



DELTA SIERRAN

DELTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.LOUISIANA.SIERRACLUB.ORG

WINTER 2008

SIERRA CLUB HAS ENDORSED BARACK OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT



**SIERRA CLUB
FOR OBAMA**

PHOTO CREDIT: SIERRA CLUB

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President. Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economy problems.

Highlights of Obama's Energy strategy include:

Providing relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills. His plan is to provide families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing the oil companies' record profits.

Investing \$150 billion over the next ten years in alternative sources of energy - wind and solar power, and advanced biofuels, in the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and development of a new digital electricity grid. This investment will create up to 5 million good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced and will create the billions in new economic activity that will put America back on the path to prosperity.

Requiring 25% of US electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increasing energy efficiency in the US 50% by 2030.

Attacking global warming. Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing global warming which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Rejecting drilling as the answer to our energy woes. Obama knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to pad Big Oil's bottom line won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now.

This Fall, The Sierra Club hopes to engage as many members in candidate campaign activities as possible. "The Obama campaign is putting together the largest and most sophisticated field operation in presidential history, and there will be meaningful ways for Sierra Club volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, the National Field Director for the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club will be working to recruit team leaders and volunteers for the Obama campaign and for a number of pro-environmental races in seven target states - Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Members from other states will also be encouraged to get involved by traveling to our target states to volunteer. Ken Brame, member of the Club's Political Committee, adds, "I hope Club members will do as much as they can for the Obama campaign and the Club-endorsed Congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference."

For those Club members who are able to travel to other locations to help with efforts on the ground, or for members in target states who are able to help by housing out-of-town volunteers, please visit: <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Obama2008>

- TOM VALTIN, NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB STAFF

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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, sponsoring a Mercury Public Education Campaign, raising public awareness about climate change, and working to keep the Atchafalaya Basin, America's greatest river swamp, wet and wild. In addition, we encourage our members to get outside and enjoy our beautiful planet.

The Sierra Club's members and supporters are more than 1.3 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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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

This year may be the biggest for the famed "Gulf Dead Zone". Floods in the upper Midwest have washed huge quantities of chemical fertilizers into tributaries of the Mississippi River moving an even higher than usual load of nitrogen from the watershed downstream to the Gulf of Mexico. The load of nitrogen causes hypoxia (lack of dissolved oxygen) in the river itself and in a huge area of the gulf, larger than the state of Massachusetts. The causes are fertilizer application to agricultural lands, the removal of upland wetlands due to development, and discharges of inadequately treated sewage. The culprits are anhydrous ammonia as Nitrogen from industrial agriculture, and phosphorous from point sources of sewage dumped into the watershed. The problem is not limited to the Mississippi River watershed. Thirty to forty percent of water quality impaired waters in the US are listed as impaired by nitrogen and/or phosphorous.

I recently attended Sierra Club Mississippi River Issue Team and Clean Water Network meetings in Dubuque Iowa. We had farmers there and we had a gulf fisherman there to tell us their points of view. The fisherman was George Barisich. He says the hypoxic zone requires him to take his boat much farther out in the gulf to catch shrimp, and that the oyster beds are being fatally starved of oxygen. With the price of fuel so high, he does not know if he can continue in business. The farmers say that with the incentives built into the current farm bill and the high prices they are getting for their products, they cannot afford not to plant and fertilize row crops of corn and soy beans. A few farmers are trying better care for the soil with four year crop rotations and building up of organic components in the soils that slow down the runoff and facilitate much better usage of smaller amounts of added fertilizers. But the industrial farm lobby is so strong that they can get a farm bill that feeds high profits to industrial agriculture and chemical companies, without regard for damage to agricultural soils and the river and gulf ecosystems.



THIS YEAR MAY BE THE
BIGGEST FOR THE FAMED
"GULF DEAD ZONE"...
WHY SHOULD WE IN
LOUISIANA CARE?

Why should we in Louisiana care? It is true to say the dead zone starts upstream. But the economic costs and cultural impacts on Gulf Coast fisheries are ours to bear.

Numerous plans have been developed over the last fifteen years which identify the problem and a range of solutions. Early plans were voluntary and incentive based. The result has been complete failure to reduce the rate of increase in the dead zone. A few states make efforts to control non-point source pollution but

the USEPA does not use the authority it has to monitor and set water quality standards.

At our meeting in Dubuque we came up with a list of things that we can do:

- We can push for passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act (HR 2421/S1870) which will allow for protection of wetlands currently excluded from coverage and resolve jurisdictional issues not well defined in the existing law.
- We can support more effective lobbying to increase conservation portions of the farm bill (HR 6124) and to do away with subsidies for corn ethanol.
- We can work towards creation of a regional entity that brings together parties in watershed states for a multidiscipline approach to problem resolution like what was is being done with the Chesapeake Bay.
- We can push for better coordination within USACE for writing of 404 permits so that they protect wetlands, not just allow their destruction, and
- We can file lawsuits to force USEPA to use existing authority in the Clean Water Act to develop numeric nutrient standards and monitor and regulate dumping of pollutants.

This is a regional and federal problem and must be addressed on those levels with long term commitment to restoration of Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico water quality.

For further information on this issue go to www.cleanwaternet.org. The Sierra Club Delta Chapter is a member of the Clean Water Network.

- WOODY MARTIN
DELTA CHAPTER CHAIR,
COOL CITIES ADVOCATE

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM *Leslie*: REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD



I will always remember the creativity of fishing boats on trailers circling Shell Square. And the Gumbo Alliance lives on, fighting the battle about the Dead Zone.

When the Legislature passed bills to create up to 14 "pleasure lakes" (a/k/a reservoirs) around the state, we joined a coalition of church groups, pioneer families and fiscal conservatives that worked to dry up the funds. In

the meantime, the federal government uncovered that there was graft and corruption attached to these retiree havens – which we had been concerned about all along. Due in large part to the efforts of the community, not a single "pleasure lake" has been built. The chapter, however, must remain vigilant about projects like these. These projects are not only environmentally devastating but they destroy communities and families as well.

With the devastation Katrina also brought us some rewards. Never before have New Orleans and its neighboring communities been so willing to embrace energy efficiency and green building. Holy Cross is now a poster child for sustainability. Their Sharp Solar project along with energy retrofitting paid for by Delta Chapter dollars has benefited so many people's lives. Holy Cross has become our spokespersons and continues to help their neighbors go green.

Katrina also brought us new partnerships with the Mary Queen of Vietnam community. Without their help and willingness to organize their grassroots, we wouldn't have been able to stop one badly sited landfill and put LDEQ on notice for another. We continue with our legal fight to clean up Chef Menteur and to get Old Gentilly closed. We have campaigned state wide to get government to create a viable plan for future hurricane debris. We con-

tinue to advocate for better ways of managing our garbage.

On a community level, you have to applaud the efforts of the Honey Island Group and the New Orleans Group as they continue to work towards getting curbside recycling back. Both groups advocated proper disposal of hazardous materials. The Honey Island Group worked with St. Tammany Parish to achieve regular hazardous waste drop-off days. The New Orleans Group sponsored recycling forums and got out there with the "bring back the blue bins" project. The results are that New Orleans is doing household recycling days and has promised to go back to curbside soon.

The "Save Our Cypress" campaign is dear to my heart. It was the first large project that I worked on, beginning with the Honey Island Group brochure campaign and spreading to a regional group with many supporters. We haven't won the war yet but with veterans like Dean Wilson, Jeffrey Dubinsky and Dan Favre, I believe that victory will come.

The campaigns that I have mentioned are but a small representation of what the Delta Chapter has been involved in during the seven years that I have been privileged to be a member. I am going to an area where my group has 15,000 members. I intend to remain active with the club and use that activism to provide support to the Delta Chapter too. I will continue to serve on the National Radiation team and the Marine activist team, and I will listen in on the Gulf Restoration Taskforce.

As I have already told many of you, perhaps my being able to talk to Oregon's elected officials about our problems will help to get them to vote to protect Louisiana. Someone needs to tell them that we aren't fans of "drill baby drill."

Thank you for all of the support that you have given me personally and to the Delta Chapter. You can still reach me at lesliemarch@hotmail.com.

- LESLIE MARCH

Earl's Pearls



*Whither the Sierra Cup?
There once were
some cups called Sierra
From which one could
quaff some Madeira.
But they all went away,
Just why I can't say.
And now they are back
and much dearer.*

When I joined the Sierra Club, it was such a long ago that John Muir was but a child and had not yet grown his famous beard. One of the images that defined the Sierra Club in those days of yore was the Sierra Cup, a stainless-steel container with a rigid wire rim and handle. It held eight ounces in a relatively shallow bowl so that the handle could slip under the belt and dangle snugly against the hip while a hiker climbed and contemplated the majestic Sierra Nevada. It was handy for heating water or other liquid on a backpacker's stove; it did service as a scoop, whether for digging a poop pit or shoveling snow or sand. Proud Sierrans carried their eponymous cups to meetings and on outings as an emblematic vade mecum, an identifying device not unlike a biker's belt chain attached to a heavy wallet in his jeans.

Embossed on the bottom of the cup was "Sierra Club," showing that it was the genuine article and not one of the copycat versions peddled by camp-gear catalogs. There was even a gold anodized edition that was used at awards ceremonies, suitable for labeling.

The cup was touted not just as a symbol of the Sierra Club, but was said to be more comfortable to use than the popular mess kits of the day from the Boy Scouts and army surplus stores. Those cups were aluminum, not stainless steel, did not have a wire rim, and by the time the edge of one of those cups was cool enough so that the drinker's

lip didn't blister on contact, the liquid had cooled too. The myth has persisted seemingly for millennia that Sierra cups don't burn your lips.

Don't believe it.

Although it is true that the wire handle keeps the fingers from burning, stainless steel is almost as good a conductor of heat as aluminum. Eager to get some morning café au lait into my body after climbing out of my tent, I have on occasion relied on that persistent myth and forgotten that the rules of thermodynamics apply to coffee and Sierra cups.

In my cache of camping gear are two Sierra cups. They are not the official ones with embossed name but imitations that were given to all who participated in the most memorable Sierra Club trip I've ever taken. Many years ago my wife and I rode the rafts through the Grand Canyon, drinking daily, including Colorado River water, from the Sierra cups that the outfitter had supplied and which we kept as souvenirs. Still very serviceable and versatile and still burning my lips, the cups have held many refreshments from coffee to wine, from whiskey to ice cream. I have used one for heating milk for café au lait while the other was for drinking. They are easily cleaned and don't break. Then the cups were gone. Not mine, the Sierra Club's.

Maybe their departure had to do with the general decline in outdoor activities, especially primitive camping. Maybe

people preferred insulated mugs that could be sipped while driving and talking on the phone and putting on make-up and adjusting the car radio. Maybe the appearance of a surfeit of outdoor gear, high tech and aggressively marketed, made the old Sierra cup passé, so yesterday. Maybe the cup had become something identified with The Old People. Like me.

A ten-year decade, 120 months long, passed.

One day as I pondered the fact that I hadn't seen a true Sierra Club cup in a very long time, I ran the term through Google and discovered that the Sierra Club is once again offering the traditional Sierra cup, with embossed club name, for sale. If you're too young to remember what an official Sierra Club cup is, you can get one now. However, in the Old Days, a Sierra Club cup cost something like \$2.95 or so. No more. Today, recognizing that it has been ten years since authentic Sierra Club cups have been available, the price is up to ten bucks. Sure, part of the sale profit, like most Sierra Club merchandise, goes to the club's coffers to support projects, but ten bucks seems a tad stiff for something that has a tendency to burn your lips – unless you're drinking wine.

If you want to buy one online, the Sierra Club cup is not available at www.sierraclubgear.com as you may think, but at the "books" link from the main site, www.sierraclub.org. Even going there won't help. The search slot doesn't know what you're talking about. Trying to find an authentic Sierra Club cup online reminds me of the adage, "You can't get there from here." The best way to find it is to Google "Sierra Club cup," and the cup will show up on the books site. I think.

Drink up. The cup may disappear again.

- Earl Higgins

HOW HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE AFFECTED THE REGION'S MARINE LIFE

One important effect of the hurricanes that may go largely unnoticed and unreported is the massively detrimental effect of the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast's marine life. The Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, has produced a detailed report ("Hurricane Gustav Fish Kill Report", 2008) of the fish and marine life killed or disturbed by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Basinkeeper Dean Wilson, who is also chair

kills following hurricanes are caused by green leaves falling into the water and decaying, causing a drastic reduction in water quality, particularly reduced oxygen levels. Unfortunately, in areas where water levels cannot be managed by dams or locks, little can be done to avoid massive fish kills caused by hurricanes. In inland areas like the ones Basinkeeper observed in the eastern part of the Atchafalaya Basin, locks and

hurricane without overflowing into the woods.

The Basinkeeper recommend that all efforts should be focused on draining flooded swamps and forests before the fallen green leaves start affecting the quality of the water. After water quality deteriorates we should not increase water levels in the flooded swamps and forests under any circumstance. Wa-



DEAD FISH PILE UP AT ONE OF THE ISLAND BRIDGES AT BAYOU SORREL (BY ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER)

of the Delta Chapter Atchafalaya Committee, assiduously observed and photographed the water quality conditions and massive fish kills that occurred during and after the recent hurricanes.

The Atchafalaya Basinkeeper found huge numbers of fish that were dead or dying throughout the system. While determining when and where fish survived or perished in the storm, they also reached conclusions about the causes of the massive numbers of deaths.

Observations suggest that massive fish

dams can be managed to control water levels, which allows us to prevent or minimize hurricane-related fish kills.

The report recommended that, as soon as we know that a hurricane is coming, the following strategy is necessary to prevent large losses of fish. To minimize the amount of water that floods into the wooded areas, we must lower water levels as much as possible before, during and just after the storm so that our main canals, bayous, rivers and lakes can accommodate water from torrential rains that are expected during a

ter should be flushed into the system to slow drainage of rotten water from the swamps and forests and to freshen the system. If forests are not flooded, the system should be flushed out such that water does not go into any swamp or forest.

For additional information about the work of the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, check out the group's website at www.basinkeeper.org, or email Basinkeeper@aol.com.

- REPORT REVIEWED BY
LAUREN E. GODSHALL

MORE... CHAPTER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DELTA CHAPTER RETREAT

The Delta Chapter Retreat will be held March 20-21, 2009 at Lake Fausse Point. We have reserved four cabins for Delta Chapter Members who would like to attend. Activities will include informational meetings (not too much), boating, cooking and live music in a very beautiful setting. Save the dates on your calendar. More details will be made available later.

- Woody Martin
Delta Chapter Chair

DELTA CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Every year the Sierra Club Delta Chapter must schedule an election for at large positions on the Chapter Executive Committee (Excom). The positions are for two year terms. The election is scheduled every year so that half of the positions can be re-filled each year. Two positions are up for election this year. They are the seats currently held by Aaron Viles and Charlie Fryling. Any member of the Delta Chapter who would like to be involved in decision-making may qualify for nomination. The nominating committee and board will approve a list of nominees at their meeting on November 8, 2008 and ballots with candidates' statements of qualifications will be sent out to members before the Thanksgiving holiday. Ballots must be returned before the end of December and will be counted in the first week of January. Notification of exact date, time and location for counting ballots will be included in the ballot information. Please be sure to vote by returning ballots to the Delta Chapter nominating committee at the address given on the ballot. For further information you can contact Woody Martin, the Chapter Chair at chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org.

- Woody Martin

TAKING THE TOPS OFF MOUNTAINS AT THE FLIP OF A SWITCH

BY JEA YOON LEE

Everyone knows that electricity comes from power plants. Some know that 40% of the electricity in the U.S. comes from coal-fired plants. Fewer know that an estimated 7-10% of the country's total coal production comes from mountaintop removal (MTR) mines in Appalachia. Unfortunately, many Louisiana consumers are linked to MTR through their utility companies which use MTR coal.

First developed around the 1970's with

chia, according to the EPA's 2005 Environmental Impact Statement.

The tragedy of MTR is not just the abstract notion of "losing" mountains, forests, and streams, however. For West Virginians, Virginians, Kentuckians, and Tennesseans living near the mines, it means undrinkable, rash-inducing water full of arsenic and mercury, flying boulders and earthquakes caused by the blasting, and dramatic depreciation of property value. They also live in the shadow of impoundments -- dams



MTR MINING (PHOTO: MARK SCHMERLING) CREDIT ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER

the innovation of massive dragline equipment, MTR is a method of coal mining which entails razing the tops of mountains with dynamite to reach the thin seams of coal buried underneath, and then dumping the crushed remains of the land into valleys. MTR is the cheapest method for coal companies because it is speedy and requires fewer employees than underground mining. The exponential growth of Americans' energy consumption and the rising demand for low-sulfur bituminous coal found in central Appalachia has led to increased MTR mining in the past decade. So far, MTR has destroyed over 800 square miles of mountains and 1,200 miles of streams across Appala-

which hold back the wastewater created by washing the debris off coal. Eight years ago in Kentucky, one broke and released a torrent of over 300 million gallons of thick, toxic sludge which destroyed homes, farmlands, and 100 miles of waterways.

For the rest of us, more MTR leads to burning more coal, which diverts resources away from alternative energy sources and greater reliance on coal-powered plants, which leads to even more MTR. That means dirtier air, more acid rain, and more global warming emissions.

According to some estimates, about

CONT. NEXT PAGE...

[CONT] TAKING THE TOPS OFF MOUNTAINS AT THE FLIP OF A SWITCH

4.8% of the coal used in Louisiana power plants may come from MTR mines. Utilities such as Cleco Power LLC, Entergy Louisiana, and Southwestern Electric Power are all connected to MTR mining because some of their plants purchase coal from companies that operate MTR mines in Appalachia. (For more information on your community's connection to MTR, visit www.ilovemountains.org/my-connection.)

tion for our planet? Let us oppose the irreversible, irremediable practice of MTR, and instead invest in solar, wind, and geothermal power. MTR requires filling valleys with vast quantities of mining waste. Filling streams with waste was illegal under the Clean Water Act, and advocacy groups used the law to protect the mountains and streams. Rising to the defense of coal companies, the Bush



MTR SITE, KAYFORD MOUNTAIN, WV (PHOTO: MARK SCHMERLING)

Rising gas prices opens the prospect of a coal-to-liquid industry which would lead to an even greater reliance on coal. The coal industry is peddling the false solution of converting coal into liquid fuel, but the reality is worse than being topless in Appalachia. Not only does it take one ton of coal to produce just two barrels of fuel, but burning liquid coal also releases double the global warming emissions per gallon as regular gasoline. Replacing 10% of our nation's transportation fuels with liquid coal would require increasing coal mining by over 40%.

Coal is not the solution! Currently there are plans for constructing 87 new coal power plants, each with an expected lifespan of 50 years. Is an additional 50 years of reliance on coal even a viable op-

Administration changed the rules, effectively legalizing the filling of streams with waste. Sierra Club and other groups are urging Congress to enact the Clean Water Protection Act, which would reverse the rule change, once again prohibiting the filling of streams with MTR waste. Please join our efforts by asking your utility company not to use MTR coal and urging your Representative to co-sponsor the bill.

For more information on how you can help, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater/mtr/>.

A WARM WELCOME TO *Jordan Macha* – OUR NEW CONSERVATION ORGANIZER

We are thrilled to introduce our new Conservation Organizer, Jordan Macha. Jordan will be planning, organizing, and implementing the education and mobilization efforts of our National Coal Campaign in Louisiana. September 22nd was her first day on the job, and we are excited to have her working with us on this crucial issue for both our state and the nation.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Jordan is a recent graduate from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, with Bachelor's degrees in political science and Russian.

While at the University of the South, Jordan co-founded the Sewanee Peace Coalition, which works to raise awareness of various human rights issues ranging from the death penalty to the current energy crisis. Through the Sewanee Peace Coalition, she helped establish the annual Sewanee Music Peace Rally and a voters' registration drive. During her four years of leadership, it grew to be one of the largest progressive organizations on campus.

Last summer she interned with People for the American Way where she helped develop two grants for the State of Texas, which focused on encouraging youth to become involved in the voting process. Jordan also wrote press releases and various news digests for their national webpage.

Jordan is based in the New Orleans office and she can be reached by email at jordan.macha@sierraclub.org. Feel free to welcome Jordan to the club or share your ideas and experiences.

LOUISIANA GROUPS CHALLENGE COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT PERMITS

BY JORDAN MACHA

Over the past year, Sierra Club has revamped up its National Coal Campaign to pressure energy companies to keep coal out of their utility plans. In Louisiana, the Delta chapter is working keep Entergy's Little Gypsy natural gas plant from converting to a coal-fired plant as well as Louisiana Generating from expanding the Big Cajun plants.

On September 22, 2008, Sierra Club and our coalition partners, Gulf Restoration Network and the Alliance for Affordable Energy, attended a public hearing conducted by Louisiana DEQ regarding the Maximum Achievable Control Technology mercury emission standards air permit for Little Gypsy. Sierra Club asked Entergy to look at cleaner, more efficient energy options that could meet Louisiana's energy needs - instead of the Little Gypsy repowering project. There are alternative methods to coal, and by looking at our alternatives we can improve public health, boost the economy, and protect the environment. Coal-fired power plants are one of the largest sources of dangerous air pollution in the United States. Pollution from

coal-fired power plants, like the proposed Little Gypsy plant, causes serious respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and in some cases premature death.

Coal plants, regardless of clean coal technologies, release mercury into the air. Fifty percent of released mercury falls back to the earth polluting the soil and water, which transfers to the fish we eat and consequently to us. Significant damage is done to pregnant woman and their children. Mothers who eat fish contaminated with high levels of mercury put their babies at higher risk for damage to their central nervous systems.

This year, the D.C. Circuit decided that mercury emissions would have to meet strict MACT standards under the Clean Air Act. Setting this new standard demonstrates that mercury emissions are a serious problem, both for the environment and public health. Coal technology has not improved enough to prevent mercury emissions which cause major health risks due to polluted air, land and water.

Currently, the Sierra Club - with the aid of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic - is filing several EPA petitions regarding the MACT permits for Little Gypsy and Big Cajun I & II. In mid-November, the Little Gypsy petition is due. We plan to hold mercury hair-testing events, rallies and press events leading up to the EPA's decision. We hope you will join us in this endeavor. We must work to halt the construction of dirty new coal plants, or conversions from cleaner technologies to coal, and direct the proposed investments into energy efficiency, renewable resources, and other clean alternatives. By preventing the Little Gypsy repowering project and the expansion of Big Cajun, we can keep Louisiana's environment and people safe and healthy.

For more information on the campaign and how to get involved, please contact our new Conservation Organizer, Jordan Macha, at 504-861-4837.

Are you currently an Entergy consumer? Please email jordan.macha@sierraclub.org. We need to know how many of our current members are Entergy ratepayers.

ACADIAN CHAPTER HAS A HOUSE PARTY TO SUPPORT THE SIERRA CLUB'S "LIGHTBULBS TO LEADERSHIP" CAMPAIGN

BY WOODY MARTIN

The Sierra Club recently ran a campaign called "Lightbulbs to Leadership" in which more than 300 house parties were held all over the country. The idea of the campaign was to send the message to state governors that to really solve global warming, we need to change more than lightbulbs -- we need to change direction and we need bold leadership. The campaign consisted of a series of three videos themed around light bulb jokes ("How

many lawmakers does it take...") that document the current lack of leadership on global warming, the fact that the people are ahead of the policymakers on climate change, and the opportunities that will be created by transitioning to a clean energy economy.

On a national conference call during the meeting, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire explained how, in only a few years, her state went from off-the-radar in clean energy to becoming the

3rd largest producer of wind and solar energy in the nation. We also heard from Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope on investing in clean energy and green job development is the way to fight global warming and boost the economy. The result of the meetings was the writing of letters to governors in all fifty states encouraging them to take steps to facilitate conversion to the green economy.

The national campaign was the first of

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BATON ROUGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM ON TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT HELD

BY NANCY GRUSH

Anxious to get mayoral candidates talking about transportation and development issues before the October 4th primary, the BR Group of the Sierra Club, the local chapter of the American Planning Association, Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets and the Environmental Conservation Organization planned a forum with support from the Baton Rouge Bicycle Club, LEAN, the Baton Rouge Bus Riders Advisory Group, and the Gardere Property Owners Association.

As the date of the September 23rd forum drew near, three candidates, Dan Kyle, Wayne Carter, and Ron Johnson, sent their RSVPs. No word from Mayor Kip Holden. Finally, within a day or two of the event, we were told that the mayor was busy with the city/parish recovery from Hurricane Gustav. [1]

The forum, which was held from 7-9 p.m. at the LSU Energy, Coast and the Environment building, was well structured and focused on three aspects



PHOTO - (L TO R): B.R. MAYORAL CANDIDATES WAYNE CARTER, DAN KYLE, RON JOHNSON, & LAUREN STUART (SIERRA CLUB AND CO-FOUNDER ECO AT LSU) (PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFREY DUBINSKY)

of transportation and development: "Smart Growth," "Complete Streets," and "Regional Transportation and Development." LSU professor, Dr. Margaret Reams, moderated the forum.

Unfortunately, the candidates did not seem to be well versed on transportation choices that do not involve widening an interstate or building a bypass or a loop. Anyone who has ever traveled

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[CONT...] "LIGHTBULBS TO LEADERSHIP" PARTY



its size and met with some technical glitches but in general it was executed very well. The party at my house in Lafayette was fun. We had food and refreshments after the conference call and discussed numerous conservation issues of mutual interest. The next time you see an announcement from Sierra Club of a national house party campaign, you might try opening your home for an evening or hosting a gathering somewhere. You can meet new people who could become friends and associates in the effort to save wild and scenic places, save the planet, and protect the public health.

PHOTOGRAPH AT LEFT: "LIGHTBULBS" AT WOODY'S HOUSE



ABOVE & AT LEFT: ACADIAN GROUP VISITS THE OLD RIVER CONTROL STRUCTURE PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WOODY MARTIN

[CONT...] BATON ROUGE MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM ON TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT HELD

through Baton Rouge, especially post-Katrina, knows that traffic is a nightmare.

Unsurprisingly, most of the vehicles contain only one person: the driver. There is no HOV lane and the transit is not "mass" by any means.

No one brought up the idea that then-transit director, Dwight Brashear (a newcomer from San Diego), wanted to make a reality. Mr. Brashear was hoping to ask the voters to approve a prop-

erty tax to fund a "Rapid Bus Transit" system that would have featured an express bus that would operate between Denham Springs and downtown Baton Rouge, using Florida Boulevard (Hwy. 190). It's rapid due to limited stops and the ability of the driver to change a red light signal to a green light signal. At the last minute, the administration chose to remove it from the ballot. Not long after, Mr. Brashear announced he was resigning to return to San Diego.

While the forum did not attract the

mayor or front-page headlines [2]. I do think that if we continue demanding efficient transit or rail, sidewalks and bike lanes that all of the time and energy spent planning the forum will not have been for naught.

1 Mayor Holden won the election by a landslide.

2 The Advocate and one of the television stations did run stories on it.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Be sure to check our website, at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/> for all of our November and December events, meetings, and outings! If you are interested in organizing or hosting an event, please contact your local group leader.

THE LOCAL GROUP LEADER CONTACT INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE ACADIAN GROUP is the hub of Sierra Club activities in Lafayette and its surrounding areas. Contact Harold Schoeffler, Acadian Group Chairman at 337-234-4042, or check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/>

- The Acadian Group holds its' Board & 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 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 BATON ROUGE GROUP is where you will find all the Sierra Club action in the Baton Rouge metro area. Contact Ann Shaneyfelt at ashaneyfelt@gmail.com.

There is a monthly "Save the Ales" "meet & greet" every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Chelsea's (under the overpass on Perkins, <http://www.chelseascafe.com>)

- The Annual Holiday Party will be on December 14th from 5-8. Location TBD. (check website as we get closer)
- We encourage people to join our Facebook Group. - Baton Rouge Area Sierra Club.



THE HONEY ISLAND GROUP covers the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain including the Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, Hammond and Pontchatoula areas. This group is in transition and will have new events and outings planned soon! Check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland/>



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE KISATCHIE GROUP covers all Sierra Club activities in the northwestern region of the state centered on Shreveport. Contact Jeffrey Wellborn, 318-222-1801, jwellbrn@seaber.com. Check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/kisatchie/>

THE NEW ORLEANS GROUP anchors all Sierra Club activities occurring in Southeast Louisiana south of Lake Pontchartrain, centered on the New Orleans metro area.

- The Sierra Club New Orleans Group meetings are now held at the NEW LOCATION 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 gate and bear right to the Dominion Auditorium (more details here). 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.

- Calendar: If you want information about upcoming Programs, Conservation Committee Meetings, or Executive Committee (ExComm) meetings in our area, go to our online calendar or call 1-504-836-3062. General Programs are open to the public; other meetings are open to all members.

Email neworleans-chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org for info, or check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/neworleans/>

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Volunteers Needed

Chapter Outings Coordinator
Aid outdoors person or persons (this could be shared) needed to help develop state-wide outings program. National training available online. Will be required to be Red Cross CPR and First Aid qualified. Free instruction available. Wilderness First Aid optional. Will be asked to recruit group level outings leaders and to organize at least one state-wide retreat or outing per year. Contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953.
Join a chapter committee
Coal Campaign-contact Leslie March 985-871-6695
Atchafalaya-contact Dean Wilson 225-659-2499
Legislative-contact Aaron Viles 504-55-1528 or Leslie March 985-871-6695
Membership/fundraising/events-contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953
Delta Chapter History contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953
Clean Energy/Coal/Nuclear Campaign
Volunteer Community Voices
Need designated point people in every chapter to set up phone trees, email lists and recruit volunteers to help fight new coal and nuclear plants. Need individuals willing to work with churches, PTA, business and women's groups in their own communities to set up coffees, potlucks and meetings where we can present our materials on coal plants and for clean energy. We don't have 30 lobbyists working full time on our behalf. This is a grassroots movement and we need your help.
contact Leslie March at 985-871-6695

Members of the Sierra Club Delta Chapter receive this 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>.
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Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor at michael_hebert@bellsouth.net.