



2009 NAI Region 6 Field Sessions

All field sessions will leave from the Holiday Inn Financial Plaza

Cane River Heritage Tour - Natchitoches (\$35.00)

7:30a.m – 5:00p.m. (Min. 10 - Max. 25)

Beautiful Oakland and Magnolia plantations are the only farms west of the Mississippi River which have remained in family hands since the 1700's, providing integrity in the telling of stories of various populations: African, Creole and French. Peggy Sherbaum, Chief of Interpretation for the Cane River Creole National Historic Park will give us a behind the scenes look at plantation life and interpretive management on a shoe-string budget. Both sites will involve outdoor walking.

At the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, we will find that "Fish Culture" is more than raising fish. Hatchery manager Karen Kilpatrick will share how the Caddo Indians, Henri de Tonti, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are uniquely connected in interpreting resource management goals and the cultural impacts of fish and fishing on the people and land of the hatchery. Lunch and shopping on your own along the Cane River in historic downtown Natchitoches.

Meet historic interpreter Jeremy McCormick for a tour of the presidio at Los Adaes, site of the Spanish garrison built in the early 1700's which served as the capital of the province of Texas for more than 40 years. Learn about life, hardships and ingenuity in the fledgling Spanish colony along the Spanish Trail.

Fort and Battlefield Tour - Natchitoches (\$35.00)

7:30a.m. – 5:00p.m. (Min. 10 - Max. 25)

Enjoy a special tour of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, complete with cannon firings, musket demonstration and authentic period costumes. Imagine the hard life of troops garrisoned there in the early 1700's.

Treat your taste buds to a delightful lunch at Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant or one of the other fine eateries serving authentic Creole, Cajun and Southern dishes. Then browse the outstanding shops located along the original brick sidewalks of the historic Cane River district.

At Mansfield State Historic Site, wander through the Civil War battlefield encampment and mingle with the soldiers. Learn about daily camp life through reenactments and demonstrations. Listen carefully and you may even hear ancient battle cries amid the stirrings of birds and wildlife!

Established in 1714, the city of Natchitoches is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Settled by French traders and governed by the Spanish for a time, its European tradition is maintained through its architecture, heritage and lifestyle. Native American, Creole, and Cajun influences are also

celebrated and expressed throughout the Cane River National Heritage Area.

Louisiana Past and Present (\$25.00)

8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. (Min. 10 - Max. 25)

Begin your day with a special tour of the Pioneer Heritage Center led by director Marty Young. Explore the compound buildings, interact with period dressed guides, and learn of the unique culture and social history of Northwest Louisiana from the 1830's to the end of the 19th century. Lunch is on your own but transportation will be provided.

The Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, renowned for its unique dioramas and frescoes, showcases the history of Louisiana. Cindy Grogan, Tourism Supervisor, has a special behind-the-scenes tour and program planned especially for us.

Lagniappe – just a brief stop at Fort Humbug Memorial Park, scene of a Civil War hoax. This was one of several forts built when rumors spread that Union General Banks was heading towards Shreveport. Charred logs were placed along the embankment to look like cannons, thus “humberging” Union scouts into believing the fort was well armed.

Arts, Parks, and Gardens (\$25.00)

8:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. (Min. 10 - Max. 25)

Join us for a back-stage tour of Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park. Enjoy a close encounter with our rap(tor)-stars and learn how we build exhibits on a very small budget.

Next the Barnwell Memorial Garden and Art Center. This stop features a display of rare orchids and an art exhibition, as well as a stroll through the beautiful conservatory and gardens. Lunch is on your own but transportation will be provided.

Our final stop is at the excellent RW Norton Art Gallery. We will be treated to a special “Scandals and Vandals Tour”, then have time built in to explore and admire the wonderful art collections featuring the Western Art of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell.

Canoeing Bayou Dorcheat (\$55.00)

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Min. 10 - Max. 25)

For the hearty outdoor enthusiast we offer a 4-hour canoe adventure on beautiful Bayou Dorcheat. Join Mark and Laura Norris of Norris Outfitters for a great time, complete with a stop at their base camp for hot dogs and burgers. Explore one of Louisiana's designated Scenic Waterways. Observe native plants in a unique habitat. Discover fascinating “Cypress Grottos”. Then join in for a fun scavenger hunt. Are you game?

Birding the Red River Valley (\$25.00)

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Min. 5 - Max. 25)

Join longtime birder and NAI member Larry Raymond on a field trip to document the winter birds of the Red River Valley. Begin at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters with breakfast with the birds.

Red River Refuge staff or volunteers will provide a brief introduction and history of the refuge, followed by a hike to explore several types of habitat along the River.

Travel to nearby Bickham Dickson Park (Red River Education and Research Park) to learn about a unique partnership between the City of Shreveport and LSU-Shreveport to manage this 585-acre site, which includes a

200-acre oxbow lake.. Learn about LSUS' Red River Watershed Management Institute while driving the park road and hiking the trails to record some of the 250 species of birds recorded in the park.

Visit the Stoner Woods, a great migrant trap along the Red River located a stone's throw from downtown Shreveport. Lunch at the nearby marina, or other suitable location.

Time permitting, head south to Bishop's Point at Red River Lock and Dam No. 5. The recent addition of the local and dams has converted part of the River to a lake-like pool attractive to more than 33 species of shorebirds and waders, as well as gulls, terns, and numerous migrants.
the gift shop.

Hurricane on the Bayou – IMAX (\$15.00)
Depart hotel at 5:45 p.m. Return 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a special screening of *Hurricane on the Bayou*, an IMAX presentation, at the SciPort Discovery Center. Through the realism of IMAX you will witness the devastating consequences of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to our region, and rejoice in the indomitable spirit of our land of survivors. Before the special feature, you can explore the first-floor exhibits at SciPort Discovery Center, experience the effects of a Van de Graaff generator and patronize the gift shop.

Evening Ghost Walk Tour (\$15.00)
Depart hotel at 4:30 and 6:45

Walk with us and hear stories of the History and Haunted places of Shreveport! Learn the good, the bad, and the eerie! Walks begin at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Court House steps on Texas Street. The guided tour lasts 90 minutes. Join us if you dare!