

Society of Wetland Scientists
South Central Chapter Fall Meeting
October 20 – 22, 2011
Lafayette, Louisiana

Workshops

Thursday, October 20

0900 - 1600

Workshop 1: ***Wetland Functional Assessments: Practical Application for Determining Wetland Mitigation on the Gulf Coast***

Matt Stahman, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Houston, TX

Location: Estuarine Habitat and Coastal Fisheries Center
646 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette

This workshop will focus on the practical application of current wetland functional assessments used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg, New Orleans, Fort Worth, and Galveston Districts. This full day workshop will teach Charleston Method, Modified Charleston Method, TXRAM, and HGM using real-world project examples. Results from each method will then be compared to available mitigation bank credits using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on-line RIBITS mitigation database. Workshop attendees will be taught how to calculate projected wetland mitigation costs for projects requiring Clean Water Act permitting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Workshop 2: ***An Overview of Field Identification of Louisiana's Coastal Wetland Plants***

Larry Allain, Botanist, USGS National Wetlands Research Center,
Lafayette, LA

Location: USGS National Wetlands Research Center
700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette

This workshop includes a discussion of field identification characters of common wetland plants and hands on identification of herbarium and freshly collected plant specimens. During the afternoon session the workshop attendees will visit a wetland to practice identification skills.

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Meeting Agenda

Friday, October 21

USGS National Wetlands Research Center, 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette

0745 Registration

0815 Welcome: Phil Turnipseed, Director, USGS National Wetlands Research Center
Overview of Meeting: Carol Thompson, South Central Chapter President

Plenary Session Challenges to Achieving a Resilient Gulf of Mexico Coast

0830 Richard Day, Ecologist, USGS National Wetlands Research Center
The Role of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway in the Sediment Budget of Coastal Louisiana

0900 Robert R. Twilley, Vice President of Research, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
The Network Nightmare: Calibrating H.T. Odum's Paradigm on Ecosystem Services

0930 Brian Perez, Senior Technologist, CH2M HILL
The Role of Consulting Firms in Meeting the Challenges of Coastal Restoration

1000 **Break**

1015 Jenneke M. Visser, Institute for Coastal Ecology and Engineering, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
The Effects of Coastal Management on Herbivores: Implications for Coastal Resiliency

1045 Irving Mendelsohn, School of Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University
Restoring Salt Marsh Resilience and Ecosystem Health in a Changing Environment

Student Presentations

1115 Assessing the spatial pattern of wetland vegetation in a dynamic river delta using high-

resolution multispectral satellite imagery

Melissa Vernon Carle, C. Sasser, L. Wang, and R. Twilley; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

1130 The Influence of Digital Elevation Model Resolution, Source, and Quality on Streamflow and Potential Inundation Modeling

John L. David, M.I. Oguamanam, M. Kebede, and F.S.. Policelli; NASA DEVELOP Program, Goddard Space Flight Center

1145 **Break**

Business Meeting

1200 Business Meeting (lunch provided)

Other Activities

1245 Field Trips Depart

- Sherburne Wildlife Management Area
- Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge

1700 - 2000 Social and Supper

Location: University of Louisiana Alumni Center
600 East Saint Mary Blvd., Lafayette

Saturday, October 22

USGS National Wetlands Research Center, 700 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette

0810 Welcome: Carol Thompson, South Central Chapter President

Student Presentations

0815 Low-Grade Weirs: The Next Step for Agricultural Best Management Practices

K. Alex Littlejohn; Mississippi State University

0830 Mortality in Two Ditch Species Exposed to Root-Zone Glyphosate

L. E. Saunders, M. T. Moore, S. R. Pezeshki; University of Memphis

0845 Greenhouse Study of Nutrient and Growth Responses of a Ditch Plant, *Leersia oryzoides* (Rice Cutgrass), to Varying Degrees of Soil Saturation and Water Nitrogen Concentration

Melissa B. Koontz, J.M. Koontz, S. Reza Pezeshki, and M.T. Moore, The University of Memphis

0900 Climate Related Changes in Chemical Characteristics of Arctic Tundra Ponds Over the Past 40 Years.

David A. Hernandez, F.R. Reyes Jr., C.G. Andresen, V. L. Lougheed; University of Texas at El

Paso

0915 Driving Mechanisms of Leaf Decomposition Based on Wetland Type and Surrounding Land Use

Allyn K. Fuell, S.A. Entrekin, S. Owen, and S. Owen; University of Central Arkansas

0930 **Break**

0945 Evaluating Barrier Island Habitats for Wintering Waterbirds

David Curtiss and A. R. Pierce, Nicholls State University

1000 A Comparison of Fish Communities in Freshwater Diversions of the Lower Mississippi River.

Stephen Byrne; Nicholls State University

1015 Home Range, Movements, and Microhabitat Selection of the King Rail in Gulf Coast Marshes

Bradley A. Pickens; Louisiana State University

1030 Comparison of Nekton Community Composition in Different Marsh Types: Implication of Hydrological Connectivity

Sung-Ryong Kang, Louisiana State University

1045 Predicting Reinvasion Pressure in Restorations of Ecosystems Invaded by Exotic Plants

Christopher A. Gabler and E. Siemann; Rice University

1100 **Break**

1115 Plant species differences in establishment and expansion in a fresh-water tidal marsh in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta

Taylor M. Sloey and M. W. Hester; University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1130 Evaluation of *Baccharis halimifolia* establishment techniques for coastal restoration

Michael J. Dupuis and M. W. Hester; University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1145 Effects of Salt Acclimation on Growth and Survival of *Spartina alterniflora*

Lisa Breaux, Quenton Fontenot, Allyse Ferrara; Nicholls State University

1200 Biological contributions to coastal marsh elevation respond to interactions among climate change associated variables.

Joshua A. Jones, J.Cherry and K.L. McKee ; University of Alabama

1215 Elucidation of cold temperature and latitudinal limits of black mangrove early life history stages: A test of the Stress Gradient Hypothesis

Christine N. Pickens and M. W. Hester; University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1230 Judges Deliberate

1245 Student Award Winner Presentation
Meeting Adjourned

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