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**Cajuns for Bayou Teche focuses on Breaux Bridge**  
The idea of a pristine waterway spreading southward

Posted November 17th, 2009

**BREAUX BRIDGE** – After a successful fundraiser at Cafe des Amis where the community chipped in \$1,600 to support Cajuns for Bayou Teche, the grassroots group held a clean-up on Bayou Teche slated for Sunday, Nov. 15.

Volunteers in kayaks and jonboats joined the St. Michael, CBT's party barge- turned garbage scow to scour the banks of the bayou for junk and debris.

The Kiwanis Club of Breaux Bridge, Keep St. Martin Beautiful and Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development, St. Martin Sheriff Ronny Theriot, and St. Landry Sheriff Bobby Guidroz and numerous volunteers from around the area have joined forces with CBT director Blake Couvillion in an all-out onslaught against bayou litter that began back in May.

"This is a new day for Bayou Teche," said Kristen Kordecki, watershed coordinator from Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development. "Our communities along the Teche know we need to address non-point source pollution and water quality in the Teche if we want to improve fishing opportunities and habitat in the Teche. Cajuns for Bayou Teche has started us off on the right foot by first helping get trash and debris out of the waterway, which is no small task. Now is time for us to look at erosion and run-off from our urban, residential and agriculture areas into the Teche and see what we can do to help slow that down. We are all in this together and Cajuns for Bayou Teche has showed leadership in addressing some of the issues at hand."

"It will take a while to pull refrigerators, hot water heaters, and all the other junk people throw in the bayou, not to mention the log jams – and that's just from Port Barre to Keystone Lock and Dam!" said Couvillion.

"This is our heritage, our history, the story we will tell our children of how so many of us came to this land. We used to be able to fish out of there for our meals! We need to treat it with the respect it deserves and stop using it as a back ally to dump our junk and throw our used motor oil."



**Blake Couvillion, director of Cajuns for Bayou Teche, hands a piece of junk from the muddy bank to volunteers Andre Billeaud and Richard Burgess aboard the St. Michael, CBT's party barge-turned garbage scow.**  
Ken Grissom

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On November 18th, 2009 DC Cajun said:

It is wonderful to see people finally making an attempt to restore the natural beauty to the area that I grew up in. Kudos to all of the great volunteers that are giving of their time to undertake this monumental project!

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