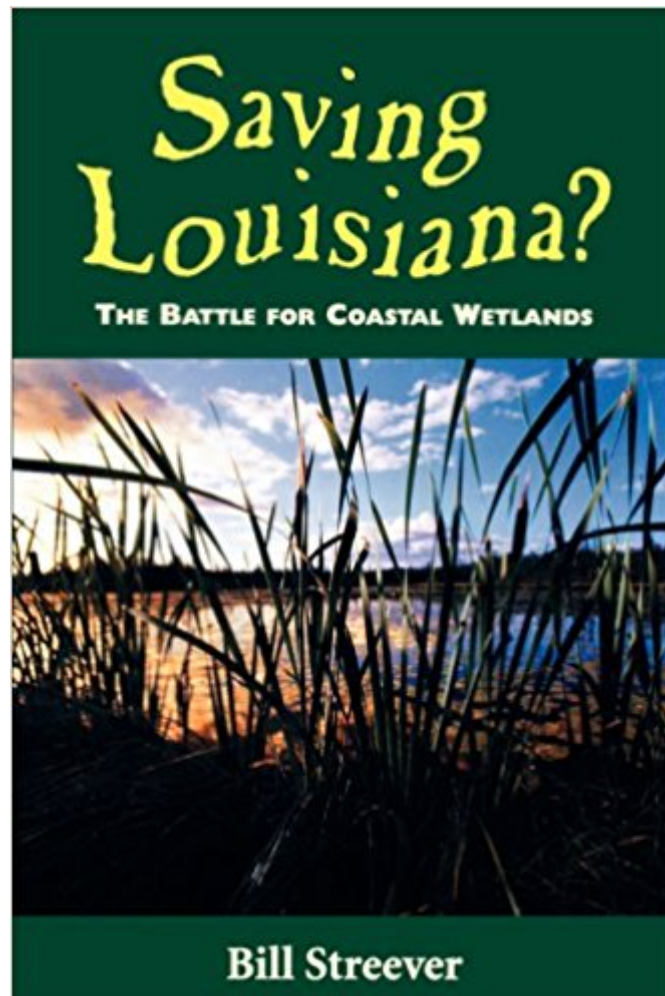




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Saving Louisiana? The Battle For Coastal Wetlands



Synopsis

Salt water is inundating coastal Louisiana, transforming precious wetlands into backwaters of the Gulf of Mexico. Science may hold the key to reversing the problem. But what will the cost be? And will the plan work? These are the quandaries reported in *Saving Louisiana? The Battle for Coastal Wetlands*. In what is unquestionably the most ambitious ecosystem management and restoration program ever proposed, calls have been made to save the Louisiana coast, with a price tag of fourteen billion dollars. And how can science contribute to the rescue? From the Mississippi River's Old River Control Structure to the pipeline canals of the Gulf's oil fields to the capitol in Baton Rouge, *Saving Louisiana?* follows scientists, conservationists, and politicians, as they persistently ask the same question: Can Louisiana's coastline be saved? For some experts, technical uncertainty impedes progress. For others, bureaucracy and special interests block what they see as the right path. Still others believe that the real challenge lies in determining what society really wants, so that ecosystem restoration becomes a balance of dollars against choices. *Saving Louisiana?* builds a story of doubt and discord that captures the technical and human drama of ecosystem restoration and management. Anyone intrigued by the big ecosystem restoration projects underway in the Florida Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay, the Puget Sound, and elsewhere will find this account of Louisiana's morass compelling and cautionary. Streever says science alone cannot save Louisiana's wetlands without attention to and appreciation of the many proposals and controversies afloat on the state's marshes and bayous. Bill Streever is a research biologist in Eagle River, Alaska, and was formerly at the Waterways Experiment Station (Wetlands Branch) in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is the author of *Bringing Back the Wetlands* (1999), and his work has appeared in such periodicals as *Wetlands*, *Journal of Environmental Management*, *Estuaries*, and *American Midland Naturalist*.

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Customer Reviews

An objective look at an ecological uproar pitting scientists, oil companies, and citizens in coastal conflict

"Bill Streever has written a fine book about the Louisiana delta's unique setting. He weaves the past into the present and gives us glimpses of the future by describing the challenges we face in addressing the compelling, sometimes conflicting, information from scientists, politicians, and local residents."---John Teal, author of *Life and Death of a Salt Marsh* "Few Americans outside the Gulf Coast realize that the southern third of Louisiana is rapidly sinking into the sea, a human-made catastrophe of epic proportions. Bill Streever has provided us a comprehensive account of the contentious, high-stakes debate over who is responsible for this unfolding disaster, and what should be done about it."---Colin Woodard, author of *Ocean's End: Travels Through Endangered Seas*

"This is a book about the disappearance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands, how and why it is happening, and what is being done about it. But it is much, much more. It is a narrative about how scientists work; how they interact with each other; and how, in large projects such as this, scientists, engineers, state and federal agencies, citizens, and conservation groups interact to bring about change. Readers will find this a thoroughly absorbing book, which puts a human face on one of the nation's largest environmental efforts."---James G. Gosselink, coauthor of *Wetlands*

This book is very informative about both the science and the politics of coastal wetlands. It's engagingly written (neither preachy nor obtusely academic), and it raises some fascinating questions not only about what to think but about how to think. Substantive. Entertaining. Mercifully short chapters, each of which could be read as a stand-alone if necessary. A real gem. (It was published in 2001, before Katrina or the BP oil spill. It does not seem at all dated, but be aware that it doesn't address those events.)

It's an older book but I believe it still stands the test of time. Streever takes a good look at how to Save Louisiana wetlands. I believe he does a good job of looking at the problem of wetlands loss from all angles. It is very well written and easy to read.

This book came in just in time for my class and it is a great piece of literature!

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