**5-Page Information Sheet and Registration Form for Field Trips to Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station (revised Spring 2015)**

# NOTICE: See website for the two days of week (M-Th) that Field Trips are held in any given semester. Times are flexible, but normally and approx. 9:30am to 1:00pm.

# introduction

The Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station provides field trips two days per week during selected week days (M-Th during Spring, Summer and Fall semesters) for university classes (Southeastern and other universities), K-12 schools from around the region, and other community groups interested in the history, science, and human culture of the wetlands in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. All groups meet at our Turtle Cove BoatShed/Classroom Facility in Manchac, LA (see “Directions” further down). Time-frames for the entire trip (arrival to and departure from the Galva BoatShed) are somewhat variable, but most groups follow our standard generic timeframe range of approximately 9:00/9:30am thru 12:30/1:00pm. **SEE NOTICE ABOVE FOR FIELD TRIP DAYS DURING CURRENT SEMESTER.**

All groups are lead by Southeastern students from the Department of Biological Sciences, and can be anywhere from 1-4 students, and either Graduate Assitants (GA’s) or undergraduate students, or a combination. In addition, the Turtle Cove Caretaker/Facilities Technician, Hayden Reno, is the Turtle Cove Boat Captain---he is the person really in charge and will drive the Pontoon Boat. A centerpiece of most all of our field trips is the Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac, which is provided by a covered 40’ x 12’ commercial-grade pontoon touring boat. The boat seats approximately **30people (+/- a few depending on size), including the boat driver**. (Total capacity is 10,000 lbs comprised of motors, fuel, goods, and passengers). Thus each group is limited to approximately 30 persons. Double groups (of up to 60 individuals) can be booked during the same day if staff resources are available (i.e., half the group would do the boat ride while the other half does other activities, then the groups are reversed)—this usually not a problem. Triple groups of 90 individuals are very difficult logistically and are only considered if adequate staffing and time are available. See the various schedules on next page.

Subject areas discussed through lecture and visual observation include: natural history of the physical environment; environmental history (social, economic, and cultural aspects); impacts of cypress deforestation and ecosystem restoration; and physical and socioeconomic impacts of (and solutions to) wetland loss and coastal erosion. Groups may expect to see a variety of flora and fauna (i.e., alligators, snakes, birds, mammals, fish, and invertebrates).

# Cost

There is no cost for our Turtle Cove education/outreach field trips, however, we gladly accept donations to help cover the cost of gas and equipment use. When groups ask about appropriate or average donation amounts, we usually say $10/head is the average, and that about half of all of our groups give a donation. Again, any donation is just that---a donation---and if you provide one we are grateful, but if not, no worries. Any check for a donation should be made to: *Southeastern Foundation* (in the memo you can put *Turtle Cove Programs*), and if not brought with you, may be sent to:

*Southeastern Louisiana University*

*Atten: Turtle Cove*

*Box 10585, Hammond, LA 70402.*

# Waiver requirement

**IMPORTANT**: The following forms must be completed, signed, and given to the Southeastern-Approved Captain prior to departure (for copies of the forms, visit http://www.selu.edu/turtlecove “Forms & Policies”):

1. A standard “Hold Harmless” waiver (each participant signs this form and brings with them before getting on boat).
2. The “Rules for Group Field Trips” (the Authorized Group Representative signs this form and reviews the rules with the group prior to the trip).

**Generic Field Trip Options/Schedules**

**Field Trip Option 1 for Standard Group of 30 or less individuals**

Lead By: Turtle Cove Graduate Students/Undergraduate Students w/Captain Hayden Reno driving the boat

Time Frame: approx 3-4 hours (approx. 9:00/9:30am-12:30/1:00pm)

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted—see above for more info)

This is the standard base level trip that we have historically offered. This field trip option consists of the following activities and is provided with a “generic time-line schedule” of activities---this schedule can be customized to meet your group’s particular needs and time requirements---but the actual time frame of the trips depends on our students’ availability:

9:00/9:30am Group Arrives at Turtle Cove Boat Shed/Classroom Complex at Galva Canal in Manchac, LA/Bathroom break (only one toiled at Boat Shed)/Orientation of Facilities

9:30-10:00 Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Culutural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem*

10:00-10:30 Wetland Plant identification and Water Quality/DipNetting Sampling

10:30-11:00 Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion wetland issues

11:00-11:45 Self-Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting on your own) behind Turtle Cove

11:45-12:15 Lunch (bring your own—ask about local restaurants and catering options in Manchac area) at Turtle Cove (4 Bathrooms available there)

12:15-12:45 Pontoon Boat ride back to Galva Canal Boat Shed

12:45-1:00 Wrap-Up and Depart

**Field Trip Option 2: Double Group (30-60 individuals)**

Lead By: Turtle Cove Graduate Students/Undergraduate Students w/Captain Hayden Reno driving the boat.

Time Frame: approx 3-4 hours (approx. 9:00/9:30am-12:30/1:00pm)

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted, see above for more info)

This is the standard base level trip that we have historically offered that addresses the need for a “double group” (two groups of 30). This field trip option consists of the following activities and is provided with a “generic time-line schedule” of activities---this schedule can be customized to meet your groups particular needs and time requirements, but again, depends on our students availability during that semester.

9:00/9:30am Group Arrives at Turtle Cove Boat Shed/Classroom Complex at Galva Canal in Manchac, LA/Bathroom break (only one toiled at Boat Shed)/Orientation of Facilities

9:30-11:15

GROUP A (30 individuals) – (upstairs in Boat Shed Classroom) - Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Culutural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem //* (downstairs in Boat Shed parking lot area) Wetland Plant identification and Water Quality Sampling and I.D.

GROUP B (30 individuals) - Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion wetland issues/Self-Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting on your own) behind Turtle Cove/Return to Galva Canal Boat Shed

11:15-1:00pm (Groups Reverse)

GROUP B (30 individuals) – (upstairs in Boat Shed Classroom) - Introductory Power Point Lecture on the *History Coastal Louisiana and the Environmental, Socio-Economic and Culutural Impacts of Coastal Wetland Loss and Potential Solutions to the Problem //* (downstairs in Boat Shed parking lot area) Wetland Plant identification and Water Quality Sampling and I.D.//LUNCH at Picnic Tables under Boat Shed

GROUP A (30 individuals) - Pontoon Boat ride down Pass Manchac to the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station w/continued discussion wetland issues/Self-Guided Boardwalk Tour (including dip-netting on your own) behind Turtle Cove/4 Bathrooms at Turtle Cove/Return to Galva Canal Boat Shed//LUNCH can be at Turtle Cove, on Pontoon Boat or at Picnic Tables under Boat Shed back at Galva Canal

1:00-1:30 Finish Lunch/Wrap-Up/Depart

# Directions to Turtle Cove Boatshed/Classroom at Galva Canal in Manchac (Akers), LA

The field trips begin at the Galva Canal Classroom/Boat Shed, which are south of Pass Manchac in St. John the Baptist Parish, off US Hwy 51. Galva Canal is approximately one hour from New Orleans and Baton Rouge or 25 minutes from Hammond. The official address is 87 Alligator Lane, Akers, LA 70421 (GPS Coordinates: 30˚ 16’ 35.4” N and 90˚ 23’ 53.4” W).

1. From New Orleans/LaPlace, travel north on Interstate-55. From Baton Rouge or Hammond, travel south on I-55.
2. From I-55, take Exit 15 toward Manchac.
3. Turn right (south) onto Hwy 51—also noted on a sign there as “Frontage Road.” Pass Middendorff’s Restaurant on your left.
4. Cross the bridge over Pass Manchac, taking you to the south side of the Pass.
5. After the bridge, travel about 1/4 of a mile and turn left onto an asphalt road that crosses over the railroad tracks (it’s the second left possible). You’ll see a “Bait Alley” sign hanging on a fence just beyond the tracks in front of you.
6. **Stop and look both ways as you approach and cross the railroad tracks!!!**
7. After crossing the tracks, turn right immediately. This road curves and takes you to a yellow iron-pipe gate, which should be open when you arrive.
8. Enter into the Manchac Wildlife Management Area/Southeastern Turtle Cove Boat Shed Area at Galva Canal.
9. Continue 100 yards from the gate until you come to Southeastern/Turtle Cove section of the property marked with green “Parking” signs in front of the boat shed. Overflow parking is against the marsh still further right.

# What to Bring on the Field Trip

Among other necessary items, remember to bring your own water, food, and mosquito spray and to dress appropriately for the weather (hat/sunscreen for hot; jacket for cold). Binoculars are helpful for viewing wildlife. While on the pontoon boat, children age 15 and younger must wear life jackets. Everyone wears life jackets while in canoes and other vessels. Alcohol, smoking, and behavior detracting from a safe and meaningful educational experience are prohibited.

# Contact Information (and to Schedule a trip)

Contact Robert Moreau to schedule your trip as far in advance as possible (easiest way is to send Rob an email and attach completed “Registration Form” (next page of this document, or go back to website under “Field Trips”---includes info such as name of group; number in group; cell phone contact; donation info; lunch preferences; etc). The other staff contacts may be useful on the day of your field trip.

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| **Robert Moreau** (Manager)  Office: 985.549.5008  Cell: 504.231.1067  rmoreau@selu.edu | **Hayden Reno** (Boat Captain)  Cell: 985.507.7710  hreno@selu.edu | **Grad Students: (see website as grad students assigned to field trips change every semester).** |

**Turtle Cove Field Trip Registration Form**

To request a field trip, fill out this portion of the *Field Trip Information Summary Sheet and Registration Form* and email entire form back to [rmoreau@selu.edu](mailto:rmoreau@selu.edu). You can also contact Rob Moreau at 985.549.5008 (office) or 504.231.1067, but you’ll need to end up answering these questions either way for me to make your field trip reservation on our calendar.

**Name of Group** (i.e., XXX Middle School)

**Preferred Field Trip Day** (give a couple of back up dates as well)

**Preferred Field Trip Time** (only if different from Generic Schedules listed previously under Options 1 and 2 on previous pages—i.e., 9/9:30 thru 1/1:30---NOTE: in this example, you would arrive at Galva Canal Boat Shed Manchac at 9/9:30am and depart Galva Canal Boat Shed at 1/1:30pm)

**Contact Name for Field Trip** (i.e., Jane Doe, teacher)

**Contact Name Email Address**

**Contact Name Phone Number** (i.e, XXX Middle School office phone #)

**Contact Name Cell Phone #** (very important in case need to contact day-of for weather related issues, cancellations, etc.)

**# of Participants** **Expected** (i.e., # of students)

**# of Chaparones/Teachers/Adults Expected**

**Total # of Participants Expected** (total # of students plus chaparones/teachers/adults)

**Donation Provided? Yes/No** (if yes, what is planned amount of donation—remember, donations not required for field trips but greatly appreciated)

NOTE #1: Get directions on previous pages

NOTE #2: Don’t forget to download Waiver (Hold Harmless) forms and have each student and adult bring signed copy to Field Trip (will need to turn these in prior to boarding Pontoon Boat). Get forms from main website at [www.selu.edu](http://www.selu.edu) on same pages as “Field Trips.”