



2013 was a very exciting year at Louisiana Public Broadcasting as Louisiana's public television network started a new series about the state's wildlife, continued its dedication to helping preschool children develop the literacy skills they need to learn and provided thousands of Louisiana teachers with online resources for their classroom.

Probably the biggest event of the year was the visit by **Antiques Roadshow** in July. Almost 5,000 people came to get their paintings, furniture and family heirlooms appraised by the **Roadshow** experts. It was the first visit by the program to Louisiana in more than a decade. A special behind-the-scenes program on the **Roadshow** visit aired in December.

In 2013, LPB joined with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for a new series **Alive!**

In America's

Delta. This six-part series looks at efforts to preserve endangered species such as whooping cranes and the Louisiana Black Bears and profiles the men and women who patrol the state's water-

ways and forests to make sure that the laws pertaining to wildlife are obeyed.

Two LPB productions had their national premieres in 2013. **Sunshine by the Stars: Celebrating Louisiana Music** featured an all-star lineup of Louisiana performers doing their own unique renditions of Louisiana's State Song "You Are My Sunshine." Hosted by Harry Connick, Jr., the performers included Rock 'N Roll Hall of Famers Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Guy and Allen Toussaint, and country superstar Tim McGraw. The award-winning **Turning The Tide**, an

in-depth discussion of possible solutions to the state's rapidly disappearing coastline and wetlands, also went national in November.

Louisiana: The State We're In, Louisiana's only statewide newsmagazine, started its 37th year on the air in September while **Louisiana Public Square** entered its 10th year in 2013. These monthly televised town meetings included discussions about gay rights, pot decriminalization, tax reform and how the federal healthcare reforms would affect Louisiana.

Part of LPB's mission has always been to provide quality children's programming and resources for educators. Whether it is providing teachers with access to thousands of educational videos or helping three and four-year-olds gain the literacy skills they need to learn to read, LPB takes its role as the state's educa-

tional television network seriously.

LPB was one of only five public television entities to receive a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS Kids to test

*"When the concept for the series on the department's staff and critical work they perform was presented, we realized Louisiana Public Broadcasting had the complete package of storytellers and network reach to best convey that story. LPB's skilled production team, their knowledge of the state and ability to work with our personnel in settings that biologists and enforcement agents operate within everyday, made the **Alive! In America's Delta** series something special."*

- Robert Barham

Secretary,

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

the effectiveness of digital content developed through Ready To Learn to help children ages 2-8 in low income families develop early math and literacy skills. The grant targeted three Head Start Centers and three elementary schools in North Baton Rouge.

In New Orleans, LPB and Entergy continued their literacy outreach efforts at 10 childcare centers and one elementary charter school providing books, training teachers and helping coordinate other outreach activities to help these preschoolers gain the skills they need to learn how to read.

One of the most successful and fun projects LPB did in 2013 was the four summer technology camps held at LPB and the J.K. Haynes Charter School. The weeklong camps teach children how to use computers and enhance their literacy skills through a wide range of entertaining and educational activities.



LPB brought every child's favorite train to town in November. Almost 700 parents and children turned out to see Thomas the Tank Engine and watch the premiere of his new movie *King of the Railway*. The children had a great time meeting Thomas and the participants in the screening donated boxes of gloves and winter hats for the children in the Big Buddy program in Baton Rouge.



Eight electronic field trips were provided by LPB for classrooms around the state in 2013, reaching 41,000 students at more than 900 locations. The most popular field trip was "Castle on the Hill," the story of Louisiana's historic Old State Capitol. LPB's Learning Media also allowed teachers to stream 1.8 million videos and video clips to enhance their lesson plans during the year.



2013 also marked the 18th anniversary of LPB's Louisiana Young Heroes program which honors young people who have served their communities, overcome adversity and inspired others around them. Eight outstanding Louisiana students were honored in April.

LPB also honored five of Louisiana's best and brightest at its 2013 Louisiana Legends Gala in May. This year's honorees included former Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court Kitty Kimball, jazz musician and educator Ellis Marsalis, businessman and philanthropist Paul Hilliard, arts activist O. Delton Harrison and CenturyTel President/CEO Glen Post.

LPB is always finding new ways to connect with our viewers. LPB's Facebook page now has over 7,000 friends and more than 12,000 people receive the station's e-newsletter. The station has also expanded the number of programs available for streaming on COVE and on its website and is constantly looking for new ways to reach the ever growing digital population.