

Sierra in Louisiana Springs Back



Delta Sierran

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Delta Chapter Newsletter www.louisiana.sierraclub.org April/May 2007

Cypress Day of Action: April 27th

April 27th is Arbor Day, a day set aside to honor and preserve trees. This year take the opportunity to protect our state tree by taking part in the Cypress Day of Action. This day is sponsored by the Save Our Cypress Coalition that was formed last July to call attention to the eminent danger our dwindling coastal cypress forests face of being mulched to extinction. Innocent gardeners are duped by the mulch industry through marketing to think that Cypress mulch is a byproduct of the lumber industry, that it is "environmentally harvested" and that it is a product superior to other mulches. The Save Our Cypress Coalition is asking our members and other people across the country to say no to using Cypress Mulch and to ask the big box retailers to stop selling Cypress mulch until they have proof that the mulch was harvested from sustainable forests.

Your help is needed to get the word out to retailers that we do not want them to continue selling the product that is decimating our coastal hurricane protection one chip at a time. "We have organized this day of action throughout the gulf states," says Dan Favre of the Gulf Restoration Network and New Orleans Group member. "There are steps that everyone can take whether it is dropping off a letter to a store, sending in a postcard, making a phone call or participating in a rally at selected sites." He adds that this day of action is for all of us to participate at our own chosen levels. Every Action counts. Events are planned in Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. Please go to the saveourcypress.org website for letters and postcards to download and get updated information about events in your community. You can contact Dan Favre for more information or to organize an event in your area at 504-525-1528.



Save Our Cypress Day of Action Arbor Day April 27th, 2007

- Deliver a Letter**
- Send a Postcard**
- Talk to a Store Manager**
- Attend a Rally**
- Talk to a co-worker or Neighbor**



View From the Chair

Here I am sitting down to what may be my last stint as editor of the Delta Sierran. I greatly appreciated all of the positive feedback I received about the last issue. I would like to thank folks from the groups that made the issue possible, Woody, Jeff, Aaron and of course Maura Wood. I have several candidates who will be working on the next issue. Hopefully this will be a return to normalcy and we will be able to publish more frequently.

I have a few things on my mind that I would like to share with you. One is that the national club is having an election. You probably have received your ballot by now. I want to encourage you to vote. Our Excom has not elected to do endorsements but feel free to ask us personally who we support. In the last year it has been a benefit for us that we have had friends on the board that realize the unique situation that we are in. So I ask you to look at the candidates closely and to vote. We had a very low turnout last year. Our state election also had a low turnout although I hope that was due to the late arrival of the newsletter

and subsequent mix-ups. We will go back to the separate mailed ballots next year.

Another matter is communication within our state via email. We would like to establish a state-wide listserve that we could use to contact our members quickly. If you would like to be included on this list please email me at lesliemarch@hotmail.com. The legislature will be in session soon and it would be useful if we could contact you about bills so we can use our numbers to help pass progressive legislation. We would also be able to provide information about group events and outings in a timely manner.

I am in the process of sending out the "March Appeal" letters. We didn't send any out last year because many of our members were displaced and trying to get their lives back together. We appreciate the fact that you may still be in the same boat this year. If you are able, please give generously. This money goes directly to the chapter and will be spent solely in Louisiana.

Be sure and take action on the Cypress day of action, April 27th.

Thank you all for your continued support and strength to speak out to save this place we love.

Sincerely,

Leslie March

P.S. I had a blast at the retreat, hope to see you all again next year. Hope to see everyone at the Green Tie Awards.



Darryl Malik-Wiley, Sierra Club Regional Representative on the prowl with his camera caught at the grand opening of the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and development.

The Delta Sierran is a bi-monthly publication of the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Members of the Delta Chapter receive the publication as a membership benefit. Non-members may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.00 for one annual membership to the Delta Chapter at P. O. Box 19469, New Orleans, LA 70179-0469. Back issues of the Delta Sierran can be viewed on our website at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org>.

Address Changes: To change your address, send your name, old and new addresses and member number to:
Sierra Club Member Services
PO Box 52968

Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968
or email the information to:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor at lesliemarch@hotmail.com or mail to Leslie March, 67017 Dolan St., Mandeville, LA 70471

First Annual Green Tie Awards

Louisiana Lorax Award for Youth Engagement

The Delta Chapter Excom voted to present the Lorax Award to Stacey Hess at the first annual Green Tie Awards. Stacey Hess graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a degree in Environmental Science in year 2000, and became state certified as a teacher in secondary biology and environmental science. She is the coordinator of the Lafayette Middle Schools environmental education program, having taken over the program shortly after its establishment. Lafayette Middle School is the “School of Choice” in the public school system to which students from around Lafayette Parish come to study earth sciences and ecology. There are about 40 students in the program.

Students in the program take an environmental elective to attend

the course, and are required to participate in the after school environmental club. Students work with partners during class time on computerized software modules covering subjects such as water management, farm management, soil science, and ecology. Class time is also devoted to inside projects such as seed germination and plant classification. The class project this year was to establish a school recycling program including information dissemination to students, signs, containers, and coordination with the City of Lafayette recycling program.

Outside structures and projects on school grounds include a butterfly dome, worm farm, wetlands pond, and soon to be constructed greenhouse. The construction projects are supported by grants from NOAA, Junior League of Lafayette, Lafayette Education Foundation, and

others. Another field project is the adoption by the class of Fifi Island near Grand Isle as a coastal restoration project. The class picks black mangrove seeds and plants them on Fifi Island to help stabilize the small barrier island.

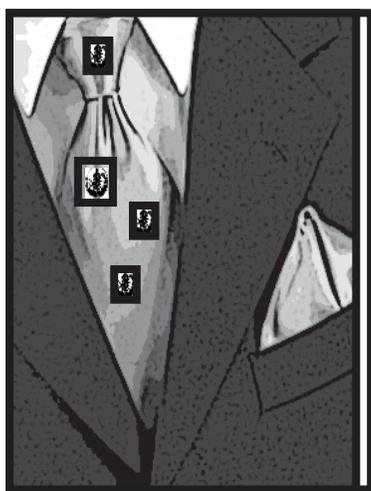
Stacey holds meetings with other teachers in the school system to encourage integration of environmental subjects with classroom teaching of other subjects. She consults with and develops projects in coordination with professors and environmental related programs at LSU, UL and the National Wetlands Research Center and the Acadiana Nature Station.

Her plans for the next few years include completion of the many ongoing projects, establishment of an earth day celebration based in the school program on school grounds, and extension of the program to include visiting groups of teachers and students from other schools in the area. Her students at Lafayette Middle School would engage in peer teaching and demonstrations for the visiting students.

Stacey is highly motivated and very creative in development and extension of the environmental education program. The Sierra Club hopes that her program can serve as a model for others and an integral part of maintaining a clean and healthy Louisiana.

To read more about the awards and award winners, see www.louisianasierraclub.org.

Contributed by Heywood Martin of the Acadian Group.



JOIN THE DELTA CHAPTER TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING LEADERS IN THE SIERRA CLUB AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

DELTA CHAPTER FIRST ANNUAL GREEN TIE AWARDS

APRIL 21

BOUTIN'S

RESTAURANT

8322 BLUEBONNET

BOULEVARD

BATON ROUGE, LA

7-9 PM

COME CELEBRATE

CAJUN FOOD, CASH BAR

LIVE MUSIC

AND

DANCING

Chapter News

Have you ever considered getting involved with the Sierra Club on a state level? Do you live in an area where there isn't an active group? Here is your chance to get more involved with the club. We are looking for volunteers in a variety of roles.

We need activists to serve on all of the chapter issue committees. A list of committees and contact information is on the back of the newsletter.

In particular, we are looking for three positions,

Chapter Outings Leaders

Would you like to share your love of the outdoors with other Sierrans? Work with the group outings leaders to revitalize our state-wide outings program. We will provide all necessary training you will need, both leadership and medical.

Newsletter Committee

We need people to layout, edit and do some writing for a quarterly mailed newsletter. The newsletter is mailed out by a mailhouse so no mailing parties. This person will work with the chapter's webmasters to put out a short e-newsletter bimonthly. Desktop publishing experience is useful but not necessary. We will be glad to train you.

Membership Chair

We need someone to contact new members by mail or email to welcome them to the club. The membership chair is also responsible for planning events to encourage active and informed members.

Volunteer Coordinator

Assists the chapter and groups in recruiting volunteers for tabling and other club related events. Works with the Membership Chair to help members find volunteer opportunities that match their conservation and outing interests.

If you are interested in any of these positions or want to get more involved in another capacity with the club, please contact Leslie March, 985-871-6695 or lesliemarch@hotmail.com.



Volunteer Opportunities

Earth Day 2007

Check with your local group chair.

April 27, 2007

Cypress Day of Action

Consult www.louisianasierra-club.org for details.

May 8, 2007

Environmental Lobby Day

Join fellow nature lovers in Baton Rouge for lobbying and a lunch with legislators. Call or email Aaron Viles, aaron@happygulf.org for details.

Carpool from Northshore-call



Sierra Club Outings

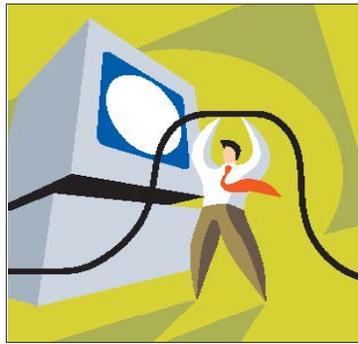
Hiking, Canoeing,
Campfires
Great Company and Good Food.
Come join us!
Check your local group website or the Chapter Blog



Chapter Blogs Do You?

The "Official Delta Chapter blog" was born in June of 2006 because the Delta Chapter Webmaster, Rene' Maggio, likes to play with new technology. "Blogging is not new technology, but it was new to us" he said. Sometimes he likes to use the Website of the Delta Chapter (www.louisiana.sierraclub.org) as what he likes to call his "guinea pig." "I can try new things out on the Chapter Website because even though the Sierra Club is a very 'organic' environmental group, it is very forward thinking in its technology usage" he said. Despite that fact, other than a couple of blogs produced by the Sierra Club itself, the Delta Chapter was one of the first Chapters in the country to start a blog.

The first entry to the blog was posted on June 22nd, 2006. It basically welcomed the world to our blog. "We actually started the blog before the Club had even finalized it's blogging policy" Maggio said. "We did run the idea past the Web staff in San Francisco and got their blessing though". Even though the blog presently only has a couple of contributors, it's content has been slowly and steadily growing. "I think that once members become more aware of its existence, it will continue to grow" Maggio said. "Anyone can comment on any entry in the blog". The comment system is open to all comers. "We do moderate the comments just to keep it on track, but we welcome diverse



opinions" said Maggio.

"We would also welcome more contributors" said Maggio. Members who want to write for the blog need to be set up in advance to do so. "If they drop me an email, I'll set them up as contributors". The Delta Chapter will still moderate any contributions to the blog to stay within the communications guidelines of the National Sierra Club. "Of course the disclaimer at the bottom of our blog does give us some wiggle room on allowable content" said Maggio. Thank goodness for wiggle room.

Send an email to: webmaster@louisiana.sierraclub.org if you want to become a contributor to the Delta Chapter blog. You will then be given access to the blog. Happy blogging.

(editor's note: up to date local information will be posted on the blog)

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR MORATORIUM ON CORN BASED PLASTIC BOTTLES

The economics of making ethanol and plastics from plants have improved as the price of oil and gas, against which they compete, has increased. There is no disputing that a shift to a carbohydrate economy can help to move us away from our dependence on non-sustainable petroleum.

But that transition should be done in such a way that does not disrupt or destroy existing recycling infrastructures.

Polylactic acid (PLA), the first commercial bio-based plastic produced from corn, made its debut in 2002, and was initially used for carryout food packaging and service ware. This is a good use for bio-based

plastics, as there is no existing recycling system in place for these items, and it will be a better use when cellulosic feedstocks are used instead of corn. However, PLA is now also being pushed by its manufacturer, NatureWorks, for bottles. The company has focused on PLA unique capacity to be composted, since there is no existing recycling infrastructure to handle its end of life.

In practice, however, even though that is theoretically possible, PLA bottles will not be composted because of the few commercial facilities capable of doing so and the high cost of reaching those sites, which will charge instead of pay to accept them. In any event, composting does not recover the energy that went into producing the bottle, as recycling does.

Yet, if PLA is used in bottles, not only is there no market on the horizon to recycle it, but also, PLA's growing presence in bottle markets could significantly undermine existing

SPRING GARDEN TIP

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS

USE CYPRESS MULCH

PROTECT OUR COASTAL FORESTS BY USING ALTERNATIVES LIKE PINE STRAW AND EUCALYPTUS

SAVE OUR CYPRESS.ORG



Acadian Group

Southern University Meets The Crawfishermen

ACADIAN GROUP BOARD & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Acadian Group of the Sierra Club holds its' Board and Conservation Committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Acadiana Symphony Building (412 Travis St., Lafayette, LA) at 6:30 PM.

ACADIAN GROUP GENERAL MEETING & LECTURE SERIES

Acadian Group of the Sierra Club has a general meeting and hosts a guest lecture on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Acadiana Symphony Building at 6:30 PM.

The Acadian Group of the Sierra Club is always looking for speakers. Past speakers have talked about wildlife, native plants, invasive species, reforestation, environmental education, the news media, and environmental concerns of local or global nature. If you would like to volunteer or suggest a speaker for the general meeting please contact Harold Schoeffler, Acadian Group Chairman at 337-234-4042.

ACADIAN GROUP OUTINGS

The Acadian Group has an active outing program. Check their website at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/> or call Harold Schoeffler at 337-234-4042 for more information.



Crawfisherman and Map of Atchafalaya

Southern University, under contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), came to Willis Boudreaux's Camp in Catahoula to meet with a group of about 40 persons including crawfishermen and Sierra Club representatives on Tuesday Feb 13. Southern University is working to gather input on the USACE Environmental Impact Statement and management plans for the Atchafalaya Basin.

Southern University representatives came expecting specific suggestions for correction of problems in the Beau Bayou, Cocodrie Swamp and Buffalo Cove Water Management Units. Southern University representatives got that and much more during the course of a courteous but outspoken discussion on issues related to the health of the Atchafalaya Basin. Key issues raised were as follows:

- 1) The Corps needs to work towards definition of the admiralty high water mark in the basin, thus defining the boundary between public and private land. Public money should be

focused on benefiting those areas of the basin that are open for public access for hunting, fishing, boating and camping and other uses.

- 2) Large areas that had been productive fisheries have been lost to oilfield development because pipeline channels, spoilbanks and dams obstruct the natural flow of water through the basin. Waste oilfield brine and chemicals contaminate water and kill wildlife and trees. The USACE permitting and enforcement process does not assure that areas of the basin developed by the energy industry will be returned to natural conditions when industry leaves the area. Returning the basin to its natural productivity requires filling in of channels, and removal of spoil banks and dams, and requires cleanup of chemically damaged areas. Recovery of the fisheries should not come at public expense but should be supported by the oil companies that have taken their profits out of the basin but have not cleaned up their mess. Numerous specific examples

Continued page 7



Representative from Southern

Fisherman from page 6

were cited during the meeting that illustrate the destruction of habitat by oilfield development. The comparison was made that when a pipeline goes through a sugar cane field, the surface repair perfectly restores the capability to farm the sugar cane. But when the pipeline crosses the levee into the basin, the failure to restore natural conditions causes habitat destruction and economic loss.

3) Water flow distribution between the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya basin regulated by USACE at the Simmsport locks is optimized for electric power generation, depriving the basin of adequate flows to maintain aquatic ecosystems. This appears to continue even when there is adequate water in the river for both uses.

Continued Next Column

Fishermen Continued

4) Comments made by crawfishermen in past planning exercises do not appear to have had any effect. The group even noted that comments they had made at a meeting on the Henderson Water Management Unit that was held several months ago did not appear on the printed draft public comment maps that were brought by Southern University to this meeting.

The crawfishermen, represented by the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association (LCPA) have a longstanding interest in the health of the Atchafalaya Basin. Their families have made their living fishing and hunting in the basin for many years. This gives them a unique and close up view of the water quality and habitat. They consider themselves to be the “canary in the cage”, the ones who can give early warning of deteriorated conditions in the basin. They have been outspoken for years, apparently without effect. The Acadian Group of the Sierra Club works closely with the LCPA because we respect their knowledge and ties to the natural environment in the Atchafalaya Basin. But is anybody in positions of authority listening to them? Why do they have to speak to power through layers of information gathering contractors instead of being able to speak directly with an appropriate level of authority in the USACE. Where is the needed commitment to defend and protect one of the finest natural areas in the eastern US? When will we see enforcement of appropriate standards for remediation and recovery in the

PET Bottles continued from page 5

recycling programs’ economics – first, by disrupting successful PET recovery programs and, next, by losing the high value in the PET bottles it displaces.

A coalition of recycling organizations, including the Grassroots Recycling Network, the Plastic Redesign Project, the Container Recycling Institute, the Institute for Local Self Reliance and all of the local non-profit recycling programs, is asking NatureWorks to place a temporary moratorium on PLA bottles until end of life systems are developed to recapture and recycle or compost them economically. Others are asked to join their petition.

If you would like to learn more about these issues, you can go to <http://plasticredesignproject.org/PLAHome.htm>. To sign a petition to NatureWorks for a moratorium, you can go directly to <http://www.plasticredesignproject.org/Petition.htm>.

For more information about the new Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee go to <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste>. To join the team working on zero waste and extended producer responsibility initiatives join our discussion group by signing up at the “Members-Only list subscription page”: <http://www.sierraclub.org/memberlists?listname=CONS-EQST-WASTE-FORUM>



2007 Chapter Retreat at Lake Fausse Point





2007 Chapter Retreat

Greetings from the Baton Rouge Group

The Baton Rouge group is located in and around our State Capital. Our members have been active in the Save Our Cypress Coalition, alternative transportation and trying to get East Baton Rouge signed on to the Cool Cities campaign. Our group is going through a reorganization and needs your volunteer help. If you would like to become more active on conservation issues or lead an outing or just want to come to a meeting check out our website at <http://batonrouge.sierraclub.org/> or call co-chair Jeffrey Dubinsky at 225-262-0460. We hope to see you on Lobby Day.

Sierra Club
Monthly Bag Lunch
4521 Jamestowne Ave
Suite 12-13
in Baton Rouge
Call Maura Wood
For Details

This year's retreat at Lake Fausse Point was a real success. We had about fifty people attend from all corners of the state. The Crawfishermen treated us to a terrific crawfish Boil on Saturday night. Kudos to Mike Bienvenu and his friends. Woody Martin of the Acadian group, Warren Zimmermann of Honey Island, Jeff Grimes of New Orleans along with a visiting professor from LULA played very danceable music. Diane Casteel and Bruce Barton showed us their Cajun "Dirty Dancing" steps and we all had a ball. Thank you all for coming, I am looking forward to next year. Here are some pictures and more on page 7. Please send me your pictures so we can post on the website.



Kisatchie Group Needs Volunteers Contact

***Jeff Wellborn at
318-868-5243
or
jwellborn@sport.
rr.com***





Serving St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes.

Meets on the third Thursday of the month, alternating between Excom meeting and General meetings. All members welcome at all meetings.

General meetings are at 7PM at the Mandeville Community Center, 3090 East Causeway Approach, Next meeting is June 21st. Check website for information.



Hazardous Waste Day II

After the overwhelming reception of the first Hazardous Waste Day, Honey Island and St Tammany Parish partnered for another drop off day. With the assistance of over 60 volunteers from the Kiwanis, Southeastern Louisiana State University, local educators, and parish employees. the event went very smoothly.

Kudus to Diane Casteel, Therese

Kwicz and Brett Henry for another succesful event. The parish intends to have a household hazardous waste dropoff every six months from now on.

The Honey Island Group is working on creating a debris management taskforce similiar to the Greenzone Taskforce in New Orleans. Anyone interested in working with us on this issue is welcome. You can call Leslie at 985-871-6695 or email at lesliemarch@hotmail.com.



Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature

For more information and confidential assistance Please complete the form and send it to:
John Calaway, Director, Gift Planning
#5 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
(435) 973-5639
Email: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone





New Orleans Group

The New Orleans Group is the largest group of the Delta Chapter. It's membership area includes the greater New Orleans region and Jefferson Parish. The group has been very involved in the recovery efforts in New Orleans. Members of other groups and concerned nonmembers are welcome at all of our meetings. The meeting dates listed below are for the monthly programs.

The Sierra Club New Orleans Group meetings are now held at the Carrollton United Methodist Church 921 S. Carrollton Ave, (Corner of Carrollton and Freret) use door on Freret St. side. Doors open at 6:30, program begins at 7 p.m. The programs are open to the public and are free of charge. To get the latest details, call 1-504-836-3062.

The New Orleans Excom meets periodically. All members are welcome to attend. Please email neworleans-chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org for info.

Earth Day Service Outing at John Lafitte State Park

There is no better place to be at this time of year with the giant blue irises blooming. Join your fellow Sierrans for a service project on Saturday April 21, 2007 from 9:00 AM until 12:30 PM. Our project, the day before the official earth day will be to help the park remove invasive species and do various maintenance projects. Hope that you can join us to preserve this amazing treasure so close to New Orleans. Please RSVP directly to Jeff Grimes at nolaoutings@gmail.com or 504-525-1528 ext 205. Bring shoes or boots that can get muddy, work clothes, sunglasses, work gloves, sun block, mosquito repellent and water. We will meet at the visitor's center at



Senate Hearing on Debris

The first field hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, held on Monday February 26, 2007 at the Louisiana Supreme Court, focused on the most pressing environmental challenges facing New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Seven U.S. Senators were present, including Louisiana's own Senators Landrieu and Vitter. Senator Boxer of California, the chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, initiated the hearing with opening statements from each of the committee members. Later, three separate panels of testimony were given which addressed storm protection infrastructure, debris management, and coastal restoration. The field hearing enabled the visiting senators to witness first hand the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, and question the field experts, government officials, and community development leaders selected to give testimony. In light of the many governmental blunders during the initial phases of recovery, the hearing sought to rectify past mistakes and establish a comprehensive plan of action for the improvement of New Orleans environmental quality.

Senator Cardin of Maryland articulated the need for an expedited recovery effort in his opening statement, "the government was unprepared, and it must improve... I saw the lower ninth ward...neighborhoods need our help!" It is apparent that Senator Cardin and the other visiting Senators of the committee are steadfast in their mission of helping the city of New Orleans.

Amongst the primary controversies discussed at the hearing was the federal government's role in mitigating environmental degradation from mismanaged hurricane debris in New Orleans East. Specifically, the Senate committee emphasized the need for clean closure of the Chef Menteur Landfill and the annulment of the Old Gentilly Landfill permit. Both landfill operations, under emergency conditions, accepted an expanded definition of construction and demolition (C & D) debris. This broader definition of C & D debris, established by the collaborative efforts of the LDEQ and the EPA, includes debris such as treated wood, carpet, and asbestos-contaminated sheet rock, unfit for

Continued page 11

Debris cont. from page 10

disposal in unlined Type III C & D landfills. Additionally, the Old Gentilly Landfill lacks a collection system for contaminated leachate and landfill gases. Though Chef Menteur was closed on August 15, 2006, none of the hazardous debris has been removed from the site and the Old Gentilly Landfill continues to accept materials banned under pre- Katrina LDEQ regulations.

Reverend Vien The Nguyen of Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East, testified on the second panel alongside Wilma Subra of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network and Mike McDaniel of the LDEQ. Reverend Vien The Nguyen highlighted in his testimony that the Chef Menteur landfill, located 1.2 miles from the edge of the Vietnamese community, places the community at risk. In addition to polluting the Maxent Canal, the main water source for residential vegetable gardens, the Chef Menteur Landfill contains large amounts of unsegregated waste that leaches into surrounding wetlands. Struck by the panel's testimonies, Senator Vitter publicly stated for the record that Chef Menteur needs to move towards clean closure- a substantial victory for nearby communities and environmentalists alike. Nonetheless, the question of where to deposit the removed waste and debris still stands. Upon closure of the Chef Menteur site, Jefferson Parish would need to dispose of Chef Menteur's former contents, and a formalized agreement of how this would occur has yet to be established.

Later in the panel, when asked by Senator Vitter why Old Gentilly still accepts debris unfit for Type III C & D landfills, Mike McDaniel responded, "the need to accommodate hurricane debris." Vitter then emphasized that the proper requirements for the permitting of Old Gentilly were ignored and, as a result, he recommends that the LDEQ revoke the landfill's permit, rather than simply "fix the paper work." In the LDEQ's defense, McDaniel argued that the reconciliation of FEMA and the EPA was confusing, and that it took six months to develop an asbestos protocol to present to the EPA. He concluded by saying that a great lack of guidance arises in post- disaster circumstances

and that had the proper protocols been in place prior to Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, much of the confusion could have been avoided. Hurricanes of this magnitude presented "new ground, and it took time to work through issues."

Hurricane Katrina exacerbated environmental challenges in New Orleans. As the city moves forward with its recovery effort, we need to prepare for future crises in order to avoid letting governmental entities use creative regulatory flexibility. It is such flexibility that permitted the dumping of hazardous debris in the Chef Menteur and Old Gentilly Landfills. Additionally, while the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works remains focused on post- Katrina damage, according to Senator Boxer, "there is a great need to work together in a bi- partisan way." Collaboration amongst parties will greatly enhance the rate and success of environmental remediation in disaster affected areas, like New Orleans East. While the Senate Committee plans on presenting the issues discussed at the hearing on the floor of the Senate by the end of March, it has already made great strides in protecting the citizens of New Orleans East and the environmental quality of the area. Apart from promoting the closure of the Chef Menteur site and the revocation of Old Gentilly's permit, the committee requested that the EPA region 6 report its plan for mitigating illegal dumping, encouraged the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group to act as a Federal Advisory Committee for debris issues, and intends to deploy the EPA's and the Corps of Engineers' Inspector Generals to investigate the federal response to debris management and illegal dumping. At last, it seems that the necessary actions are being taken to enact environmental justice after Hurricane Katrina- though residents and community leaders may need to wait a while longer to witness the committee's promises, as the legislative process unfolds.

(this article submitted by Kristen Ardani on behalf of the GreenZone Taskforce. If you are interested in working for a regional debris management plan contact Leslie March at 985-871-6695 or lesliemarch@hotmail.com.

Blue Bins?

Help the Sierra Club bring back the Blue Bins!

18 months after Katrina, the city faces massive challenges. REbuilding, crime, affordable housing, expanded landfills and inadequate schools. Despite these factors, teh city signed fat contracts for expanded garbage service in teh french Quarter despite the protests of residents over the massive garbage cans needed for the automated system.

City Hall wants a Disneyfied French Quarter but they refuse to reinstate curbside recycling in the city. The City is ignoring the voices of citizens who recognize the energy savings and reduction of materials headed to landfills that recycling brings to the table.

Please visit this website to send a message to the Mayor and the City Council.

www.democracyinaction/dia/organizationsORG/campaignjsp?campaignKey+665

or send a handwritten letter to Mayor Ray Nagin, Sanitation director Veronica White and City Council President Oliver Thomas 1300 Perdido, New Orleans, La 70112





Sierra Club in Louisiana
 PO Box 19469
 New Orleans, LA 70179-0469

Non Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 New Orleans, LA
 Permit No. 304

Delta Excom Contacts

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At Large	Charlie FRYLING	225-766-3120	cfryling@cox.net
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Webpage Editor	Rene MAGGIO	504-251-8944	info@985computing.com
Newsletter	Leslie MARCH	985-871-6695	lesliemarch@hotmail.com
Membership Chair	Open		
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