

Everyday Landscapes by Briana Acosta

Some people pass up the most beautiful sights in St. Bernard Parish without even realizing they are there. The best landscapes, in my opinion, are the ones that are rarely seen. Many beautiful landscapes are ones that people may pass by without realizing the beauty of them.

I adore sunsets because the sun is one of those extraordinary things I see every day, but it's still breathtaking every time I see it. When I see a sunrise or sunset, it appears as if the sky has exploded in bright golds, yellows, and oranges. It does not matter whether it is rising or setting, it still means a new day.

I am fascinated by fog because it can be mysterious when I can no longer see what's in front of my face. At first, I think it's a stick on the ground, and then the stick starts hissing. It's not hard to find fog in St. Bernard because we're below sea level, have plenty of humidity and are surrounded by water.

Rainbows are another beauty that nature gives us. Rainbows can be seen quite often, depending on the season, but some are more beautiful than others. I was recently lucky to happen upon one of the most gorgeous rainbows I have ever seen.

It does not snow often in St. Bernard Parish because we never have the correct weather conditions. When it did snow in December 2008, I made sure to take a picture of it. Snow is a very interesting white fluffy substance, because I can love it and hate it at the same time. One minute I am making a snowman and having fun; the next I am wet and freezing cold.

One beautiful oak tree has been in St. Bernard's cow pasture for at least one hundred years. Before we had a gas to keep mosquitoes away, people would burn old trash because smoke keeps them away. One time, some people lit a pile of trash near the tree. The pile was too close to the tree, however, and some of the tree caught on fire.

My favorite thing about fall is how the leaves change color, but not many people know why. The color that leaves change in the fall is the leaves' natural color. The reason why they are green for the rest of the growing season is because of a pigment called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is continually produced during the growing season. As night length increases, chlorophyll production slows down and then stops. Eventually, all chlorophyll is lost, and then the true color of the leaves shows different shades of orange and yellow.

Landscapes surround us everyday and help make us who we are, but more importantly, they make where we live more unique.