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**For Immediate Release**  
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**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bayou Lafourche Clean Up Event Is Saturday, March 14**  
*Participants Will Celebrate at Appreciation Party Saturday Evening*

Hundreds of local residents will take to the water this Saturday to help preserve the beauty and safety of Bayou Lafourche as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bayou Lafourche Clean Up Event, presented by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) in conjunction with the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District (BLFWD) and Keep Louisiana Beautiful.

Stretching from Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, Bayou Lafourche is the primary source of drinking water for 300,000 residents in Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption and Ascension Parishes.

“The Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District is happy to be able to work with BNTEP and Keep Louisiana Beautiful again this year to coordinate and promote the Bayou Lafourche Clean Up. We encourage everyone to join us for this fun event that helps us to preserve our unique bayou and all that it provides to us– safe drinking water, plentiful fish and wildlife, and abundant recreational opportunities,” said BLFWD Executive Director Ben Malbrough.

An army of volunteers will board boats and canoes to pick up trash, debris, and other discarded items along 106 miles of Bayou Lafourche from Donaldsonville to Leesville from 8:00 a.m. through Noon on Saturday, March 14. Organizers expect over 1,000 volunteers of all ages to participate. They will meet with site captains at various locations along the bayou on Saturday morning before tackling their stretch of Bayou Lafourche.

Following the cleanup from 4:00 p.m. through 7:00 pm at the Lafourche Pavilion in Raceland, volunteers will celebrate their hard work and share their stories from the day’s event at the Clean Up Bayou Lafourche Appreciation Party featuring live music, food and family activities. The Appreciation Party is sponsored by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, BLFWD, BTNEP, T. Baker Smith, Rouses, Chouest, HDR Engineering, Regions Bank, Port Fourchon, Acadia Land Surveying, All South Engineering, Lori LeBlanc LLC, Spahr’s, Buquet Distributing, and Slo-Melt Ice.

“Four parishes and 300,000 people rely on Bayou Lafourche for freshwater for our homes, businesses, and industry. We are striving to bring more attention to its importance to the health and wellbeing of our Bayou Region,” says Hugh Caffery, Chairman of the BLFWD Board of Commissioners. “Thank you to all of our volunteers who will be participating in this Saturday’s Bayou Lafourche Clean Up. Your hard work makes a difference!”

*(more)*

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In 2014, nearly 1,000 volunteers collected over 25 tons of garbage out of Bayou Lafourche during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clean Up event.

“BTNEP launched the Annual Bayou Lafourche Clean Up in 2012 to focus our region’s attention on the litter problem and how litter impacts our environment. The response by volunteers and the amount of garbage collected since that first event has been amazing,” says BTNEP Education Coordinator Alma Robichaux. “Not only have we collected regular trash from the bayou, but volunteers regularly pull out items like tires, batteries, appliances, building materials, and car parts. It’s disappointing that all of this ends up in the bayou, but we are so thankful for the Clean Up volunteers who help us get it out.”

For more information or to register as a Bayou Lafourche Clean Up volunteer, visit the Events page at [www.BTNEP.org](http://www.BTNEP.org).

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