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Feb 2013

Delta E Zine

Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club protecting people and the environment in Louisiana for 40 years



Delta Chapter Newsletter 2013 First Edition

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Welcome to the Delta Chapter Electronic Newsletter. We hope that you will continue to comment on the content and style as we work to make this newsletter: informative, entertaining and useful for our members. After all, without your continued support, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our mission in Louisiana.

[View from the Chair](#)

Delta Chapter Updates

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Tulane Features Scenic Rivers

Bayou Bienvenu

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Notes on Civil Disobedience

On Nov 6 2011 I was arrested and taken to a detention center in a not too pretty part of Washington DC. I was arrested at the White House along with about 1200 other people in a series of civil disobedience actions lead by Bill McKibbin with the purpose of trying to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. The efforts of all who worked against the pipeline did result in the Administration sending the project back for further environmental review. With me on that day were several Sierra Club national leaders. Many more Club members and leaders participated throughout the two weeks of action at the White House. We did it not as representatives of the Club but as individuals because the Club has a clear policy against endorsing civil disobedience as part of its campaigns.



Yet there is such strong feeling that something extraordinary may be necessary to help force attention and political action on climate change that the Club at the leadership level has been seriously debating a possible change in policy. At a Council of Club Leaders meeting last year we voted to request the Sierra Club Board to reevaluate the policy against civil disobedience. Now as you will see in the article below, the Board has elected to do one climate based action.

I personally feel so strongly about the climate issue that I may have to risk getting arrested and/or harassed by raving fossil fuel addicts many more times before I leave the battle lines. In my ideal world Sierra Club would endorse us going forward to the battle and provide us a bunch of lawyers. But I can do it on my own with or without Sierra Club. You can be sure that other Club members will be taking the same position. I think that non violent civil disobedience actions on our own are compatible with being a member of the oldest and possibly most aggressive national environmental organization out there, even if the Club cannot for numerous reasons sanction such activities.

Haywood Martin

The Biggest Fight of Our



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Lifetimes

Sierra Club Leads Climate Rally; Suspends 120 year old Policy to Save Climate

On February 17, 2013, the Sierra Club and our supporters and allies plan to make ourselves heard. Thousands are planning to travel to Washington DC to take part in what is planned to be the largest climate-change rally in US history. People will take to the streets to demand that President Obama live up to his rhetoric on climate change by denying the Keystone XL pipeline and putting us on track for a clean energy future that can provide jobs, lower our greenhouse gas emissions, and leave a lasting climate legacy for a history-making president.

To show people just how serious the Club is about bringing climate justice to the forefront of our national discussion, the Board of Directors voted this year to temporarily suspend the Club's policy against civil disobedience. Organizers are tight lipped about what they are planning. This marks the first time in the Club's 126 years of existence that we have ever officially sanctioned such a demonstration.

While some are worried that this action may make a bad impression and tarnish the image of the Sierra Club, many members and supporters are enthusiastic that the Club is finally treating our climate crisis with the weight and urgency that is needed by organizing such an action. They point to the important and strategic acts of civil disobedience by civil-rights activists and leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., and the impact that they had on the nation's perception of the importance of civil rights for all.

What are your thoughts about this rally and act of non-violent civil disobedience? What do you think about the issue of climate change? We'd like to hear from you. You can let us know by writing on our Facebook Group or Page, or by writing or calling the Delta Chapter.



**Sierra Club
Marks Major Milestone for
Moving Beyond Coal**

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50,000 MW of Coal Power Scheduled to Retire Since 2010

On January 22, 2013, a legal settlement between the Sierra Club and Warren Buffet's MidAmerican Energy Company resulted in an agreement that the Iowa utility would phase out coal burning at seven of its coal-fired boilers, clean up another two coal boilers, and install a large solar installation at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

On the surface, this announcement isn't all that surprising-after all, the Sierra Club has been working feverishly over the last several years to get power plants to clean up their acts and use energy efficiency and renewable power to move beyond coal. What makes this most recent victory so important is that it marks a major milestone for the Beyond Coal Campaign: 50,717 megawatts of coal-fired electrical power has been retired or announced to retire since 2010, when the Beyond Coal campaign kicked into high gear with a gift from New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. You don't have to be a utility executive to realize that this is a big deal. But utility executives are taking notice, as well as the nervous coal industry executives.

Since 2010, the Club has retired over 130 coal-fired plants, or an entire sixth of our nation's coal fleet. As we retire our dirty forms of energy, new potentials for renewables open up. Once a power plant is built, there's a strong incentive to keep it running for at least 20-30 years, or the length of its lifetime. It's called "lock-in," and it's one of the biggest hurdles to the development of new renewable power. But the tides are quickly turning. Although there's been only one single new coal plant that has broken ground since 2008, renewable power installation has been surging. In fact, the US installed its 50,000 MW of clean, renewable wind energy in mid-2012, producing enough electricity for over 13 million homes.

So what exactly do these retirements mean for us, for our environment, and for our climate future? For starters, these plants were emitting over 192 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. That's the equivalent of about 40 million passenger vehicles. That in itself is a major environmental victory.

Can you imagine 40 million cars and trucks off the roads in two years' time? Me neither. These plants also emitted about 7,600 pounds of toxic mercury pollution, which finds its way into our waterways and oceans and accumulates in the fish many of us enjoy at supertime. So less climate-wrecking greenhouse gas emissions, and less mercury polluting our global waterways. Perhaps most importantly, and certainly most immediately, these

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retired plants accounted for about 60,000 asthma attacks and 3,600 premature deaths each year. Lives saved and lives improved, thanks to the hard work of Sierra Club activists, members and supporters. Think about that next time you consider your March funding appeal!



March Fund Appeal

It is that time again, when you can make a difference in Louisiana by writing a check to the Delta Chapter. We have many dedicated volunteers that give us their valuable time, however without your generous support, we can't buy stamps, fund valuable legal research, produce educational materials, sponsor Green Events and even reach out to communicate with you. We thank you in advance for returning the envelope that you will receive in March with any size donation that you can afford. Think of it as an investment in your family's future. We thank you for considering this contribution. If you can't wait to make environmental progress in Louisiana. You can send a check to the following address.

Sierra Club Delta Chapter
P.O. Box 52503
Lafayette, LA 70505

Earl's Pearls



Meetings and Events

The Acadian Group meets the second and third Wednesday of the month. Check out their [web page](#) for current information and to find out about outings.

The Baton Rouge BR Group meets on third Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. At the Backpacker at 7656 Jefferson Hwy in Baton Rouge every other month. On alternate months, there's usually an outing. Call Nancy Grush at (225) 938-9353 for more info.

Issues include: protecting the rapidly disappearing wetlands; ensuring the UDC is followed; urging that Future BR is implemented; & advocating transit & more amenities for pedestrians & cyclists. We are also bringing recycling to Ascension Parish. New Orleans Group meets monthly at the Audubon Zoo. Click on this [link](#) for more information or find them on facebook.



Bringing his unique slant to the war against the environment for over 30 years.

STEVE SCALISE CONFRONTS GLOBAL WARMING

Historical note: *In the year 2012, then-Republican Congressman Steve Scalise of Louisiana's First Congressional District was a vocal skeptic, even a denier, of the phenomenon of global warming. During that year atmospheric scientist Dr. Richard Muller, a former skeptic, was funded by the right-wing Koch Foundation to examine the data used to support global warming and to expose it as false, sloppy science, driven by liberal ideology. Professor Muller dutifully did what his patrons had asked, examined all the data, but came to the conclusion that the data were valid, that global warming was real, and that it was almost entirely caused by humans. Congressman Scalise scoffed at the report, dismissing it as "flip-flopping by one Berkeley professor."*

Now in the year 2053, forty years later, Scalise is in retirement. When Republicans slowly began to accept global warming as valid, Scalise left the Republican Party in the 2020s and became a leading voice in the revival of the Know-Nothing Party. He was voted out of office when he refused to support massive federal aid to rebuild Seattle after an eruption from Mt. Rainier destroyed much of that city. "Why rebuild a place that is nothing but coffee shops and Liberals?" scoffed the congressman. He then began another career as a lobbyist for Big Oil, Big Coal, and nuclear power. By the late 2040s, as rising sea level moved the northern shore of the Gulf of Mexico to somewhere around



Baton Rouge Group

Public Programs Continue

The Baton Rouge Group continued its bi-monthly public programs in January 2013 with a talk by Dennis Demcheck, water scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). His talk covered the many areas of water management and use being monitored and studied by USGS, including surface and groundwater. Issues of water quality and quantity are becoming more pressing everywhere, including Louisiana. Our supplies are high, but can fluctuate with drought, and groundwater impacts from "fracking" of natural gas are an issue of concern to the Sierra Club.

This talk continues an active year of programs by the Baton Rouge Group. Last year, Dr. Charles Fryling gave a presentation on the life and work of John Muir, and member Barret Kennedy spoke about the "Leave No Trace" program aimed at reducing litter on public lands. Programs about nature topics alternated with those focused on current events, which included a discussion on protecting America's Environmental Laws and a talk on the 2012 election.

what once was English Turn of the Mississippi River, Scalise moved his home and office to a bluff in Washington Parish. It was there that the Delta Sierran reporter caught up with the octogenarian.

Delta Sierran: Mr. Scalise, we're looking down at the raging Bogue Chitto River. It is again over its banks for the third time this year as a result of heavy rainfalls from severe thunderstorms, each designated "The Storm of the Century." The sea level of the Gulf is such that its waves are lapping against the hurricane barriers on a daily basis. Do you think climate change, global warming is causing all this bad weather?

Steve Scalise: What?! Are you Liberals still talking that nonsense? If there is any such thing - and many prominent scientists deny the existence of global warming - it's just a cyclical part of nature. These so-called sea-level rises will disappear soon, and we can go back to Cocodrie and do some fishing.

D.S.: Sir, Cocodrie was washed away several years ago. As they say in New Orleans, it ain't dere no more. Most of your former congressional district outside the hurricane-protection barriers consists of water and deteriorating marsh. You don't accept the science that supports the existence of global warming?

S.S.: Most scientists are wimps and flip-floppers. They're never sure of anything, everything is a "theory," just somebody's idea. As soon as they declare that something is so, right away they start looking around for reasons to change their minds. Nothing is set, fixed.

D.S.: Uhh, isn't that what science is supposed to do, constantly challenge its findings?

S.S.: I'm no flip-flopper. Once I'm sure of a position, I don't want to hear facts or anything else that would make me change my mind. Constancy is a virtue. New Orleans' most renowned scientist gives a loud guffaw and belly laugh when the subject of global warming is mentioned.

D.S.: Who is this learned person?

S.S.: Dr. Momus Alexander Morgus, a multi-discipline genius. He's pretty old, somewhere around 120, because he discovered how to live

The next program in March will feature a couple who spent their honeymoon hiking the Appalachian Trail. For more information, email brsierraclub@gmail.com

Outings

February 23, 2013

Nancy Grush is leading a hike at Bogue Chitto State Park. Some may want to reserve a cabin or a camping spot if they want to spend Friday or Saturday night. Car pool from Coffee Call in BR will depart at a time to be decided later.

For more info, contact Nancy at 938- 9353.

New Orleans Programs

Sunday, February 17, 2013

Katie Brasted, Executive Director for Woodlands Conservancy will present a program about the Woodlands Conservancy area near English Turn on the West bank.

Woodlands Conservancy is a 501-C-3, nonprofit organization created with the mission to preserve and develop an ecosystem dedicated to creating daily public opportunities for recreation, ecotourism and education in a natural and historic setting. The vision of Woodlands Conservancy is to be the regional model for the conservation of hardwood forests, and a leader in the advocacy and preservation of Louisiana's coastal

forever, among other achievements. Morgus says global warming is just a bunch of hot air.

D.S.: Uhh, I know Dr. Morgus. He certainly is knowledgeable in the phenomenon of hot air. Let's move on to another topic. I presume that you continue to support - and lobby for - more drilling for oil and gas, more coal, more nuclear power, despite the fact that the country is steadily increasing its percentage of power from solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass. Don't you know that because of research done at LSU, Louisiana became self-sufficient in renewable energy-generation in the 2040s? We get most of our power from biomass, including invasive species like water hyacinths, salvinia, and nutria. Lots of jobs were created in that industry too. Why should we keep drilling for oil and gas?

S.S.: Drilling is part of Louisiana's heritage, like sugar cane and jazz and Mardi Gras and crawfish. If we stop drilling, we lose part of our culture. You environmentalists want to destroy Louisiana's history and culture; you'd rather see it slide into the ocean than continue to drill and provide jobs and energy for the nation.

D.S.: Louisiana seems to be sinking into the ocean without environmentalists' help. Do you remember that much of your former congressional district is under water now? Isn't that why you moved to Bogalusa?

S.S.: No indeed! I came here for country living. At night I can open my doors and windows and feel safe. I can look out into the piney woods after dark and see men in white sheets dancing around a fire. I can take a deep breath and fill my lungs with pungent north-shore air.

D.S.: Uhhhh, isn't that the paper mill we're smelling, the one that periodically dumps toxic substances into the Bogue Chitto River?

S.S.: Don't criticize industry. They provide jobs. And contributions. And they don't believe in global warming either.

At that point, the phone rang with a robot call from the emergency management system telling us to get out of the house and go to higher ground because the river was predicted to crest ten feet higher than the previous record flood.

forest ecosystems.

Woodlands Conservancy announced the purchase of 190 acres of important bottomland hardwood wetlands in Orleans Parish. The acquisition of the 190 acres will expand the habitat for over 100 species of migratory birds and provide additional hiking, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education opportunities to local citizens.

Due to the continued loss of our coastline and increased rate of relative sea level rise, USFWS estimates that this Woodlands area (now just 6 miles from open waters connected to the Gulf of Mexico) will be one of the largest forested land masses between open water and the city of New Orleans within the next 50 to 100 years.

Audubon Zoo, Dominion Auditorium. Enter gate to far right of main public entrance and behind the statue of Audubon. Parking plentiful and safe. Call (504) 307-0187 with any questions. The program is free and open to everyone. Refreshments at 6:30pm. Program 7 to 8pm.

Keep posted for future programs:
March: Connie Uddo_ - Hike For Katreena -Urban Forest and Recovery
April: John Lopez- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Status and Future
May: Mark Schexnayder, LDWF-

- Earl Higgins

(note: need we mention that these events occurred within the creative head of our own Earl Higgins and are not to be construed as an official statement of the Delta Chapter)

Delta Chapter Election

The membership of Sierra Club Delta Chapter recently elected three persons to serve for two year terms on the Executive Committee (Excom). Charlie Fryling and Harvey Stern were re-elected to their positions and David Brown of Baton Rouge was newly elected to fill an available seat on the committee. Members of the 2013 Delta Excom and contact information are listed in the left column of the newsletter.

Nancy Grush has taken over the responsibility as Chapter Treasurer from John Westra. David Brown will take on the Legal Issues Committee. Dean Wilson serves as "Atchafalaya Issues" chair. Harvey Stern continues as "Cypress Legacy" chair. Stacey Scarce is the Outings chair.

We are fortunate to also have our chapter members



David Brown

Bayou St John (a State Scenic river) dam removal and recovery.

New Orleans Outings

February 16
Hike the Big Branch NWR
Boy Scout Trail
contact Devin Martin
985-209-5454

devinmartin@sierraclub.org

February 24th
Mississippi River Bike Trail;
1:00pm;

For details, contact Devin Martin:
985-209-5454

devin.martin@sierraclub.org

March 17

To support the McMain's Children's Developmental Center, the Sierra Club New Orleans Group would like to see how many people are interested in riding one of the three different rides on Sun. March 17th.

5th Annual "No Such Thing as Impossible®" Bike Ride
Wheels to Succeed and McMains Children's Developmental Center
Sunday, March 17, 2013 in St. Francisville, LA

75-mile ride at 8:00am \$40.00
40-mile ride at 9:30am \$40.00
10-mile ride at 11:00am \$40.00

As we continue the reinvention of the Trail Guide, we will be looking

advisors that include Willy Fontenot, our Conservation Chair; Barry Kohl, science advisor; Darrell Hunt, our lobbyist; Devin Martin, our Chapter Organizer; George "Hugh" Penn, our Scenic Rivers legal advisor and Jason Faulk, Excom secretary.

Leslie March continues as our contract bookkeeper and newsletter editor.

We look forward to working with this intrepid group to accomplish great things in the coming year.

Delta Chapter Updates

January 25, 2013.

We thought you would like to know what happened next in some of the stories we have been covering in the Delta Sierran.

The Campaign to save the St. Martin School Board Trees

The St. Martin Parish School Board in August withdrew from a contract to cut cypress and other trees off of a 640 acre wetland tract. This was good news to all of us who worked to convince the school board to save the trees. We were also happy to find out that Louisiana Department of Natural Resources had offered the school board funds in an amount equal to what they would have made on the logging, to purchase conservation easements that would have protected the trees into perpetuity. Recently we have found that the school board turned down the funds for

for people to help with the biking sections. For more info and to RSVP:
Vance Levesque:
mrkahuna@juno.com.;

Recycle your beads
Go to [ARC](#) for locations



Our Future in Balance
A Community Meeting
Wednesday, February 27
Belle Chasse Auditorium
Belle Chasse, LA
For details, contact Devin Martin

EPA Gulf of Mexico
Environmental Justice Conference
March 1-2
Mississippi Coast
Coliseum and Convention Center
Biloxi, MS
<http://epa.gov/gmpo/>

Trail Guide Guidelines

conservation easements, alleging that they did not want to obstruct possible future uses of the land.

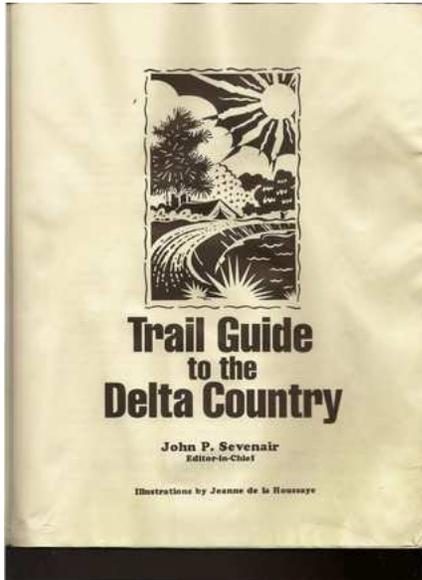
Sierra Club Delta Chapter is disappointed that the school board did not agree to permanent conservation easements. The school board should know that conservation easements only protect the trees and do not prevent other uses of the land like the exercise of mineral rights, bird watching, hunting and fishing.

We are very concerned that the St. Martin Parish School Board continues to expose the forested treasure that they own to future destruction. We are concerned that the school board could reverse itself at some time in the future and proceed to cut cypress trees that will never grow back because of changed environmental conditions. We want to assure Delta Chapter members that we will be watching this case carefully for any future proposal to cut cypress in wetlands.

Pipeline across the Atchafalaya Basin

This is to let Delta Chapter members know that we are currently negotiating with an oil company that intends to file for Corps of Engineers permits to lay a pipeline across the Atchafalaya Basin. We made our position clear to Shell Oil that any new pipelines should follow existing pipeline right of ways and that naturally occurring flows, that existed prior to the original pipeline construction, must be restored. There are miles of pipelines in the Basin flanked by huge spoil piles with no gaps to allow natural water flows. Many of them are out of compliance with their permits. We want the oil companies to bring the pipelines into compliance with their permits, install gaps and remove

The Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club was in its infancy when Byron Almquist put together some mimeographed sheets and leaflets in envelopes and sold this under the name Outings Kit. By 1992, it was a highly popular guide edited by John Sevenair and illustrated by the late Jeanne De la Houssaye.



With the aftermath of Katrina changing the landscape in innumerable ways, and with a reemphasis to get people outdoors, the decision was made to enroll people to update as many of the 100 hiking, biking and canoe trails as possible, and add any new ones since 1992.

Scouting and Writing Procedure

Step 1: Email Vance Levesque (mrkahuna@juno.com) to get the map of trails in the old Trail Guide.

Step 2: After you have seen the pdfs, decide which trails you would like to scout

Step 3: Get out there! Take lots of notes, take some pictures, use the categories on the checklist below to get started. Have Fun!

Step 4: Condense your notes into a brief article that you noted while on the trail. Make sure to include fun flora/fauna details and perhaps anecdotes to illustrate the experience. Email this first draft to Devin Martin (devin.martin.sc@gmail.com) AND Colleen Morgan (ccolleen526@gmail.com).

CHECKLIST:

blockages in order to return natural water flows to large sections of the Basin.

Shell Oil has chosen an existing pipeline right-of-way and has been working with us to identify areas affected by the pipeline. They have said that they are willing to do whatever it takes within "reason" to restore the hydrology affected by the pipeline.

We think this represents a great opportunity for the oil company to obtain permits for pipeline construction without legal challenge, and for all of us to regain natural water flows in the Basin. Delta Chapter Atchafalaya Basin Chair, Dean Wilson has been instrumental in this negotiation.

Morganza to the Gulf

The potentially disastrous Morganza to the Gulf (MTG) levee system has again reared its ugly head. The concern now is that there is potentially so much money available from the BP settlement that MTG could actually get built, even with huge projected cost increases. The project is an attempt to "wall off" a large area of southwest Louisiana from future Gulf storm surges. As currently drawn the project would isolate and impound 70,000 acres (109 sq mi) of natural wetland, assuring their destruction.

The current draft plan rejects the common sense ["Multiple lines of Defense"](#) alignment advocated by Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and other advocates for coastal protection and restoration. The multiple lines of defense strategy would use natural wetlands and other lower cost common sense measures to defend the coast.

The US Army Corps of Engineers revised programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for MTG is out for

Type of Trail:
 Region:
 Name of Trail:
 Site Scoper:
 Parking (suggested v. unsafe):
 Level of difficulty:
 Type of ecosystem:
 Length of trail:
 Normal duration of trip:
 Cover (i.e. closed canopy, full sun):
 Typical wildlife sightings:
 Camping along the route?:
 Getting there (directions to trailhead/put-in):
 Suggested route with landmarks:
 Interesting notes:
 Resources:
 Contact information for conditions:
 Map:
 Weather (bad weather for trail?):
 Supply list (make sure enough water):
 Safety information:
 Dangers/important information:
 Construction on the route (signage? Duration?):

With your help we can get people outdoors again!! Isn't that one of the main reasons you joined the Sierra Club in the FIRST place. And you will finally be given credit for your trail!!!!



Photos from original Trail Guide

Update on the Delta Website

The Delta Chapter website has needed some upgrades for some time. After some months of struggling with a new format proposed by the National Club to help make the Chapter pages more consistent and easier to update, the Delta Chapter has engaged a contractor to help us reformat our Chapter web site to be easier to use and organized to be informative and relevant to our issues.

comments. Delta Chapter will be working with our science advisors to develop substantive comments on the draft plan for the Morganza to the Gulf levee system.



Legislative Update

The legislative climate for the 2013 session does not look good. Legislative committees are under total control of the governor who is not responsive to the press and is insensitive to environmental concerns. The State legislative session starts April 8, 2013. We will be in defensive role. We will have to defend the La solar energy tax rebate. We will have to fight [Agenda 21](#) legislation (hostile to sustainability goals promoted by the UN) and

The work is scheduled to be completed in mid February. We will advise Chapter members by email when the new web page is available.

www.louisiana.sierraclub.org



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About Us

The Delta Sierran is published four times a year by the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Articles and editing by local volunteers. Production by Penguin Platitudes. Text of articles may be reprinted if duly acknowledged. Artwork and photos may not be reproduced without permission.

The Delta Chapter is 3,000 of your neighbors supporting the work of the Sierra Club in Louisiana. We advance the cause of protecting Louisiana's environment in a variety of ways, including lobbying the state legislature in Baton Rouge to create clean jobs, develop renewable resources like wind and solar and most important to protect our natural heritage for our families and future generations.

We work to save the Cypress, keep the Atchafalaya Wet and Wild and promote restoring our wetlands, the natural coastal barriers. We also go outside and enjoy our beautiful planet with canoe trips, hikes and camp outs.

Contributions and Announcements for the next issue of the Delta Sierran should be sent no later than April 15, 2013. Please forward material via email to lesliemarch@hotmail.com.

attempts to remove or prevent any Renewable Portfolio Standards. On the positive side there will be a conservation easement bill that we can support.

We plan to file a bill to designate Bayou Teche for inclusion the state's Historic and Scenic River System and there may be legislation relating to the Bayou Corne sinkhole. Ideally we could bring back the environmental scorecard that we had under Governor Buddy Romer but we know that would meet strong opposition from industry.

Sierra Club lobbyist Darrell Hunt will be watching things for us during the legislative session. David Brown will also be helping us to monitor the legislative hearings. Delta Chapter will be organizing a social event with legislators in Baton Rouge during the early part of the legislative session. In mid February you will be able to go to the Delta Chapter website and see updates and events related to the state legislature.

Delta Chapter Retreat Lake Fausse Point State Park March 15-17, 2013

This year's Delta Chapter Retreat will be held on March 15-17, 2013. This is an annual, recreational event we do for our members and their guests. All are welcome.



We had fun in 2012, See you this year!

Schedule goes like this: Arrive Friday night for beverages, light dinner (pot luck welcome), and social time. Saturday go canoeing, bike ride, or go for a hike. Saturday programs may include frog counting with Stacey Scarce, birding, cypress in the Atchafalaya Basin, Atchafalaya canoe trails and knot tying with Harold Schoeffler. Saturday evening we will do a catfish fry or crawfish boil. After dinner on Saturday you can go on a night cruise with Harold in his party boat out to Lake Dauterive. Sunday morning we have a pancake breakfast, clean up and check out of cabins.

We have four cabins reserved. Each cabin sleeps up to eight people. If you would rather tent you can call the park at (337) 229-6173. Day trippers are welcome. Be prepared for weather, most meals will be outside or on the front porch. We need to know how many cabins to keep on reserve so let us know by Feb 27 if you want cabin space.

To reserve food only please let us know by Tues, Mar 12. To reserve sleeping space in a cabin please contact Diane Casteel at 999diane@gmail.com or by phone at 985-630-2434. Then send check made out to the Delta Chapter to: Sierra Club Delta Chapter, P.O. Box 52503, Lafayette, LA 70505. Please include a note identifying which of the following you will be paying for.

Charges:

Fri night cabin and food \$30 (Fri dinner, Sat breakfast)

Sat food only \$20 (Sat breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Sat night cabin and food \$45 (Sat lunch, dinner and Sun breakfast)

Sun food only \$6

Breakfast times are 8 am to 9:30 am Sat and Sun.

Lunch time is 12 noon to 1 pm on Sat.

Dinner times are 6 pm to 8 pm Fri and Sat.

Meals are served at Chapter Chair's cabin.

Bring your canoe or rent canoes at the state park for \$20/day. Rent a kayak for \$30/day. Flat boats for fishing rent for \$15/day. Web address for further info is: [Lake Fausse Park](#) or

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ilakefaus.aspx>

. The physical address for gps is: 5400 Levee Road, St. Martinville, LA 70582

Tulane Conference Features Scenic Rivers Panel

Regular readers of the Delta Chapter e-zine and newsletters know that we have been engaged for the last few years in a campaign to persuade the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to Manage the sixty three (63) Louisiana Scenic Rivers pursuant to the mandates of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act. It is a big job. The scenic river system contains 3,300 river miles. We have some big news to report.

First, The Delta Chapter will conduct a panel on the

Louisiana Scenic Rivers System on Saturday, February 23 at 10 am at the Tulane Environmental Summit. You can check event details and sign up to attend [here](#).

We have an all star lineup:

Byron Almquist, owner of Canoe and Trail Adventures, will discuss the Scenic Rivers System from a paddlers perspective.

Keith Cascio, Scenic Rivers Coordinator for LDWF, will walk us thru the permitting process. [See the).

Barry Kohl, science advisor to Sierra Club will discuss the efforts to build fish passages for the threatened Gulf Sturgeon on the West Pearl and the Bogue Chitto.

Attorney Richard Exnicios will walk us thru the Scenic Rivers Act.

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/scenic-rivers-1>

Matthew Allan, President of the Little Tchefuncte River Association will discuss their many successful actions to protect their river under the Act.

Hugh Penn, Attorney for the Delta Chapter will be the Moderator.

Second, the Delta Chapter has several wins to report. In the time we have been working on this, the Secretary of DWF has agreed to write new Management Plans for the Scenic Bayou Liberty, the Scenic Bayou Manchac and the Scenic West Pearl. These three new plans will serve as templates for other new plans state wide and will result in better protection of existing water quality, wilderness qualities and scenic values.

We are also working with LDWF to improve their

website for use by the public. We are working to persuade LDWF to post the eight hundred (800) existing Scenic Rivers Permits, all 63 Management Plans and new Applications for Scenic Rivers Permits online for public comment. In addition, we drafted and pushed for passage in the 2012 state legislature of HCR 49 which requires LDWF to study Bayou Teche for inclusion in the Scenic Rivers System.

We are pushing for the LDWF study and public hearings to be complete in time such that a bill to include Bayou Teche in the Scenic Rivers System could be introduced in the 2013 legislative session.



Bayou Bienvenu

The restoration of the Bayou Bienvenue wetlands has been a key part of Darryl Malek-Wiley's environmental justice work for the Sierra Club over the last seven years. As a continuation of the commitment by the community to restore Bayou Bienvenu, a community workshop was held on the 27th of November. About 50 people attending representing the Community and various involved non profits.



If you recall, the Delta Chapter has been involved in this project since the beginning. In fact, last year this

author published a paper on sustainable recovery in the lower ninth ward that included insights on Bayou Bienvenu.

"The surprise element of the sustainable recovery is the reconnection to nature through the Bayou Bienvenue project. Each subject had their own version of this moment that occurred during the planning process. There was a discussion of creating neighborhood parks; Steve Ringo, a local resident reminded people that there already was a location for recreation in the Lower Ninth Ward (personal communications, September 23-October 3, 2011). He told the gathering about Bayou Bienvenue, a cypress bayou on the other side of the levee, where as a boy, he used to fish and swim in the 1950's. The response from other residents was What Bayou? (personal communications, September 23-October 3, 2011).

Bayou Bienvenue is today a brackish body of water with dead Cypress trunks. Before the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet was built, the Bayou was an active wetland. Members of the community came away from the planning meeting and wanted to see the Bayou. They had to climb over a metal levee to see the water from the Lower Ninth Ward. Volunteers cleaned brush away from the wall. The community started going to the Bayou.

In 2007, Herb Wang and his students from the University of Wisconsin decided to make restoration of the bayou their summer practicum. They came back again in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The University of Colorado at Denver architectural students came down in 2006 to do some planning workshops and returned a year later with designs and lumber. They built a platform and stairs to make access to the Bayou easier.

The community holds regular crab boils on the platform. The large tour buses that come to look at the Lower Ninth Ward always stop at the platform. A local resident, John Taylor keeps the grass mowed and watches over the Bayou.

From this connection to nature has come healing according to John Taylor (personal communication, September 27, 2011). It has also brought plans for a Wetland Research Center and tourist activities. The University of Wisconsin students performed a survey with people visiting the platform over a course of 15 days. The purpose of the survey was to determine the cost effectiveness of the platform and projecting for costs associated with maintaining the platform, adding bathrooms and picnic table. The conclusion of the study was that use would increase if amenities were added to the location (Schulz, Hu, Zepeda, Ross & Sieffert, 2010)."[1]

From the results of the study by the University of Wisconsin students, an effort has been made to continue to add amenities to reconnect the community with the Bayou. Plans include a Wetland Education Center. The recent community meeting focused on the progress that has been made toward restoring the Bayou and talked about the next steps.

Amanda Moore from National Wildlife Federation presented "museum quality" signs that will be added to the platform at the end of Caffin Avenue.

Darryl Malek-Wiley, EJ Sierra Club, talked about the number of University degrees that have been earned trying to answer the question of how to restore the Bayou but admitted that the answer to the solution is still out there.

Tim Doody, president of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East brought up the question of building levees along the neighborhood that will meet FEMA's approval in order to keep flood insurance affordable.

Greg Miller from the US Army Corps of Engineers talked about the next phase of work. As reported by the

Baton Rouge Advocate, "The plans are to "focus on restoration, including plans to rebuild cypress forests, rebuild land, protect the shorelines along Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne, build oyster reefs and expand recreational opportunities for residents, Miller said. The \$3 billion plan has been signed by the chief of the corps and will be reviewed by Congress."[2]

After these comments, Doody threw in the facts that there are still funding hurdles for any work and the question as to where the state will come up with matching funds is still to be resolved. Malek-Wiley pointed out that there is a possibility that some of the BP money could be used for this project.

All of the speakers recommended that the community and nonprofits continue to pursue their plans for the Bayou. Harden also reported that "Arthur Johnson, interim director for the Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development, said it's important that residents of the neighborhood are not overlooked, that they remain engaged and that they benefit from all the research and investment in the area."[3]

"We live here," he said. "This is what we live with every day."

For more information about the Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development ([CSED](#)).

[1] March, L. (2012) Holy Cross and Lower Ninth Ward at Five.

[2] Harden, K. D. (2012) <http://theadvocate.com>

/news/neworleans/4547912-148/reclamation-effort-sees-progress

[3] Harden, K. D. (2012) <http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/4547912-148/reclamation-effort-sees-progress>



Plan your own legacy

You can make a lasting difference for Louisiana's fragile environment. Whether you have a large or modest estate, the people and causes in your life are honored by your remembrance. We'll invest your bequest or memorial gift in the work you care

most about-protecting Louisiana. Working with Sierra Club's gift planning team, you can create a legacy that has meaning for you and saves taxes for your heirs. Drafting or updating your will is easier than you think. Sierra Club can help. Go to www.sierraclub.org/giftplanning for more info, or call our Chapter Chair Woody Martin at 337-298-8380.

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