or maybe just need a jumpstart training, contact:

Gary Kratzer, STARLAB Consultant
43 Eucalyptus St.
Sulphur, LA 70663
Or call 337-625-5405,

Email: gkratzer@rocketmail.com
or visit: www.starlabconsultation.com

DeQuincy Elementary School art teacher **Mike LeBlanc** and several students were recognized as the National Winners in the Student/School category of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) awards program. The DeQuincy team received their award during the 56th Annual KAB Convention in Washington, D.C. The award, presented by **Mr. Matthew McKenna**, President and CEO of KAB, in recognition of the play "The Ultimate New Years Resolution" written and directed by Mr. LeBlanc. The play, based on the Louisiana Litter Law, included roles for students and community leaders such as the

mayor, judge, and court bailiff. School Principal **Claude LeCompte** and DeQuincy Chamber of Commerce President **Mrs. Lillian Karr** were among the members of the party who traveled to the awards program. The DeQuincy community raised the funds needed for the students to attend the awards ceremony and enjoy a trip they will remember forever.

If you have any news to submit for Region V, please email Tina Savoie at tina_savoie@camsch.org.

Students are shown with Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Mr. Matthew McKenna after the awards ceremony.



◆ Region VI News from Tera Robinson-LaPrairie ◆

It has been an exciting year for elementary students at Poland Jr. High School. Over the summer, teachers converted an empty classroom to a multi-tasking functioning interactive lab. Throughout the year, students have conducted many inquiry-based explorations. Poland Jr High teachers and students from pre-K to the fifth grade have utilized the lab. Recently the new lab was host to parents and students on Math and Science night whereby parents and their children were they actively participated in an array of hands-on activities.

Summer Trapp's students at Tioga Jr High have been implementing the steps of the scientific method through a series of investigation on osmosis and diffusion. The students conducted multi-trial experiments to determine what would happen if an egg were soaked in different liquids. The students then took their eggs home and had to report their finding to their parents. Everyday the students were excited to return to class to make and record their observations of the eggs. The students thought experiment was an "Egg-cellent" way to learn about osmosis and diffusion!

Students in **Tammie Santos**' classroom have been conducting multiple projects to learn about the solar system. Students conducted research on people, events, and discoveries about the history of astronomy and space to create a large interactive timeline. Students also created scale models of our solar system to compare the distance and size of the planets.

Donna Bergeron, of Tioga Jr. High School, was looking for an amazing way to introduce the unit on Forces and Motion. That's when she came across the book by **John Austin** entitled, *Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction*. She used this book to get explain how forces and motion related to weapons of mass destruction. The students then constructed catapults using a bag of everyday items. Once the catapults were constructed the students started competing. They

competed with marshmallows for accuracy and distance. After the first firing, the students were allowed to make adjustments to improve the capabilities of their catapults.

Teachers in the science and social studies department at Alexandria Middle Magnet School participated in a workshop held by Murt from LUMCON on water quality. The teachers plan on using the knowledge they gained to participate in Bayou Side Classroom and to conduct cross-curricular activities involving mapping and water quality.

For the past month, students at Pineville Jr. High School have been observing the phases of the moon. At the end of this month, students will converse and share their findings with other students around the world.

◆ Region VII News from Sue Ottesen ◆

Kevin Kingdon of Newton Smith Middle School had several students who won Galileoscopes in the essay competition sponsored by LSU-S. His name was omitted from the list in the last issue.

Elizabeth Vance at Donnie Bickham Middle School received the KTBS One Class at a Time Award. She was also was awarded the Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Community Action & Service Learning Grant for \$500 for her project, Patriot Park.

Five Caddo Parish middle school science teachers were awarded Quality Science and Mathematics (QSM) grants. They are **Elizabeth Baker**, Caddo Middle Magnet; **Ramona Green**, Bethune; **John Oswalt**, Donnie Bickham; **Elizabeth Vance**, Donnie Bickham; and **Kerri Woodard**, Youree Drive.

Micah Stewart and his Robo-Raiders from Ridgewood Middle School placed 3rd in Team Work at the 2009 Louisiana FIRST LEGO League Tournament.

Ed Armes and the Keithville Eagles took two trophies for design and three certificates in the Arkansas FIRST LEGO League Tournament. Keithville's teams placed 10th and 13th overall.

Cristie Cantor of Keithville has been selected to participate in a Northwestern University program called "Science: Out of this World," an eighth grade space science project. In addition to training, she will receive student books and teacher materials.

Ramona Green (Bethune) had three student winners of the Coleopterists Society Youth Incentive Award Program. They are planning field studies at the Insectarium in New Orleans. **Veronica Trahan** from Northwood High School won a QSM grant and another KTBS One Class At A Time Award.

Lisa Nance, Biotech Coordinator, is please to announce that one of the students selected to represent Louisiana at this year's National Youth Science Camp program in West Virginia from June 29 through July 23, 2010 is from Southwood High School.

Kris Clements of Caddo Magnet High School has three students who were named Siemens Westinghouse semi-finalists and two students who placed in the top six of the recent Junior Science and Humanities Symposium state competition held in Baton Rouge.

◆ **Region VIII News from Lyndsey Ewing** ◆

Congratulations to Simsboro teacher **Chris Campbell** for being named Outstanding Young Educator by the Ruston Jaycees during the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Gala. Chris and his wife **Stacy Campbell**, I. A. Lewis STEM Instructor, took their Science Olympiad teams to the Greenhill Invitational Meet in Addison, Texas, as they continue preparations for the upcoming Regional and State meets.

Amy Guerin, Ruston High School STEM, sponsored the school's debut appearance in the Mini Urban Challenge sponsored by the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier City. The five man robotics team from RHS competed against twenty teams from across north Louisiana and east Texas, finishing in the top tier in each event.

Missy Wooley, also RHS STEM, hosted the second annual BUSTED for Excellence Day for prospective 8th graders to next year's STEM program. Assisted by her NASA Physics students, Wooley guided the incoming freshmen through experiences designed to showcase "Bearcats Understanding STEM Through Engineering Design" as they designed mini catapults, built paper towers, and engaged in egg drop competitions. Missy also was awarded her fourth consecutive RHS PTA/ACHIEVE Mini Grant to support the STEM program; this grant project entitled "NOW: Navigating Our World" will provide \$1000 for hand-held GPS units for data collection and analysis.

Cathi Cox, Lincoln Parish ACHIEVE, joined Wooley in hosting teams from both Winn and Grant Parish as they studied the district's STEM program. Cox also launched a school "Clean and Green" initiative as part of the parish's Adopt A

School program where each school and one of their Chamber partners worked collaboratively to "green" an area of the school campus.



Chris Campbell (Simsboro High) and **Stacy Campbell** (I. A. Lewis) work collaboratively with a student during Science Olympiad training after school.



Mayisha Zeb Nakib (left) and team captain **Linda Cross** (right) work to troubleshoot their robot after its programming during the recent Mini Urban Challenge competition in Bossier City.

Blenda McHenry (Baskin School, Franklin Parish) attended a BSCS two-day field trip orientation for the inquiry approach for middle school science in Colorado Springs, CO November 6-7, 2009. This was funded by the U.S. Department of Education through an NSF grant and uses national standards and benchmarks for all disciplines K-12.

Educational Opportunities

Recycle Bottle Caps with Aveda

Aveda found that a majority of plastic bottle caps do not get recycled today. Often these caps end up as litter or trash and migrate into our rivers and oceans. Birds and other marine creatures mistake them for food with tragic results. The magnitude of this pollution problem is devastating to our oceans and wildlife.

Your school can be part of the solution by joining recycle Caps with Aveda. Join Aveda's caps recycling initiative that helps extend the current boundaries of recycling and elicits participation from all corners of our community. With the help of our network of salons and stores, in partnership with community schools, we have created a recycling program for plastic bottle caps. Caps are collected at enrolled schools and then sent by Aveda to our recycler where the material is recycled into new caps and containers. Go to <http://aveda.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.asp> for more information.

Louisiana's Eighth Environmental Awareness Art & Language Arts Contest

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries along with contest sponsor, Alcoa Foundation, announce the Eighth Environmental Awareness Art & Language Arts Contest. Louisiana students, age 5-18, may enter their original work in the art category and/or the language arts category. The theme for the 2010 contest is **Carbon Footprints: Tread Lightly on Louisiana**. Monetary awards will be given to the winners and winning entries will be published in the 2011 Environmental Awareness calendar. All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, April 23, 2010. For more information, resources on carbon footprints, and full contest guidelines, please visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/eec/news.htm or contact Kathleen Nichols at knichols@wlf.la.gov.

Summer Geoscience Field Trips

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans is offering an opportunity for minority students to participate in two summer geoscience field trips as part of the UNO-EES Minority Awareness Geoscience Program. There will be two trips this year: A 13 day trip to **Utah (June 13 - 25) for grades 11 and 12** and an 8 day trip in **Louisiana (July 14 - 21) for grades 10-12**. Students will choose one of the two field trips. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience in science, meet people with common interests and explore new environments. We are seeking highly motivated students who are interested in the earth science and enjoy exploring their natural world. Student applicants should be African American, Native American, Latino or of another group that is underrepresented in the sciences.

All application materials and information are found at www.ees.uno.edu/map THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 5.

If you need further information, please contact Dinah Maygarden 504-280-1374 dmaygard@uno.edu or Heather Egger 504-280-4042 hlgordon@uno.edu. Please pass this information along to anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!

Science Matters! Sign Up Today for National Lab Day!

Looking for help with your science fair, or with a lesson, or maybe someone to host a field trip, advise an after-school program, help with a hands-on activity, or supply some cool lab equipment? Wouldn't it be great to have a scientist or engineer come speak to your students about their work?

You can make it happen through National Lab Day (NLD). At the NLD website, you may sign up and submit your request to be matched with a local volunteer (a university STEM student, local scientists, engineers, STEM professionals and other members of the community) who has also joined the NLD hub.

This year's NLD will culminate in a series of events and activities at the local, regional and national level during the first week of May 2010. It is a nationwide movement to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in our schools. President Obama announced the NLD initiative last fall and science teachers in Louisiana and across the country are signing up and requesting a NLD partner. Learn more about NLD at www.nationallabday.org.

Sky Calls

Sky Calls is a NASA-supported astronomy alert service that puts kids in touch with the sky—night and day. Anyone with a telephone can participate. When there is an eclipse, an alignment of planets, a big solar flare, or a flyby of the International Space Station, the phone rings. A voice message from NASA alerts students to the event and tells them how they can see or experience it. Students with cell phones can choose to receive text messages instead of voice. Of course, teachers can participate, too.

Most alerts arrive after school, around dinner time, when the sky is darkening. Events on the sun, however, may be announced just before school or during the day. Cell-phone carrying teachers can share the news with their students during science class as it happens. "A major solar flare has just exploded on the sun. NASA says radio blackouts are possible—and there could be auroras tomorrow night." This is science *as it happens*.

Participating classrooms will receive a set of parent/guardian permission forms. Send these forms home with your students for signatures. When a student returns the signed form to the classroom, they can sign-up and begin receiving alerts right away.

Signing up is easy at our secure web site, and may be done in the classroom or school library. Participants enter their zip code, phone number, email address and—presto!—the sign up is complete. The address of the web site and a special "coupon code" will be provided to participating classrooms. Sky Calls is managed for NASA by Dr. Tony Phillips: tphillips@qnet.com



Education Workshop Videos

Louisiana Sea Grant education presentations made during the 2009 Louisiana Science Teachers Association Conference are now available. Presentation topics include coastal stewardship, invasive species and a hurricane mapping activity. Go to: <http://www.laseagrant.org/comm/workshops.htm> for more information.

