

# CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRIBUTARIES:



## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

**Community  
Members**

**Policy  
Makers**

**Business  
Leaders**

**Civic  
Organizations**



**5th Annual River Symposium**  
**Friday, September 7, 2018**  
**300 Fisher Road Lafayette LA**

# ABOUT THIS EVENT

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRIBUTARIES: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

This year's presentation topics will focus on how public and private sectors can work hand in hand with citizens and community organizations to improve the quality of life in and around our Vermilion River.



We are pleased to have you "Jump on Board!" with the BVPA to make this symposium a success, help us achieve our mission, and learn more about community-driven watershed management.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our *generous sponsors* and those who have given their time and expertise to make this event possible.

This year's *Honorary Chair* is *Kevin Blanchard*, COO of Southern Lifestyle Development (SLD). His contributions along with Blair Green, Director of Marketing at SLD and other staff, helped BVPA's Symposium Committee create today's program.



# BAYOU VERMILION PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association 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.

## WELCOME TO THE BVPA!

Your ticket purchase for this event covers membership dues, valid until September 2019. We want to thank those who have renewed their memberships *and* welcome our new members!

You can exercise your membership by serving on a committee and/or attending our meetings and events.

**Email [BVPAconnect@gmail.com](mailto:BVPAconnect@gmail.com) for more information.**

# BVPA's Governing Board

## 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:** Vice President, Acadiana Native Plant Project

**Dr. Ernest Girouard:** ret. Coordinator LSU AgCenter Master Farmer Program

**Dr. Durga Poudel:** Asst. Director, School of Geosciences, ULL

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

**Donald Sagrera:** Executive Director, Teche-Vermilion Freshwater District

**Sarah Schoeffler:** Founder, Southern Garden Festival Coordinator

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



BVPA, founded by Jan & Charlie Wyatt et al., had its first "core group" meeting in July 2012. We became a Not-for Profit Louisiana Corporation in August 2013.

# BVPA's Advisory Board

Charles Wyatt  
Ben Berthelot  
Gwen Berthelot  
Ron Boustany  
C. Ray Brassieur, Ph.D  
Whitney Broussard, Ph.D..  
Guy Cormier  
Jody David  
Chris Davis  
Joey Durel  
W. K. "Bill" Fontenot  
Greg Guidroz  
Donald Johnson, Ph.D.  
Woody Martin  
Andre Mitchell  
Shirley Nicholai  
Nan Pugh  
Kathy Richard  
Rodney Richard  
Scott Schilling  
Harold Schoeffler  
Gretchen LaCombe Vanicor  
Joseph Dale  
Bill Fontenot  
Brett Mellington  
Shane Miller  
Kam Movassaghi  
Dwight "Bo" Ramsey  
Joel Robideaux

The BVPA is grateful to have a long list of community leaders to call on for guidance and expertise in their respective fields.



# 5TH ANNUAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM VISIONARY SPONSORS



# HDR

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



## **CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRIBUTARIES: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

**8:30 Bess Foret, President BVPA—Opening**

**8:35 David Cheramie, CEO Bayou Vermilion District— Welcome**

**8:40 Mayor-President Joel Robideaux - Proclamation**

**8:50 Kevin Blanchard, COO, Southern Lifestyle Development—Honorary Chair**

**9:00 Monique Boulet, Executive Director, APC—Updating Flood Mgmt Planning Project**

**9:30 Emad Habib, Civil Engineering Prof, ULL—Monitoring Design & Model Development**

**10:00 Mid Morning Break**

**10:15 Panel discussion, led by Carlee Alm-LaBar & *Mayors' Challenge Team***

**11:00 Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Executive Director, BTNEP-Developing Citizen Leaders**

**11:30 Morning wrap-up & audience questions**

**11:45 Lunch & Awards**

**12:45 Danica Adams, Watershed Planner, Louisiana Office of Community Development**

**1:15 Jeff Foshee, Southern Lifestyle Development - Developer Initiatives**

**1:45 Anthony Kendrick, Construction EcoServices - LID in the Gulf Coast**

**2:15 Susan Russell, Executive Director, Keep Louisiana Beautiful**

**2:45 Afternoon wrap-up & audience questions**

**3:00 End of Symposium**

**Event attendees can join us at Café  
Vermilionville for our Member Appreciation  
Reception 6 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

# REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCHERS, & POLICY MAKERS



## **Monique Boulet, Executive Director, Acadiana Planning Commission** ***Update on Flood Management Planning Project***

**Monique** serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC, serving Louisiana Planning District 4. Boulet was instrumental in the creation of the APC in 2015, building a regional organization that facilitates intergovernmental cooperation on a regional basis to provide an effective means of pooling the resources of local governments as Acadiana approaches common problems. Working through numerous legal and political hurdles, Boulet lead the effort to regionalize transportation planning in the Lafayette urbanized area with the formation of the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Following the Louisiana floods of 2016, Boulet worked with FEMA, USACE, EDA, GOHSEP, CPRA, OCD and DOTD as the pilot region for the Louisiana Watershed Resiliency Study. Working closely with state and federal agencies to develop what watershed planning could look like in Acadiana and in Louisiana. Following the pilot program Boulet lead APC in developing a watershed project selection process disbursing the first HMGP regional allotment of \$25 million prioritized to address drainage issues. Boulet and APC continue to develop long term sustainable watershed programming.

Boulet received her Masters of Business Administration in the Executive program from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2015. She was born and raised in Acadiana, is married to David Boulet and is the mother of 4 children, Kathleen, David, Zachary and Samuel.

## **PRESENTING SPONSOR**





# STORMWATER MONITORING RESEARCH IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



**Dr. Emad Habib, ULL Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering &  
Louisiana Watershed Flood Center**

## ***Community-Scale Flood Monitoring and Modeling Resources: Research for Communities***

The historic flood of August 2016 that hit south Louisiana with >1000-year rainfall event brought home the message on the critical need for investments in community-scale flood monitoring and modeling capabilities. This talk will present an overview of recent advances in flood monitoring and modeling technologies, and discuss the added value of such resources from a community-user perspective and how they can help local communities become more resilient in the face of extreme events. The presentation will also provide an update on a recent effort by the ULL Watershed Flood Center to develop a pilot-scale flood monitoring site, and how this effort highlights the collaboration and partnerships with local communities and water management agencies in Lafayette and the Acadiana region.

**Dr. Habib** also serves as the director of the Louisiana Watershed Flood Center. His research expertise is in surface hydrology with focus on precipitation estimation and analysis; hydrologic modeling; flood prediction and water resource management; coastal restoration; uncertainty modeling of hydro-ecological models, and development of technology-based educational innovations. He participated in the 2012 and 2017 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan Study. Dr. Habib is a Professional Engineer registered in the states of Louisiana and Texas.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



# PANEL DISCUSSION

Led by Carlee Alm-LaBar & Mayors' Challenge Team



**Carlee Alm-LaBar** is the Director of Traditional Neighborhood Developments for Southern Lifestyle Development. She holds a Master's in Public Administration from LSU, and prior to her current position, she worked for Lafayette Consolidated Government and held several roles. First, she served as Joey Durel's assistant, managing a variety of projects from the Mayor-President's office including the development of Lafayette's first comprehensive plan. In 2016, Joel Robideaux appointed her the Director of (then) Planning, Zoning, and Development where she served for 2.5 years. From that seat, she managed the smooth implementation of Lafayette's new development code, the active implementation of the comprehensive plan, the reorganization of the department to align with best practices and current operations, the incorporation of Alcohol Noise Control Division into the department, and the overhaul of several ordinances. In a volunteer capacity, she is a current board member and past chair of Leadership Institute of Acadiana. She is also a board member of Junior League of Lafayette, United Way of Acadiana, Lafayette Youth Soccer Association and ReCover Acadiana.

**Blake Lagneaux** is a graphic designer and illustrator in Lafayette, Louisiana. He is the Exhibits Curator and Creative Director of the Lafayette Science Museum, a public science museum serving local families, schools, and visitors to Lafayette Parish. Before working for Lafayette Consolidated Government, Lagneaux has worked in a range of industries including corporate marketing, publishing, local media and higher education. He has had the opportunity to work on several city-wide (and government) design projects, including re-branding the City of Lafayette and designing bus wrap designs for Lafayette's new fleet of compressed natural gas buses. Lagneaux has also been active in the social engagement and public outreach side of several of Lafayette's city-wide events. He took part in branding and promoting Plan Lafayette Week, Project Front Yard, the City-Parish Mayor's Robideaux Report, as well as a number of Better Block events.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



# PANEL DISCUSSION

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NONPROFIT, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE STORMWATER ISSUES



**Brian Miles, Ph.D.**, is trained as a software engineer and physical geographer. His research has focused on urban stormwater modeling, hydrology, energy policy, and land use and transportation modeling. His current work focuses on developing open source, standards-based data management systems for Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, including air quality and water monitoring.

**Cydra Wingerter** is the Chief Communications Officer for Lafayette Consolidated Government and is responsible for the public relations and official communications of the City and Parish. Her work supports Lafayette's chief elected official, Mayor-President Joel Robideaux, in his efforts to be accessible and responsive to the public. Cydra strives to create transparency, build trust, meet public needs, and help ensure the safety of the community by sharing timely news, information, successes and challenges. She served as a member of a team to address local and regional water management issues in Bloomberg Philanthropies' 2018 Mayors Challenge, competing with 35 of the most innovative cities in the U.S. to address an urgent community issue and the \$5 million grand prize. Cydra serves as Chair-Elect for the Leadership Institute of Acadiana, Treasurer for The Family Tree and as Marketing Chair for Junior League of Lafayette. She is an honorary graduate of Leadership Lafayette, a graduate of Leadership Louisiana and was named one of Acadiana's 20 Under 40 in 2013. Cydra is a graduate of the University of Louisiana and is certified by the US Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



# YOU CAN BE A GREAT CITIZEN LEADER: GUIDE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROTECT RESOURCES



***Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Director of Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP)***

***Learn how your knowledge, skills, and networks can be used to advance the protection of our local watersheds.***

**Susan** serves as the director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). Prior to becoming director she worked in the wetlands community for over 15 years performing education and outreach on a host of Louisiana environmental issues. She has worked with several environmental organizations in the State and along the coast helping to provide resources for wetland education.

Susan worked with the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act's (CWPPRA) Public Outreach Committee as a media specialist, technical writer, and public outreach coordinator. She held the previous position of BTNEP's Formal Education Coordinator and has been a classroom teacher of high school science and math. She is also a past member of the Governor's Environmental Education Commission where she served two terms. Susan holds a B.S. in Geology and a Louisiana Teaching Certificate.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



# MORNING WRAP-UP: QUESTIONS AND INSIGHT REGARDING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES



**NOTES**

*Your Partner in Preservation!*



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. We are so glad you could **JUMP ON BOARD!** with us.

# CITIZENS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES STRIVING TO IMPLEMENT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES



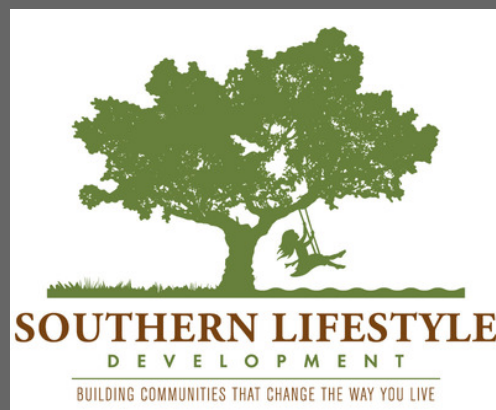
**Danica Adams, Watershed Planner, LA Office of Community Development**

***The Louisiana Watershed Initiative:  
Process, Updates, and Guiding Principles***

The Louisiana Watershed Initiative, previously known as the Statewide Watershed Based Floodplain Management Program illustrates a new way of doing business in the state. The 2016 floods across Louisiana highlighted a desire for new approaches to floodplain management, from the local jurisdictions to the State and Federal levels. This initiative is aimed at reducing flood risk for all communities by utilizing high quality data to drive decision-making, and by forming strong partnerships between all stakeholders. This talk will discuss the guiding principles of the Initiative, and discuss where we are, how we got there, and where we think we might be going.

**Danica**, a Baton Rouge native, a Lafayette woman in heart, and a New Orleanian by residence, is a state Watershed Planner at the Office of Community Development, and is managing the the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Before working for the State, she was a stormwater planner for the City of New Orleans, and prior to that she was a Fellow at the Center for Research in Water Resources at the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Although Danica went to graduate school at UT Austin where she obtained two masters degrees (one in Community and Regional Planning, and one in Sustainable Design), her ten years living in Lafayette, attending UL Lafayette, and working for the Acadiana Nature Station and the Bayou Vermilion District as the Watershed Education Coordinator are what inspired her current work in watershed planning. Additionally, Danica became EXTREMELY invested in the idea of citizen-led planning and civic processes while she was co-leading the Save the Horse Farm campaign with EB Brooks, the current Director of Moncus Park.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR



# PRIVATE SECTOR POLICIES AND EXPERTISE FOSTER A HEALTHIER WATERSHED, RESOURCE CONSERVATION, AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS



**Thomas "Jeff" Foshee, III, Director of Planning for Southern Lifestyle Development Company, LLC**

## ***Smart Growth Community Development – A Developers Perspective***

By educating our children on the benefits associated with smart utilization of private and public water features that run throughout our neighborhoods, we increase the chance of improving and sustaining the water quality of our local tributaries and rivers (such as the Vermillion River) for generations to come. Whether it is through fishing clinics or triathlon competitions, engaging our children and those most likely to use our neighborhood water features for recreational purposes only strengthens the general public's understanding of the importance of keeping our waterways clean. We will take a look at detention from a developer's perspective; how it is planned, why it is important to our developments, techniques implemented, and the long-term maintenance and education to our subdivision homeowners.

**Jeff** is the Director of Planning for Southern Lifestyle Development Company, LLC (SLD) in Lafayette, LA. In this role, Mr. Foshee leads a team in the review, acquisition, and due diligence of new land prospects; implements planning, permitting and entitlement of new developments; and provides oversight of Engineering consultants and in-house Engineers during the design process to bring projects to construction. Prior to SLD, Jeff provided similar services in LA as the Land Acquisition and Development Manager for DR Horton and independent residential development interests. Mr. Foshee is a licensed Professional Engineer and received his BS in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from LSU in 1998.

**PRESENTING SPONSOR: LCVC**





# IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF "GREEN" STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS



## **Anthony Kendrick, Green Infrastructure Specialist, Construction EcoServices**

### *Low Impact Development: Implementation Along the Gulf Coast*

Low Impact Development (LID), a hybridized system of Green Infrastructure and Grey [traditional] infrastructure, offers many economical and ecological benefits to communities as it is being implemented along the Gulf Coast. As an example, New Orleans is becoming a global leader in resilience thinking and action. Their ordinances outline various options of Green Infrastructure which minimize stormwater runoff, increase infiltration, recharge groundwater, and improve water quality. LID strategies work in conjunction with NOLA's traditional drainage system of pipes and pumps by delaying and detaining stormwater in landscaped spaces. New Orleans will ultimately become a dynamic urban landscape that is aligned with its natural environment, where the community embraces living with water.

**Anthony** received his Bachelor Degree in Biology and Master's Degree in Environmental Science from the University of North Texas. Before he joined Construction EcoServices, he spent 3 years working for an Environmental Engineering firm. Anthony, an Envision Sustainable Professional, has a passion for sustainable stormwater practices that enhance the built environment. He is dedicated to educating engineers and designers in the practice of next generation low impact development.



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. Signs have been installed at 46 locations, primarily on bridges.





# NON-PROFITS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND CITIZENS WORK TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE



***Susan Russell, Executive Director, Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB)***

## ***Keep Louisiana Beautiful's Statewide Reach and Impact***

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is the state's anti-litter and community improvement organization focused on education, enforcement, awareness and cleanups. KLB has a tremendous reach and impact across Louisiana. There are many resources available to assist communities especially with the current topic of marine debris and pollution that impact our watersheds.

**Susan** leads the state's fight against litter as she has 23 years experience specializing in non-profit program development, management, marketing and fundraising for Keep Mandeville Beautiful, Volunteers of America of Greater New Orleans and Louisiana Special Olympics. Susan has lived in Mandeville for the past 19 years. She has been married for 26 years and has three daughters; her oldest daughter teaches at Sacred Heart in New Orleans, her middle daughter is a senior at American University in Washington DC and her youngest is a 16 year-old who attends Mandeville High School.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**



BVPA partners with Lafayette Garden Club to sponsor cash prizes for students who participate *and* place in the ***Annual Anti-litter Poster Contest*** for Lafayette Parish Schools. This contest is a great way to engage students and get them to think about the importance of reducing litter to protect our waterways.



***Check out the winning posters we have on display!***

# AFTERNOON WRAP-UP: QUESTIONS AND INSIGHT REGARDING WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES



## NOTES



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



5TH ANNUAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM  
**SPEAKER SPONSORS**



**Harold  
& Sarah  
Schoeffler**



*We appreciate all of our sponsors and community supporters!*



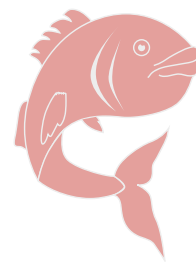
# JUMP ON BOARD!



**Consider what you can do:**

## TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- Pick up litter
- Use a rain barrel
- Pick up pet poop
- Bag and compost yard waste
- Properly dispose of chemicals
- Wash vehicles over grassy areas
- Plant natives to reduce pesticide use
- Install a rain garden to slow stormwater down



## TO STAY INVOLVED

- Visit a Riverside park
- Check out regional paddle trails
- Participate in community programming
- Attend events focused on resource conservation
- Follow BVPA and our partners on social media
- Join the Embrace-A-Space program through LCG



## Join a BVPA committee!

We have four committees that meet monthly.

✦ Technical Committee

✦ Fund Development Committee

✦ Marketing/Education Committee

✦ Symposium Committee



# 5TH ANNUAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM SUPPORTER SPONSORS

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**LAFAYETTE PARISH MASTER GARDENERS**

*We appreciate all of our sponsors and community supporters!*



# WHY CARE ABOUT OUR WATERSHED?



A **WATERSHED** is the area of land that drains to a ditch, coulee, bayou or river. We are in the **TECHE-VERMILION WATERSHED**.



**Watershed conditions impact our lives.**



**Watersheds support our economy.**



**Watersheds provide:**

- **Clean surface water**
- **Fisheries**
- **Outdoor recreation**
- **Eco-tourism**



# BVPA & Partner Programming

## 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 Parishes. Parish Presidents, Mayors, Police Juries, LDEQ, Soil and Water Conservation groups and other stakeholders are generally represented at the meetings



## RAIN BARREL ART PROGRAM

The rain barrel art program is an annual collaboration of BVPA, LCG, Project Front Yard, LUS, and Lafayette area schools. The program beautifully and artistically brings awareness to the preservation of the Bayou Vermilion Watershed as well as water conservation. The program educates students and the general public on storm water management, while also promoting public art.



## STORM DRAIN ART PROGRAM

2018 is the inaugural year of the storm drain art program. Our partners include LCG, Sherwin Williams, Project Front Yard, Habitat for Humanity, ULL, BVD, and the ACA. Five storm drains were painted by local artists to illustrate the need for watershed protection. The art work symbolizes local ecology, culture and community.



## STATE OF THE RIVER MEETING

The first state of the river meeting was held in May 2018. The State of the River meeting is an evening public meeting providing information on what is currently happening in the watershed. This includes water quality and sampling updates, fish and wildlife discussions, and current efforts being made by public and private groups to improve the watershed. BVPA board members are available for questions, refreshments are served, and networking is encouraged.



## WATER SAMPLING PROGRAM

The Long-term Water Quality Sampling Program has grown over the last five years. Through the coordination of Donald Segura, Director of Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District, and the cooperation of we sample both the Teche and Vermilion, and have 18 sites throughout five parishes.



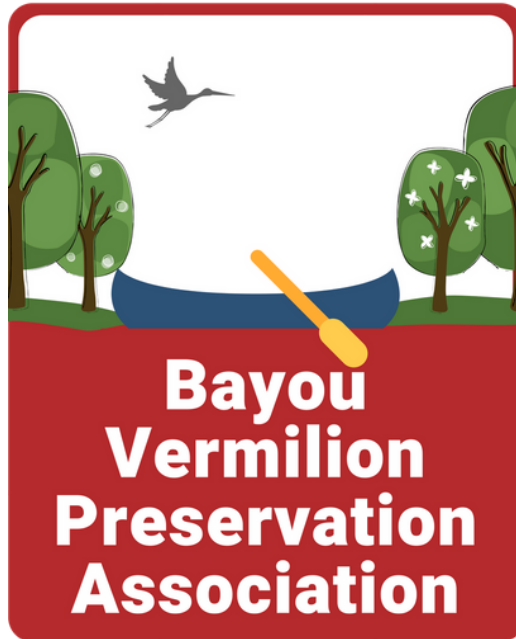
## ANNUAL MEDIA TOUR

The BVPA has hosted an annual Vermilion Watershed Familiarization Bus Tour since 2014. This is a half day educational tour that highlights local watershed protection and management as well as recreational areas along the Vermilion River. Attendees hear from experts at all the tour stops and enjoy a lunch at one of the watershed's parks.



**Follow us on Facebook to learn about future events!**

***Thank you for being a  
partner in preservation!***



**Member Appreciation Reception to follow**

*Café  
Vermilionville*

**6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.  
1304 W Pinhook Rd  
Lafayette, LA 70503**