American Landscapes – Pecan Island Community of Coastal Louisiana

The landforms of southern Louisiana have been shaped by the wanderings of the lower Mississippi River but with modern engineering of where the river flows, the salt marshes of the Chénier Plain are in a losing battle against the open ocean eroding the coastline. The UL Coastal Community Resilience Studio working with the LaView program, under the direction of the Regional Application Center, have taken on the challenge of telling the story of the changing coastline along these Southwestern Coastal Chenier Plains utilizing Landsat Imagery at its foundation. This educational research application was identified by NASA as a finalist at the July 27, 2012 Smithsonian ceremony identifying “My American Landscape” winners.

Above: Timelapse Landsat Satellite Image taken in 1973 depicting healthy marsh and land forms in southwestern coastal Louisiana at Pecan Island.

Benefits to Louisiana

Billions of dollars have been spent by the federal government and private sector on satellite-based earth observing systems since the early 1970’s. In response to this investment, the research community has developed practical applications for mapping, monitoring, and managing natural and environmental resources. Potential uses for remote sensing technology have been widely recognized over the years, yet the distribution of real-world applications have been, and continue to be, challenging issues for both the federal government and the academic research community. Our LouisianaView consortium, under the direction of the Regional Application Center, works to bridge the gap between the research and application communities in Louisiana.

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This annual workshop, held in early June each year, is now entering its twelfth (12) year. Through the cooperation of LouisianaView consortium members and co-sponsored with local USGS representatives, this workshop is offered free to those in Louisiana and surrounding states interested in up-to-date information on data availability for the geospatial emergency responder.

This workshop highlights geospatial data sets related to hurricane season preparation, emergency response operations, and ongoing recovery efforts. Presentations include an overview of the data clearinghouses, applications, and data acquisitions of federal and state agencies which collect and host geospatial data, as well as operations and planning updates for the upcoming hurricane season. Participants can follow along on desktop computers by identifying, locating, and viewing geospatial data and information. All provided through the coordination efforts of the Regional Application Center.

LouisianaView Partners / Cooperators

UL Lafayette Regional Application Center
Louisiana Army National Guard – GeoSpatial Center
USGS Louisiana Mapping Partnership Office
USGS National Wetlands Research Center
Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality
Corp of Engineers - New Orleans District
Louisiana State University
UL Coastal Community Resiliency Studio
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service–Louisiana
Louisiana Dept of Agriculture
Louisiana State GIS Council
Louisiana GOHEP GeoSpatial Data Division

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