

# TheDeltaSierran

PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S DELTA CHAPTER • YEAR END 2015

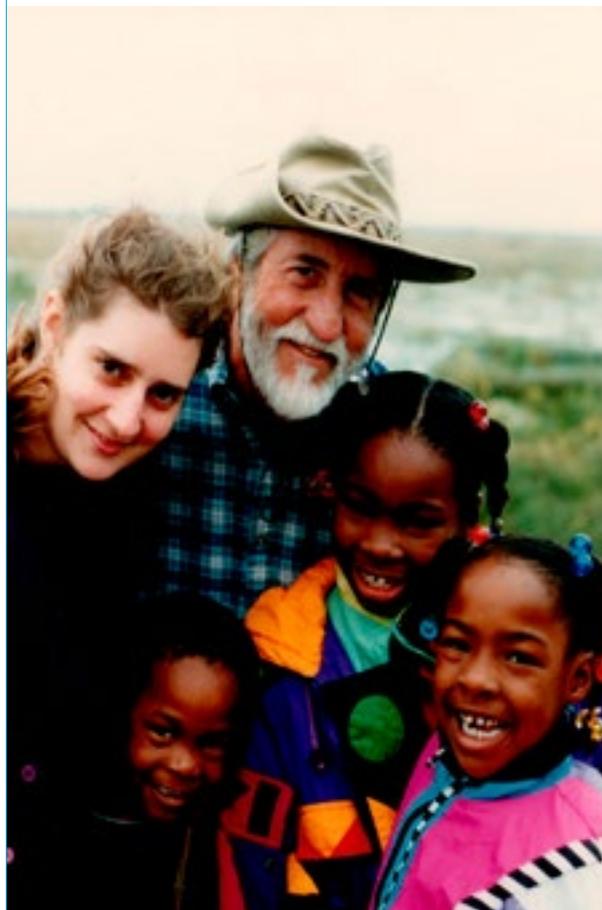
## Robert Hastings Receives National Sierra Club Special Service Award

The Special Service Award honors a Sierra Club member, committee or group for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time.

It won't come as a surprise to Delta members that our previous chair, Robert "Bob" Hastings was nominated and chosen to receive this prestigious award for 2015. Bob has been a Sierra Club member since 1982. He joined originally in New Jersey where he was involved in lobbying for the establishment of the Pinelands Preserve. In November, 1983, he was deposed as an expert witness for a Sierra Club suit for protection of endangered snakes in the Pinelands. As a zoologist at Rutgers University for 12 years, he was actively involved with various environmental issues, and authored several publications based upon his research on New Jersey vertebrates.

In 1984, Bob moved to Louisiana to become Director of the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station on Lake Pontchartrain, and a faculty member at Southeastern Louisiana University, Bob attended his first local Sierra Club meeting in September, 1984. This began a long association with the Delta Chapter, and the Honey Island Group on the Northshore. He served as an Executive Committee member and in other leadership positions of both Group and Chapter, and would host numerous Sierra Club meetings at Turtle Cove. He served on the Honey Island Group Executive Committee from 1993 to 2001,

continued on page 11



Robert Hastings with local ICO participants

Vote for 2016

Delta Chapter Executive  
Committee Members  
— find the candidates  
and ballot inside

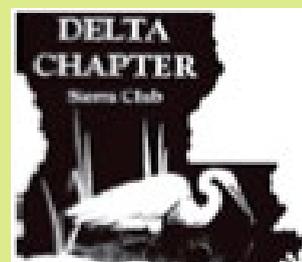
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# The DeltaSierran Year End 2015

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The Delta Sierran  
Sierra Club Delta Chapter  
P.O. Bx 52503  
Lafayette, LA 70506

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Design  
Penguin PLace LLC

The Delta Sierran is published once a year by the Sierra Club Delta Chapter. Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to the Delta Sierran. Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author not necessarily those of the Sierra club or the Delta Chapter.

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## Legislative Report 2015

By Haywood Martin

Despite this being a “fiscal” session with so much discussion about the state’s \$1.6B fiscal deficit there were notable efforts on the environmental front. Sierra Club and allies were actively working to push good bills and stop the bad ones. We actively worked to support our agenda and the legislative agenda of the Green Army, a coalition of Louisiana environmental groups working together with leadership from Gen Russell Honore. Here are some of the more important bills that we worked on and our results:

### SUCCESSSES

HB 597 by Rep Stuart Bishop would have allowed industries to voluntarily conduct an environmental audit and be protected from disclosure of any information discovered in the audit. We went after this one early in the process and managed to keep it from ever being heard in committee.

HB 779 by Rep Erich Ponti left residential solar system tax exemptions in place for purchased or leased systems until the end of 2017. The bill includes a cap on the per system tax credit of \$10,000 and restrictive caps on the total amount of tax credits available. We list this as a success because there was a big push to eliminate solar tax credits immediately instead of leaving them in place until end of 2017.

SB 214 by Sen Ronnie Johns would have created the Solar User Rights and Disclosures Act, a bill that was designed to regulate residential solar nearly to death, imposing many needless requirements. SB 214 was

very early identified as one of the worst environmental bills in this year’s legislative session. The solar industry along with Sierra Club and LEAN raised so much early opposition that the bill was never heard in its first committee.

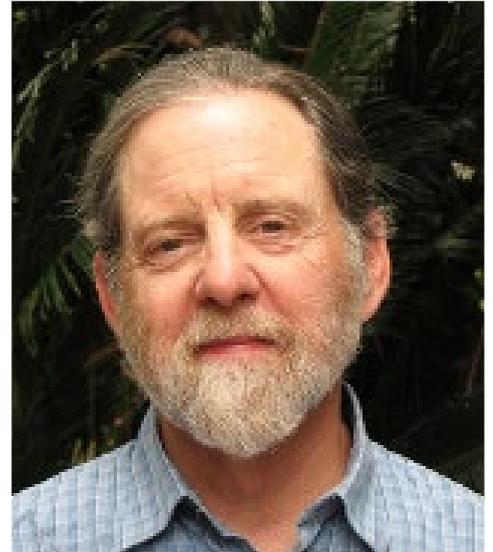
SCR 89 by Sen Bret Allain of Morgan City establishes a task force of stakeholders and experts to study the regulation of oil and gas wells and management of orphaned wells. The task force identified in the resolution has eleven members, one of which is selected by the board of directors of the Sierra Club. The resolution passed.

### NOT SUCCESSFUL

HB 180 by Rep Joe Bouie of New Orleans is a Green Army supported bill that would have prohibited the construction of any pre-K through 12th grade school on property formerly used for the disposal, storage, or deposition of sewage sludge, solid waste, hazardous waste, or oilfield waste. The bill got stopped in Senate Education Committee.

HB 590 by Rep Kenny Cox is another Green Army supported bill that would have required industrial facilities to install fence-line air monitoring systems. Such systems would measure and record air pollutant concentrations along the property boundary of a facility in order to protect nearby communities. The bill was stopped in committee.

HCR 29 by Rep Joe Harrison tells USEPA to withdraw proposed guidelines for reducing CO2



emissions from fossil fuel fired power plants and urges the governor and state attorney general to take legal action to prevent the guidelines from being implemented. Sierra Club Delta Chapter testified and lobbied against this resolution at every opportunity but the resolution passed.

#### Summary

Our results demonstrate that it is easier to stop bad legislative bills than to pass good ones although either way it takes a tremendous amount of effort on the part of our Sierra Club lobbyists and volunteers. We are up against formidable odds in an industry dominated legislature. This means that we have to work smart and be persistent.

Please consider donating to Sierra Club Delta Chapter so that we can maintain a strong presence as advocates for the environment in the Louisiana State Legislature.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, for our legislative action list, call me at .337-298-8380.

# GroupInfo

## ACADIAN GROUP

Western Parishes centered around Lafayette

Meets: ExCom/Conservation meeting at 6:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of every month First United Methodist, 703 Lee Ave., Lafayette

Contact: Chair: Harold Schoeffler, cadistyle@aol.com. Vice Chair and Group representative to the Delta Chapter Excom: Woody Martin. hrmartin2sc@gmail.com Treasurer: Billy Fortier. billyfortier@yahoo.com

Website: <http://acadiansierra.blogspot.com/p/meetings.html>

Facebook: Acadian Group of the Sierra Club

## BATON ROUGE GROUP

Baton Rouge and environs

Meets: third Thursdays of the month The location is in the Backpacker, the store is located at 7656 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge. The meeting is held every other month. On alternate months, there's usually an outing.

Contact: Chair, Nancy Grush at (225) 938-9353 nancygrush@gmail.com Treasurer: Gwen Pine, gpine48@att.net

Website: <http://brsierraclub.blogspot.com>

Facebook: Baton Rouge Group of the Sierra Club

## HONEY ISLAND GROUP

Northshore from Gulf to Amite

Meets; Third Saturday at 2:30 PM  
Contact: Chair: Diana Morgan, sierra.honeyisland@yahoo.com

**THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB GROUP!** Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Delta Chapter's five regional Groups host outings and work on conservation issues. Groups have monthly informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—everyone is welcome!



## KISATCHIE GROUP

North Louisiana

Meets: No regular meetings at this time

Contact: Chair and group rep: Jeff Wellborn, j.w.wellborn@gmail.com

## NEW ORLEANS GROUP

New Orleans and West Bank

Meets: At the Audubon Zoo Dominion Auditorium near the main entrance, 6500 Magazine St. Drive to the front entrance to the Zoo, just off

Magazine St. To the right of the Zoo's main public entrance, go through the gate and bear right to the Dominion Auditorium There will be signs for directions.

Doors open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome.

To get the latest details, call 1-504-836-3062.

Contact: Chair: Vance Levesque, mrkahuna@juno.com

Website: <http://neworleanssierra.blogspot.com/> and Facebook

# GetInvolved!

**AT THE CORE OF SIERRA CLUB IS OUR MISSION TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE WILD PLACES OF THE EARTH.** Here's how we do it and how you can join in the fun!

## Support

- Participate in your local group. Volunteers are always needed for all aspects of being a Sierra Club member.
- Vote in the Delta Chapter election. This year's candidates and ballot are on pages 8-9
- Support the important work that we do by giving. Your dollars will be well spent here in Louisiana. Give your family and friends the sustainable gift of Sierra Club this holiday season. Make that last-minute tax deductible donation. Or make a non-deductible, year-end gift to the Chapter to keep the lights on. Use the form here on this page for gift memberships. For Tax deductible send your check made out to the Sierra Club Foundation. with Delta Chapter in the Memo to the chapter address in the blue box on page 2. Or for all purposes go online to [www.lasierraclub.org](http://www.lasierraclub.org) and choose Join/Donate.

## Protect

- Education: The chapter works hard to educate Louisiana citizens about issues that affect their health and welfare. See our website at [www.LA.Sierra.org](http://www.LA.Sierra.org) to take part in issue alerts and to sign up for our email information so you can always be informed.



## Explore and Enjoy

- GET OUTSIDE THIS WINTER AND ENJOY THE EARTH. Embrace the beauty of our winters by taking a brisk walk, going on a nature outing, paddling or attending an educational program. Check in with your local group or visit [www.lasierraclub.com](http://www.lasierraclub.com)

**J**OIN YOUR LOCAL GROUP OR BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER. See page 3 for a listing of locations and contact information, or visit [www.lasierraclub.org](http://www.lasierraclub.org).



**A small way to make a world of difference.**

Giving a Sierra Club Gift Membership is a wonderful way to show someone you care - about them and the environment.

So why wait?

**Good things come in small packages. Join Sierra Club now.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to**

**Gift Recipient** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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# Katrina @ Ten



*August 21, 2015*

*“The 10th anniversary commemoration of Hurricane Katrina gives me occasion to reflect on the early efforts by poor and working-class Americans and indigenous activists from throughout the Americas to lead the global conversation on climate justice principles to keep fossil fuels and carbon in the ground. We are still fighting this battle today, and the residents of New Orleans are still fighting to prove that their lives and their communities matter.”*

*Aaron Mair, President National Sierra Club*

Sierra Club President, Aaron Mair and Executive Director, Michael Brune attended Katrina 10 Remembrances in New Orleans. They both reaffirmed our commitment to Environmental Justice.

Sierra Club video commemorating the 10 year anniversary...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6039GI-WVw>

# Strengthening Our Democracy

Katrina@10.

It doesn't seem like it was ten years ago that our lives were disrupted and changed by a natural force and poorly built levees. Katrina has become a common word in the vernacular that is used to describe, federal F---ups, loss of culture, diaspora of residents and total destruction of neighborhoods. The Sierra Club had already been working with the lower ninth ward on environmental justice issues that included the destruction of wetlands by the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. We called it the MRGO. Our fears that it would serve as a conduit for storm surge or as it was later nicknamed the "hurricane Highway", came through. It was a source of destruction in the lower ninth ward. Even today, you can still find abandoned homes stripped of anything of value sitting there waiting for a wrecking ball. Their stories; include-people died, didn't have insurance, didn't have clear title to the home or just couldn't face coming back after the ordeal.

There are many sad aspects to the last ten years but I want to focus on the highlights of progressive community building. Green groups including the Sierra Club took advantage of rebuilding to educate and assist homeowners to rebuild energy efficient. Many of the old houses built with barge boards were like sieves. Reducing electric bills is a great benefit for families that live below the poverty line.

We assisted in writing the grant that established the Louisiana Green Corps. At risk kids were recruited to learn how to make efficiency upgrades to homes while they were learning job skills that they can use in the future. We established a line of credit to allow the community to buy materials in bulk. The loan was for three years, it was repaid in full.

*"The most important lesson we can take from Katrina has more to do with people than weather. When the levees failed, it was because no one cared enough to ensure that they were properly engineered and constructed. When thousands of people found themselves caught in the storm's path, it's because no one cared enough to help them evacuate," said Michael Brune, the Sierra Club's executive director. "When it comes to disasters caused by climate disruption and extreme weather, there's nothing fair about which people will end up being hurt the most. Low-income communities and communities of color are not only the first in the line of fire but also the last when it comes to getting help."*

*Michael Brune, Executive Director Sierra Club*

Over 100 homes were outfitted with radiant barrier.

Due to the storm, we received national attention for the first three years that helped us finally win the battle against the MRGO. It was ordered to be closed by Congress. Then our next pet peeve, the proposed new lock on the Intercoastal Canal was finally withdrawn in 2015. The Community and an alliance of green groups including the Sierra Club worked on this issue for more than ten years. Sometimes, it just takes the ability to wait things out. Now in the event of another storm, we won't have to worry as much about flooding from the gulf.

The neighborhood has been very involved in all of the planning, developing and creative solutions that have resulted from the storm. They have a unique opportunity to start over. Although when you see remodeled homes, new homes and vacant homes surrounded by acres of what looks like parkland, the neighborhood is very different than it was before.

At the levee, we now have a platform that you can access from

the street that overlooks the Bayou Bienvenu. Residents come here to fish and relax. A survey was done among community leaders in 2011. The single most thing that they all mentioned that helped their recovery was this connection to nature. Sierrans were involved in the initial construction of the platform and creating access to the bayou. Now we are supporting the development of a educational center that will focus on water education.

These are but a few of the accomplishments over the last ten years. We have a long way to go. If you are interesting in volunteering to help in the lower ninth ward, please contact the Center for Sustainable Education and Engagement CSED at [www.sustainthenine.org](http://www.sustainthenine.org) You can also get involved in the struggle to close the old Gentilly Landfill or protest rebuilding Booker T. Washington High School on top of a toxic dump.

There is always something.

Leslie March, editor

# Statements from Candidates for Election to the Sierra Club Delta Chapter Executive Committee, Two Year Terms, Jan 2016 to Dec 2017



## HELEN BABIN

I am a 23 year trial attorney representing plaintiffs in toxic tort cases in the greater New Orleans area. I am a graduate of Tulane University School of Law with a J.D and Certificate of Environmental Law. I practiced in the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, which helped me to focus professionally on environmental issues.

I've been an outdoor enthusiast my entire life. My sports pursuits have included cycling, hiking, rock climbing, and mountaineering.

Following an injury a few years ago that ended my rock climbing activities, I began looking closer to home for nurturing, calming environments. I've found them, but I know they are at great risk of being lost.

Over the course of my career I have worked with and for the DEQ and Wildlife and Fisheries, I have sued polluters, and testified before legislative committees. I hope to use my experience and skills to help the Sierra Club protect and preserve our incredible resources



## NICK STRACCO

I am a recent graduate of Tulane University with a degree in Environmental Science. I founded Divest Tulane, lead Tulane Green Club for two years, interned with the Sierra Club in New Orleans, and co-directed SPROG, the Sierra Student Coalition's week-long crash course in grassroots organizing for and by youth. It is my belief that the Club should be working more towards involving youth and standing in solidarity with marginalized communities in our work. The Sierra Student Coalition is moving in this direction but if the Club does not also prioritize anti-oppression principles and youth outreach into our work, we stand to lose a new generation of strong, well-trained environmental organizers. I hope to work with the Delta Chapter to focus on youth outreach and standing in solidarity with impacted communities who must live with degraded environments every day.

### SAVE THE DATE DELTA CHAPTER RETREAT MARCH 18-20, 2016 AT CHICOT STATE PARK

We will have two group shelters with space for 14 persons each. To reserve a space in the group shelter for one or two nights you can contact Diana Morgan at [sierra.honeyisland@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.honeyisland@gmail.com) 985-640-5130. The deadline for reservation of space in a group shelter is March 3. RV and tent camping is also available. For RV and tent camping you can call the Park at (337) 363-2403 to make reservations.

For more details check the chapter website at [www.lasierra.org](http://www.lasierra.org)



Margie Vicknair-Pray

I have been an active voice in the environmental community of the New Orleans area since the early 1980s. I'm a past New Orleans Group and Delta Chapter Conservation Chair, and past ExCom member. I developed and co-directed Recycle New Orleans for the Louisiana Nature Center and from a Sierra Club meeting started the Louisiana Coastal Cleanups, which I directed until the program grew to become a state-sponsored program in 1989. I helped write Louisiana's Solid Waste Recycling and Reduction Law and lobbied in D.C. with Bart Koehler, one of the founders of Earth First! . I may be remembered by some of you as the first recycling director for the City of New Orleans, and as the founding executive director of Keep Mandeville Beautiful.

I've spent the past twenty-plus years as a single parent, and retired from the troubling life of an oil and gas safety professional, returning home from Houston (since Katrina), which gives me some special insight into the world of drilling and fracking, as well as a handle on OSHA regs and industrial safety violations. Oh, and I just ran for Parish President in St. Tammany - but lost, unfortunately.



Sierra Club Delta Chapter Excom  
Election Ballot

Two year term 2016 - 2017

Please mark one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership, \_\_\_\_\_ Joint membership.

(Check your mailing label to see if two persons are listed.) Joint membership allows two people to vote so if you have joint membership please use both columns.

The following three candidates in alphabetical order have been nominated to fill two Chapter At Large Positions for a two year term Jan, 2016 through Dec, 2017 on the Executive Committee. You may vote for two candidates out of the three candidates presented. Please refer to the enclosed candidate statements. Thanks for your votes.

	Single Membership	Joint Membership
	Mark this column only	Mark both columns
Helen H. Babin	_____	_____
Nick Stracco	_____	_____
Margie Vicknair-Pray	_____	_____

Please cut out this ballot and return by US Mail to Sierra Club Delta Chapter Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 52503, Lafayette, LA 70505. You may use the enclosed return envelope.

This Ballot must be received by the Delta Chapter no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, January 4, 2016. The Ballots will be counted the same day at 7:00 pm. Location of ballot counting will be 400 Glyndale Ave. Lafayette, La. 70506

## JINDAL SWELLS, JINDAL SWELLS, JINDAL ALL THE WEIGH

Unwilling or unable to govern Louisiana, BobbyJ sought the presidency. With cheerful disdain for the people who elected him governor, he has made a point of insulting the voters' intelligence. His footwear of choice has been rubber thong sandals, a.k.a. flipflops.

The governor was firmly for the Common Core educational initiative that would line up Louisiana's public educational standards with the rest of the country. That is, until he was against it. Apparently in between those choices, the Gov switched political parties from the Republican (which he called "The Stupid Party") to the Jindal-revived "Know-Nothing" Party, showing his skill at going from dumb to dumber. All the while he thought that Louisianians were as dumb and as wishy-washy as he is.

With his head swollen from ambition and fantasy, Gov. Bobby announced at one of those press conferences called to show the media that he is still alive that he

accepts the fact that human activity is having an effect on the earth's climate. This is a comment that one would expect from someone with a degree in science from an Ivy league university. Very shortly thereafter, however, the Gov stated that climate change was a "Trojan Horse" planted by Leftists who want to get inside government to make more and more restrictive regulations. It is not clear from press reports of that announcement whether BobbyJ's feet were then shod with his signature rubber thong sandals. That would have been the appropriate footwear for the occasion.

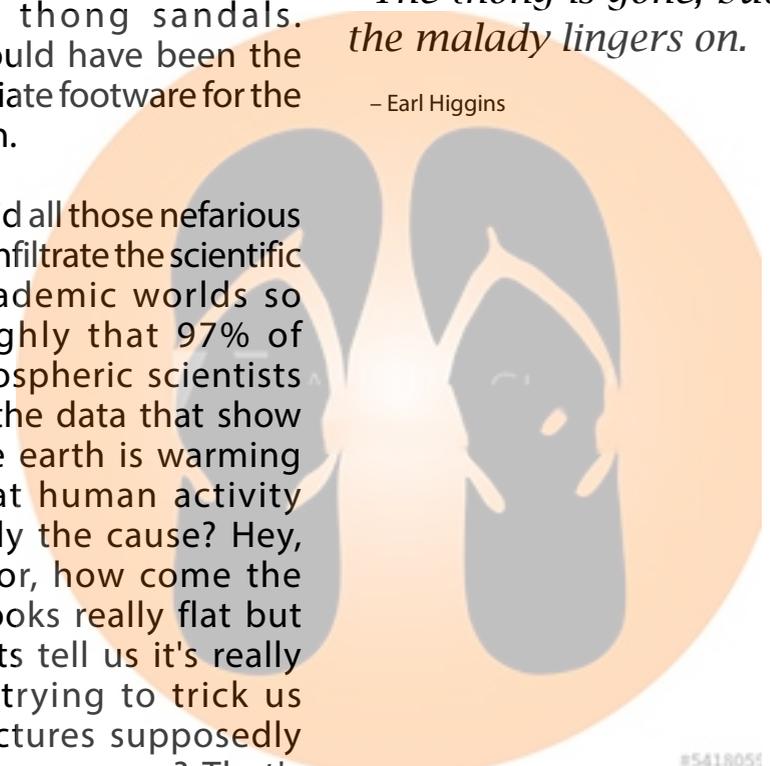
How did all those nefarious Leftists infiltrate the scientific and academic worlds so thoroughly that 97% of all atmospheric scientists accept the data that show that the earth is warming and that human activity is largely the cause? Hey, Governor, how come the earth looks really flat but scientists tell us it's really round, trying to trick us with pictures supposedly taken from space? That's

all a plot too, isn't it, to get the government to spend more money on useless big-government programs like NASA?

Gov. Jindal has now stabilized his political positions and exchanged his thong flip-flops for conservative wing tips. Nevertheless, most Louisianians are sick and tired of his performance, which demonstrates the old saying:

*The thong is gone, but the malady lingers on.*

– Earl Higgins



Continued from page 1

and was elected Chair in 2000. He also served on the Delta Chapter Executive Committee from 1993 to 2001, as Vice-Chair in 1993, 1996-98, and 2000, and as Chair in 1994 and 1995. He also served as a representative to the Sierra Club's Gulf Coast

One of Bob's most memorable GCRCC meetings was in Columbia, Mississippi, in June, 1994, when GCRCC met with a local group called "Jesus's People Against Pollution" (or JPAP), a local grassroots organization formed in response to environmental contamination from an abandoned industrial site. This experience sparked his continuing dedication to the principles of environmental justice.

Bob participated in another significant GCRCC meeting in December, 1994, at Coffeen Nature Preserve at Four-Mile Village in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. This meeting also included members of the Sierra Club Marine Committee and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, who met to discuss the formation of a new organization to address environmental problems of the Gulf of Mexico. The resulting organization was the Gulf Restoration Network (or GRN). Bob was to become a Board member for GRN in 1998 (continuing up until the present), and served as Board Chair

in 2007-2012).

Throughout Bob's career, he has had a passion for teaching people about snakes. He has made presentations to many schools in the Southeast as well as being a university professor. He has retired from the universities but he continues to be a learning resource. He told me that one of his proudest moments in his service for the Sierra Club was to work with the Inner City Outings program in New Orleans. Children from the Gerttown Community Center and the Pediatric AIDS Program who came to Turtle Cove on ICO outings were able to fish, swim, and canoe, as well as play environmental games. Initially, many were quite fearful of the "wild" swamp environment, but soon became comfortable with these new surroundings, and enjoyed their experiences at Turtle Cove. That program isn't active right now and he thinks we have a missed opportunity to expose inner city youth to the outdoors.

Bob currently lives in Alabama and is serving as their chair. If you want to learn more about Bob and his snakes go to [www.drbobssnakes.com](http://www.drbobssnakes.com). He amazed me that he currently has over 40 snakes representing 15-20 different species. To learn more about Bob and his long time involvement with the club go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/alabama>.

## News from Groups

### Honey Island Group

Honey Island is back stronger than ever. They have a new excom headed by Diana Morgan as chair, Michele Johnson as treasurer and Margie Vickers-Pray as conservation chair. Presently, the Executive Committee is meeting on the Sunday before each General Membership Meeting at 5:00 pm at the Slidell Picadilly restaurant. We invite all of our members to attend and welcome new participation on our ExCom. At present, we are also looking for members to serve on our Nominating Committee to put together new nominees for our 2016 ExCom.

Our year has been eventful and we look forward to even more membership participation and activities. We would like to include more activities and chances for participation in the western region of our group's area. For more information, see the Delta Chapter blog.

### New Orleans Group

The New Orleans Group has been having some really great speakers. Wendy King has kindly written some articles for us that we are unable to squeeze all of them into s newsletter. PLease see the article about Bob Marshall on page 12. The remaining articles will be posted on the chapter blog.

Better yet, check out the New Orleans group facebook page and go to the next meeting yourself.



### SPACE INVADERS

There are invasive species that we see every day without realizing the impact they have.

For more information on exotic and invasive species — including some in your backyard! — read this excellent article by Michigan State University's Leslie Kuhn at [tinyurl.com/gardenknowhow](http://tinyurl.com/gardenknowhow).



The Sierra Club's members and supporters are 2.4 million of your friends and neighbors.

Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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Permit No. 152

## BOB MARSHALL TALKS COASTAL PLAN

Bob Marshall, formerly with the Times Picayune, now with the Lens was a guest of a joint meeting with The Tulane Green Club and the New Orleans Group on November 8, 2015.

Charlie Pfeifer, the New Orleans Group's programming chair, introduced Bob Marshall. Bob Marshall started his talk with a map of Southeast Louisiana land and water. He said that people ask "Why are wetlands important?", and then showed a map of the remaining wetlands (by 2060-2090). This is a land starved by levees and canals.

Before the Master Plan for the Coast, Hurricane Katrina "was a wakeup call." There was "never any real coastal plan until Katrina". CPRA (The Coastal Protection Restoration Authority) was "charged with coming up with a plan," using "Adaptive management" of "dynamic environments". By 2007, Louisiana had its "first coastal master plan", which is now renewed every 5 years. The renewals get an "up" or "down" vote only. The allocation is currently \$50B, for half the plan, structural storm surge protection. The other half of the plan is to rebuild wetlands, while New Orleans sinks 3.5 feet a year.



Marshall talked about the BP settlement: \$20.8B. \$5.2 B for Clean Water Act violations, \$8.3B for NRDA (Natural Resources Damages Act) violations, and \$8B to Louisiana. That money will go to coastal restoration projects.

Bob Marshall talked about NRDA damages (\$5B) to coastal and near-shore habitats. (Links are to documents on The Lens website. The Q&A session afterwards was very good.

For more information about the New Orleans Group and their meetings go to <http://neworleanssierran.blogspot.com/>

Wendy King

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