

**Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association's
4th Annual Symposium**

**TECHE-VERMILION WATERSHED:
BUILDING ON REGIONAL PROGRESS**

Friday, September 8, 2017

Vermilionville Performance Center
300 Fisher Road

Reception to follow at
RUFFINO'S ON THE RIVER



BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association Inc. is to create awareness of our natural environment by providing education and outreach to the general community about ways to conserve, protect and enjoy the Bayou Vermilion Watershed.

BayouVermilionPreservation.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for supporting our mission and our fourth annual symposium.

BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

VISIONARY SPONSORS



A special THANK YOU to our VISIONARY SPONSORS who have exceeded expectations in their support of this year's symposium.

MORNING AGENDA

8:30 A.M. Welcome – Bess Foret, President Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association and Dr. David Cheramie, CEO, Bayou Vermilion District

8:40 A.M. Address by Mayor President Joel Robideaux

8:45 A.M. Introduction by Heather Warner-Finley, Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association

9:00 A.M. Parish Presidents' Cooperative Watershed Initiative by Guy Cormier, President, St. Martin Parish & A Regional Approach to Long-Term Recovery by Rachel Godeaux, Acadiana Planning Commission

9:45A.M. Break

10:15 A.M. Mississippi River Water Quality by Nick Sims, US Army Corps of Engineers

10:45 A.M. Building Community Based Water Planning, Monitoring, Management and Forecasting Systems by Dr. Ehab Meselhe, Water Institute of Louisiana

11:15 A.M. Rethinking Our Watersheds: Stormwater Management in South Louisiana by Dana Brown, Dana Brown & Associates

11:45 A.M. Morning Wrap Up (questions; issues for further discussion)

AFTERNOON AGENDA

12:00 P.M. Lunch and Video presentations

1:00 P.M. San Antonio River Authority: A Cooperative Watershed Management Program by *Brian Mast, San Antonio River Authority*

1:30 P.M. Litter and Public Lands: Putting Communities at Risk by *Raymond Berthelot, Louisiana Office of State Parks*

2:00 P.M. Locally-Led Watershed Projects Successfully Improve Water Quality by *Dr. Ernest Girouard, ret. LSU AgCenter & Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction through On-Site Sewer System Inspections, Education and Outreach in the Vermilion River* by *Emile Ancelet, Bayou Vermilion District*

2:30 P.M. Marketing Recreational Activities by *Jesse Guidry, Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission*

3:00 P.M. Closing Remarks

Thank you for joining us today.

You are invited to our reception at Ruffino's on the River. 7 P.M.-8:30 P.M.



BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Parish Presidents' Cooperative Watershed Initiative -Guy
Cormier, *St. Martin Parish President and Vice Chairman,*
Acadiana Planning Commission

Acadiana area parish and police jury presidents have joined together to build consensus and identify common goals regarding the Vermilion River Watershed. This joint leadership and watershed initiative was sparked by the August 2016 flood.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

A Regional Approach to Long-Term Recovery - *Rachel Godeaux,
Project Manger for the Acadiana Planning Commission*

Acadiana Planning Commission has been working diligently with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) to improve recovery coordination and establish regional watershed priorities within Acadiana.

The issues and concerns expressed by communities affected in the 2016 August floods cross geographical and jurisdictional boundaries, prompting the need for a regional recovery and mitigation strategy to address those concerns.

The Parish Presidents and the Police Jury Presidents within Acadiana are leading the state in long-term recovery efforts and are the driving force behind a regional watershed approach.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Mississippi River Water Quality -*Christopher "Nick" Sims, Senior Project Manager with the US Army Corps of Engineers*

The United States Corps of Engineers has a number of programs to respond to a wide variety of water resource problems, including Water Quality and Flood Risk Management. Many of these programs do not require specific Congressional authorization, which decreases the amount of time required to budget, develop, and approve potential projects. Through teamwork with other Federal and Non Federal agencies, the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS), Planning Assistance to States (PAS), Environmental Infrastructure (EI), and Silver Jackets (SJ) programs allow the Corps to provide technical and planning assistance for a multitude of water and water related resource issues of a watershed. Nick will provide an overview of these programs ongoing efforts in the area.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Building Community Based Water Planning, Monitoring, Management and Forecasting Systems - *Dr. Ehab Meselhe, Director of Natural Systems Modeling at the Water Institute of the Gulf*

Louisiana experiences rain storms and coastal events that induce flooding and threaten numerous communities. A systemic and integrated approach is needed to quantify the threat, evaluate solutions and effectively disseminate information to officials, emergency responders, and to the public at large. The focus is to open up the discussion on how to accomplish this goal.

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The logo for CGI, consisting of the letters 'C', 'G', and 'I' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The 'C' and 'G' are connected at the top, and the 'I' is positioned to the right of the 'G'.

BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Rethinking Our Watersheds: Stormwater Management in South Louisiana - *Dana Brown, Landscape Architect and Owner of Dana Brown & Associates, Inc.*

For decades, we have approached the problems of drainage and flooding from the micro level, first looking at how to move water away from a property or street, then what to do with all the water that was collected and conveyed from all the individual properties and streets. On the other hand, natural hydrologic processes, which formed the land in the first place, work from the macro scale – the watershed scale. Thinking about drainage and flood protection from the watershed perspective means looking at regional hydrology. This means we should treat our rivers, creeks, and bayous quite differently than we do now, and enable them to fulfill all the functions they naturally fulfill: drainage, improved water quality, waters for fishing and swimming, habitat for wildlife, and recreation. Cities and counties across the country have been adopting and implementing this approach, the natural hydrology approach, for years. We are beginning to do so in Louisiana. This presentation examines the regional watershed-based approach as applied in East Baton Rouge Parish and how it can be implemented in our unique environment.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

San Antonio River Authority: A Cooperative Watershed

Management Program - *Brian Mast, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist for the San Antonio River Authority (SARA)*

The State of Texas has empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and environment of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. In October, 1998 and July, 2002, the San Antonio area was deluged by record amounts of rain in short periods, resulting in flooding that caused in excess of \$1 billion in damage. Following these two events, government leaders united in an effort to provide improved flood control, storm water management and water quality. The Bexar County Commissioners Court, San Antonio City Council and the SARA Board of Directors created an inter-local agreement to form the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) partnership. Recognizing that water knows no boundaries and through coordination in planning and capital improvement programs, BRWM can work to prevent the impact that heavy rain and flooding has on Bexar County. In 1998, Bexar County, the City of San Antonio and SARA officially formed the San Antonio River Oversight Committee (SAROC) to ensure public participation in the San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP).

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Litter and Public Lands: Putting Communities at Risk -

*Raymond Berthelot, Parks Program Manager for the Louisiana
Office of State Parks*

Litter, particularly litter in watersheds and public lands, is very costly to communities by increasing the dangers of flooding. Litter increases the chances of a flood by clogging pump systems, drains, and other diversion devices. Once a community floods there is a cost of rebuilding, repairing infrastructure, mechanics and levees, etc., and this diverts moneys away from communities such areas as recreational endeavors. While a flood may seem as an extreme event, daily litter in watersheds and public lands still cost for cleanup in order to keep these resources promotional, and thus litter diverts moneys from preservation and conservation efforts.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Locally-Led Watershed Projects Successfully Improve Water Quality - *Dr. R. Ernest Girouard, Jr., Retired LSU AgCenter, Vermilion Soil & Water District and BVPA Board Member*

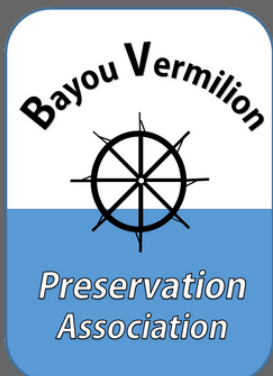
Stakeholders directed the effort to improve water quality in the Vermilion Microwatershed Coulee Baton Demonstration Project. This locally-led effort involved regulatory agencies; federal, state and parish agencies; farm organizations, local home owners; and farmers/landowners working together to influence water quality. A combination of strategies included conservation program and technical assistance to producers; financial assistance for home sewer system improvements; and water quality monitoring of the effectiveness of the Best Management Practices of the farm and home sewer systems. Project utilized partner and public meetings, resource inventory of the project area, field days and reporting of the improvement in water quality leaving the Microwatershed.

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BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Nonpoint source pollution reduction through on-site sewer system inspections, education, and outreach in Vermilion River - *Emile Ancelet, Director of Water Quality with the Bayou Vermilion District*



The BVPA is a Waterwheel connecting YOU on all water issues with hubs of Government and Private Enterprise.

Just as a waterwheel is a mechanism for converting the energy for free-flowing water into power, the BVPA creates positive action for the preservation and protection of our water resources by serving as a hub, connecting available resources, agencies, and manpower thereby

BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Marketing Recreational Activities - *Jesse Guidry, Vice President of Communications with the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission*

In this session, Jesse will discuss how working beyond city and parish lines to promote Acadiana's waterways can have a major impact on both a local and national level. Speaker Jesse Guidry will talk about his current efforts working with the Bayou Vermilion District, the Teche Project and SwampBase to develop paddle trails, overnight excursions, recreational and educational opportunities along the waterways. Guidry will also discuss the advantages of promoting these assets, each within different parishes, through his current job at Lafayette Travel.



Welcome to the BVPA

The purchase of your ticket entitles you to a one year membership valid 9/2017-9/2018. Ask us how you can serve on one of our committees to make a difference within our watershed!

BIOGRAPHY

Guy Cormier is serving his fifth term as an elected official of St. Martin Parish Government. He served as a council member his first term and for the remaining four terms he was elected as Parish President. He is currently serving as Immediate Past President for the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

Guy is a graduate of St. Martinville Senior High and a graduate of Teche Area Community College. He also attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana where he majored in Industrial Technology. After working in the sugar industry for 5 years, he entered the private business world and still serves as Vice President of Keystone Machine Works, Inc.

A lifelong resident of St. Martinville, Guy has always been active in the community and parish. He was named 2003 Business Leader of the year by the St. Martinville Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the St. Martinville Chamber of Commerce, Breaux Bridge Chamber of Commerce, Civitan Club, St. Martin Rotary Club and Kiwanis. He has served as a Board of Director for the St. Martin Council on Aging, United Way of Acadiana and Ducks Unlimited. Guy is currently serving as Vice Chairman of the Acadiana Planning Commission, Vice Chairman of the Acadiana Area Metropolitan Organization, and is a member of the St. Martin Hospital Board of Directors.

Cormier and his wife Darlene, have two sons, Micah and Jonah.



BVPA had it's first "core group" meeting in July 2012. By August 2013, we became a Not-for Profit Louisiana Corporation.

BIOGRAPHY

Rachel Godeaux is a Project Manager for the Acadiana Planning Commission and a life-long resident of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Rachel obtained her Master's in Public Administration from the E.J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University (LSU) with a concentration in Public Policy. At LSU she received the David B. Johnson Achievement Award. Rachel earned her Bachelor's of Science in criminal justice from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Prior to the Planning Commission, Rachel managed a community-wide substance use prevention program for the Lafayette Consolidated Government. She possesses over seven years of experience in coalition building, community organizing, public administration and program management.

Rachel and her husband, Derik Godeaux, are proud parents of two sons, Julian and Ashton and also co-own a small business, Shutter Solutions, LLC.

Did you see the student posters we have on display?

BVPA partnered with Lafayette Garden Club to sponsor cash prizes for students who placed in the Annual Anti-litter Contest for Lafayette Parish Schools. We are pleased to be a part of their continued efforts to promote a clean community.



BIOGRAPHY

Christopher 'Nick' Sims serves as the Senior Project Manager for the Mississippi River Levee Construction Project within the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. He graduated from Louisiana State University in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Engineering. Nick has served with the New Orleans District since 2007 as a Project manager for various Flood Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration, Navigation, and Continuing Authority Program Civil Works projects.

As Senior Project Manager for the Operation Watershed Recovery Program, Nick was responsible for the management and execution of the \$400M recovery effort in the New Orleans District following the historic 2011 Mississippi River Flood. Within the Projects and Restoration Branch, Nick is responsible for the execution of the Mississippi River Levee Construction Program, Silver Jackets Program, Planning Assistance to States Program, and the Flood Plain Management Services Program.

VERMILION RIVER ALLIANCE

The Vermilion River Alliance (VRA) was founded by BVPA in July 2014 and is managed by the BVPA President.

The VRA is comprised of multiple agencies across St. Landry, St. Martin, Lafayette and Vermilion Parish. Mayors, Parish Presidents, LDEQ, Soil and Water Conservation Groups, and other stakeholders are generally represented at the meetings.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ehab Meselhe is the Director of Natural Systems Modeling at the Water Institute of the Gulf and a Professor at the College of Science and Engineering at Tulane University. His research activities focus on numerical modeling development and applications and the integration of physical, ecological and social sciences for watersheds, riverine, deltaic and coastal systems.

VERMILION RIVER ALLIANCE

The Alliance serves as a way to coordinate watershed wide efforts to improve water quality. Currently, representatives from each parish are participating in a watershed-wide sampling program.

Donald Sagraera with the Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District oversees the sampling program and guides the sampling teams in each parish. **18 sites** are being monitored on a monthly basis, as part of a long-term water quality monitoring study!



BIOGRAPHY

Dana Brown has 38 years of experience as a landscape architect and planner. She has worked for firms in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Boston, and Orange County, California as a private consultant for two of the largest design firms.

A native of New Orleans, Dana has worked tirelessly for fifteen years to address the EPA and Louisiana Department of Environment Quality requirements for water quality. She not only wrote or helped revise chapters of the Development Code for several municipalities and parishes, but also authored a manual to guide developers and design professionals in designing and implementing stormwater best management practices. She also organizes and leads a dozen or more stormwater workshops each year.



The BVPA began collaborating with Lafayette Consolidated Government for their Annual Rain Barrel Art Program in 2014.



BIOGRAPHY

Brian Mast is the Intergovernmental Relations Specialist with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA). He is responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing SARA's legislative agendas and initiatives. Brian supervises a team of three colleagues to ensure SARA programs are communicated and implemented effectively. He works with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state agencies to advance SARA's goals. Brian leads SARA's Community Assistance Program which aims to assist southern basin communities address unforeseen water and waste water infrastructure concerns.

Prior to joining SARA, Brian received his B.A. from the University of Incarnate Word majoring in English and Philosophy. He served as a member of the first-ever group of U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers in independent Bangladesh. He taught primary school teachers English as a Second Language teaching techniques at a teacher training college, taught English in a public primary school and worked with public health officials on the nation's polio eradication campaign. Following his Peace Corps service he attended Vermont Law School earning his Juris Doctorate and Master of Studies in Environmental Law.

BVPA, making a difference in the Teche-Vermilion Watershed!



BIOGRAPHY

Raymond Berthelot is the Parks Program Manager for the Louisiana Office of State Parks. He has served in this capacity for twenty years. As Parks Program Manager he oversees educational programming offered in the State Parks system reflecting Louisiana's significant natural and cultural resources. Ray also coordinates experiential learning opportunities for underserved youth in outdoor environments, scientific collecting and research projects on Parks properties, historical and archaeological research endeavors, and natural and cultural preservation efforts.

In addition, Ray serves as an adjunct faculty member with Baton Rouge Community College, where he teaches Louisiana History. Originally from New Orleans, he worked in the Archives Department at Xavier University of Louisiana prior to relocating to Baton Rouge. Ray has a B.A. degree in History and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of New Orleans, and a MA in History (Spanish Colonial) from Louisiana State University.

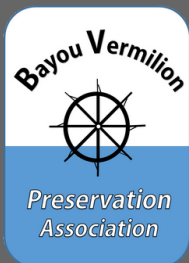


Teche Vermilion Freshwater District, BVPA, and T.E.C.H.E. Project collaborated with local agencies to install mile marker signage on both the Teche and Vermilion at 46 locations, primarily on bridges.



BIOGRAPHY

Dr. R. Ernest Girouard, Jr., is retired (8/31/2017) from the LSU AgCenter and was the State Coordinator for the Louisiana Master Famer Program (LMFP). The LMFP program is a formal partnership among the LSU AgCenter, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Farm Bureau and the Louisiana Cattleman's Association. The program is a comprehensive educational process that assists agricultural producers in addressing environmental concerns and enhancing natural resource management skills for the continued sustainability of Louisiana agriculture. It includes classroom instruction, observation research-based best management practices (BMP's) and implementation of an on-farm conservation plan. To complete the LMFP, a producer must have addressed all the natural resources (soil, water, animal, plants people, air + Energy) concerns on their agricultural lands. He has been active promoting conservation at the local Soil and Water Conservation District, Louisiana and National Association of Conservation Districts, the Louisiana Soil and Water Conservation Commission and LDAF State Nutrient Management Strategy Committee.



All members of the BVPA are encouraged to join a committee. We currently have four committees that meet monthly.

Technical Committee Fund Development Committee
Marketing/Education Committee Symposium Committee

BIOGRAPHY

Emile Ancelet is the Director of Water Quality of the Bayou Vermilion District (BVD). He has also worked as a Watershed Tour Guide, Bayou Technician, a Bayou Specialist, and as the Recreation and Education Coordinator with the Bayou Vermilion District.

Emile is a native French speaker who grew up in the town of Ossun, Louisiana. He is an avid kayaker, hiker and camper, as well as a Catahoula enthusiast and a certified scuba diver. He graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2009 with a B.A. in Anthropology and in 2010 a B.S. in Environmental Science -Environmental and Sustainable Resources, where he also completed a post baccalaureate internship growing algae for biofuel. Emile has presented his research at various conferences (including at VERTECH in La Rochelle, France), and he plans to continue his work with BVD researching and working on ways to improve Louisiana watersheds.



BVD is a tremendous support and ally in BVPA's mission. Each year their continued contributions help make our symposium a success. By partnering with BVD, we can meet our common goal of protecting and promoting the Vermilion.



BIOGRAPHY

Jesse Guidry is the Vice President of Communications with the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission. He was born and raised in the Crawfish Capital of the World-Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. Jesse is an alumnus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Business. He has worked to establish Public Relations and Marketing departments with numerous non-profit organizations including the Acadiana Outreach Center, the Acadiana Center for the Arts, Bayou Vermilion District as well as Vermilionville and currently with Lafayette Travel.

Jesse is deeply involved in the community where he lives donating his time and talents to local non-profit and for-profit organizations that create the unique culture that is Lafayette. Jesse has served on the 705's board of directors, is a founding member of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana-Acadiana Chapter as well as the Southern Screen and on the Louisiana Folk Roots board of directors as secretary on the Executive Committee. Currently he serves as Programming Chair on the Swamp Base High Adventure board of directors. He has a passion for the culture, arts, food and music the area he grew up in provides. When Jesse is not working he enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons as well as paddling the local waterways, tending to his garden and cooking.

We hope to see you soon!

You can join us at a committee or board meeting, or find us at regional events—we'll be promoting our initiatives and educating folks about the Vermilion.



BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Officers

President - Bess Foret, Environmental Quality Manager, Lafayette Consolidated Government

Vice President - Kelia Bingham, Regulatory Compliance Officer, Lafayette Consolidated Government

Secretary - Babette Werner, Past Vice President of BVPA

Treasurer - Jackie Vargas-Beitia, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, Lafayette Consolidated Government

Board

Dr. David Cheramie - Chief Executive Officer, Bayou Vermilion District

Heather Warner-Finley - Incoming Vice President, Acadiana Native Plant Project

Dr. Ernest Girouard - ret. Coordinator LSU AgCenter Master Farmer Program

Jeff Jackson - Acadiana Regional Office, LA Dept. of Environmental Quality

Donald Sagraera - Executive Director, Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District

Sarah Schoeffler - Founder, Southern Garden Festival

Robert Love - ret. Division Administrator, LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

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Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association's
4th Annual Symposium

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