



DELTA SIERRAN

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Delta Chapter Newsletter

www.Louisiana.sierraclub.org

FALL 2010

Farewell Suzanne



Suzanne Hawes, a Friend of the Sierra Club,

Sue Hawes, a long time member of the Sierra Club and environmental advocate at the Army Corps of Engineers died July 2nd at the age of 74.

Gail and I first met Sue and her family in the 1970s on an Sierra Outing led by the late Robert Murry where we hunted native, edible-plants and cooked them up for supper.

A native of Idaho and a biologist by training, Sue began work for the Corps in 1972, becoming a full-time Environmental Resources Specialist in 1973. In 1990 she was assigned as NOD manager where she was involved in all aspects of coastal restoration. Here she brought a voice for protection of the environment. Her long illness did not prevent her from coming to Sierra Club meetings and voicing her opinions on the importance of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Sue was a Corps contact for

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2010 Legislative Update

Sierra Club Delta Chapter Legislative Report

Woody Martin, Chapter Chair

August 4, 2010

This year's legislative session ended during a time of great apprehension about the BP Gulf oil disaster. So hardly anybody noticed the close of the Legislative session on June 1 but we got some good bills passed and signed into law and we managed to stop some bad ones too. Our biggest victory was stopping SB 549, the bill being pushed by chemical and oil industry lobbyists to stop state funding for universities that have law clinics that file lawsuits against government or industry. Environmental and community organizations worked tirelessly and turned out in force at the legislative hearing to stop this one and it worked. For the full story you can go to our Delta Chapter blog at <http://deltasierraclub.blogspot.com/> and page down to the story I wrote on May 20. We think the BP oil disaster may have actually helped us with SB 549 and also with stopping a couple of bad resolutions (HCR 33 and 34) memorializing congress to stop EPA from regulating carbon emissions.

Some good stuff got passed

including three bills favorable to bicycle riders (HB 298, 494 and 1137). Rep. Franklin Foil did some good things with his bills establishing the right to install solar energy devices (HB 751) and establishing Sustainable Energy Financing Districts (HB 973). In the area of solid waste and recycling we got HB 1322 that requires state agencies to implement a solid waste reduction and recycling program and we got HCR 262 a resolution that urges the establishment of an Electronic Recycling and Reuse Task Force. One that did not pass (again) was a bill to require deposit on beverage containers (HB 760).

Nick Gautreaux succeeded in getting a bill establishing an Alternative Vehicle Revolving Loan Fund (SB 103) to help political subdivisions of the state with costs of converting to clean fuel vehicles, and a bill (SB 254) that allows political subdivisions to purchase or lease hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. Troy Hebert's SB 648 that allows real estate appraisers to consider energy efficiency aspects when assigning value to a property will help homeowners and home builders to justify expenditures for energy efficiency. Some other legislative resolutions that passed are worth noting here. HCR 265

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Delta Sierran



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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 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.

The National 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 grass roots environmental organization.

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WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES MORE THAN EVER BECAUSE THE DELTA CHAPTER IS GOING DIGITAL.

The Delta Chapter publishes four newsletters per year. The Excom has decided to go to digital only editions for two of the four so if we do not have your email address you will not receive those editions. All Delta Chapter members will receive the two printed editions per year. As usual all four newsletters will be available on the Delta Chapter website as soon as they are published. So send in your email address or read us on the web. We think that this is a sustainable choice that we can make to make our chapter greener.

Send your email to Woody Martin at chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org.

Delta Chapter Online

www.louisiana.sierraclub.org

blog at <http://deltasierraclub.blogspot.com/>

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View From The Chair

Collapse of Climategate

The ongoing collapse of the “Climategate” controversy is important news for Louisiana. Our state faces serious impacts from global warming, including sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and loss of coastal lands and infrastructure. That is why the manufactured ‘scandal’ of ‘Climategate’ needed to be exposed for what it was.

“Climategate”, which hit the global and national media in mid-November 2009, involved the hacking of e-mails and other documents from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia. These documents were disseminated across the internet and broadcast media amid accusations that the scientists whose e-mails were hacked were guilty of manipulation of data, fraud, and a variety of other charges.

A report released on July 7 which was prepared by a special committee of inquiry in Great Britain cleared the scientists of misconduct and reaffirmed the integrity of climate science carried out by the CRU and related institutions. This report follows on two other investigations, including one by the British House of Commons Science Committee, which released a report on March 24, 2010 which also exonerated the scientists involved.

While the Independent Committee criticized some of the working methods of the scientists who were attacked in the controversy, the conclusions of the inquiry are the key points - all the charges hurled by global warming deniers - of fraud, data destruction, manipulation, etc. - have been found to be false.

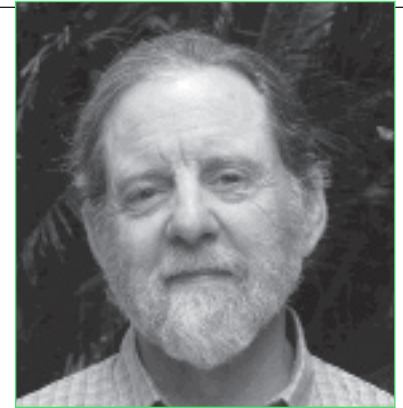
It is important to note as well that the members of Louisiana's Congressional delegation who jumped onto this issue last year, repeating the charges of fraudulent science, etc. had absolutely no basis for their statements. So the

deniers and fossil fuel industry paid politicians have won the victory they wanted when the Senate Democratic leadership withdrew from consideration of legislation to address climate change and clean energy jobs. This in the face of clear evidence of record setting high temperatures worldwide that fit the rising long term trend, and numerous polls showing that the majority of Americans want to do something about global warming even if it means slightly higher prices for fossil fuel based energy.

The next big test will be a huge fossil fuel industry push to pass proposition 23 in California which would reverse that state's attempt to control carbon pollution. That will be the one to watch in November, along with huge industry funded campaigns to elect pro fossil fuel politicians. This is becoming an exercise in how low can we go in the direction opposite from the moral, responsible path to take for protection of health and environment for future generations.

This battle is not over. If we cannot get an energy bill out of congress that places a price on emissions of carbon then we will have to change the way we use energy in more numerous smaller steps. It will be up to those of us in the environmental and social justice community to push Louisiana to move forward to address the issue of our over reliance on fossil fuels. We made several steps in the right direction with the legislature (see “Legislative Report”). Sierra Club Delta Chapter members are encouraged to keep up the fight for clean energy in every way that we can. We must succeed despite the well funded industry campaigns against us.

Woody Martin, Chair
Sierra Club Delta Chapter
August 4, 2010



Chapter Elections

Every year the Sierra Club Delta Chapter schedules an election for at large positions on the Chapter Executive Committee (Excom). The positions are for two year terms. Three positions are up for election this year. Any member of the Delta Chapter who would like to be involved in decision making may qualify for nomination. Interested persons should send a statement of interest and qualifications (approx 300 to 350 words) to chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org, or by mail to Woody Martin, 400 Glynndale Ave., Lafayette, LA 70506.

The deadline for nominations is November 5, 2010 so that the Excom can approve a list of nominees by vote on Nov 6. If you think you might like to serve the Chapter by being part of the Executive Committee then we are very interested in talking to you. For further information you can contact Woody Martin, Chapter Chair at chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org, or call at 337-232-7953.

Hair, Elvis and Rod

By now, half the world from Ottawa to Ouagadougou has seen the video on the Internet: a portly gent in bib overalls explains in a soothing drawl that the answer to the problem of cleaning up the mess from the BP gusher is hair. (I refuse to call the disaster an “oil spill”; nothing spilled, it was released from beneath the earth.) You all know BP by now too: BP = Busted Pipe = Big Problem = Broken Promises. In that Internet video, in what looks like a redneck edition of a mad scientist’s laboratory, the man in the overalls gives a demonstration of how well human hair collects oil floating on water. It’s quite a sight, because the process works. The agreeable down-home scientist uses tongs to lift a wad a human

hair, swirl it around in a tub of water into which oil has been poured, and Presto! all the oil collects on the hair and is removed with the tongs, leaving clear water. The process works so well, it is no wonder that BP and the Coast Guard have not adopted it.

Early in the oil crisis there were feel-good stories on the television news about salons and barber shops and children donating hair to The Great Cause, just like Americans collected animal fat and scrap metal during World War II. Hair is the citizens’ contribution in the War Against The Gusher. The hair never made it to the beaches.

Hair. Yeah, you got that right: Hair is the solution. All we need is lots and lots of hair; with it we can protect our marshes and beaches. Hair is big, big business. Think about all the money that is spent in the U.S. annually for salon visits, shampoo, color treatments, expensive advertising, toupées, wigs, hair care products, etc. And the money spent getting rid of hair too: haircuts, shaving cream, razors, depilatories, wax. If all those billions spent on



Matter of Trust, Inc.

hair were combined, it could fund the entire federal budget -- for about a week, maybe. So think hair when you think of the Gulf gusher.

Hair has been associated with power. Students of the Bible know that Sampson was the strongest man in the world until Delilah cut his hair of and turned him into a wimp. Look at all those powerful women politicians who emulate former governor Ann Richards of Texas with lots of silver-gray Big Hair. All that hair and all that oil-collecting power should be harnessed for the good of the Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana’s wetlands. What can be done?

In 1968 there appeared on stage a musical called “Hair -- The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical.” It was a celebration of the political, social, and sexual anarchy of that era when long hair, especially on men, was considered subversive, evil. Later came the musical “Grease,” a retro-celebration of the ‘50s when teenage males spent a lot of time in front of mirrors with combs and bottles of gooey stuff to put in their hair, stuff with names like “Wildroot Cream Oil” and “Vaseline Hair Oil.” Mamas put towels on their sons’ pillows so the grease wouldn’t go through to the feathers. Long, greasy hair was macho, cool. It was the era of The King, the man with the black, slick hair, perhaps the most influential person in American popular culture, Elvis. Let us resurrect the spirit of “Hair,” “Grease,” and The King to fight the BP oil.

The call should go out, yea verily, even a draft notice (in keeping with the authenticity of the period) to every Elvis impersonator in the known world from Walla Walla to Pago Pago, from Hudson Bay to Bay St. Louis, from Chickamauga to Kalamazoo to assemble at Grand Isle, Houma, and Buras. They should come with clean hair; no grease, no control wax, no hair spray, just completely clean, dry hair. BP will supply them with their usual Elvis raiment, white jump suits with spangles and capes all made from haz-mat material, big shades for the eyes. Groups of the faux Elvi will be taken aboard boats out into the locations where oil is present. Loudspeakers will

Hair cont.

be mounted on the boats so that the estuarial and marine environments will be filled with the enchanting tones of The King belting out favorites such as “You Ain’t Nothing But Hound Dog,” “Love Me Tender,” “Jailhouse Rock,” “Don’t Be Cruel,” and, of course, “Heart-break Hotel.” With everyone in the mood and sufficiently pumped up, the boats will tow the immersed Elvis impersonators through the fouled waters where all that hair, the crowning glory of the legions of wannabe Elvi, will collect all that oil. This proposal makes disposal of the collected oil, heretofore a serious environmental problem, unnecessary. The impersonators will return to Las Vegas, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, and points in between wearing the goo on their heads, which will be a big draw at their next shows. And it will be gone from the Gulf. Even in death, Elvis is the savior of our world. Thank ya ver’ much.

There were efforts to enlist another famous American with famous hair to work for The Great Cause in the Gulf. However, former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich has been busy, very, very busy, in federal court.

Next up: the Ann Richards ladies. Do you think they’d like to dip their heads in the Gulf for a worthy cause? How can we help?

-- Earl Higgins

Sue cont.

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the environmental organizations and helped arrange meetings with the District Commanders - who came and went. We called her the "conscience of the Corps".

Sue served on the Executive Committee of the New Orleans Group and the Delta Chapter. She was also a member of the Board of Directors at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and a supporter of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

In 2007, the Delta Chapter sponsored a Green Tie Awards Banquet where Sue received the Paul Temple Award for government leadership. She was also recognized with the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana in 2005. Sue was awarded the 2001 Governor's Award for Professional Conservationist of the Year by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and a Special Achievement Award by the National Wildlife Federation in 2005.

We will miss her good humor and friendly face and future contributions she would have made to protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Contributions on her behalf should be made to the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

Barry Kohl

New Orleans Group

Clean Energy

The Legislature is not the only institution making a commitment to clean energy in Louisiana. On June 23, the Louisiana Public Service Commission, a body of five elected officials charged with regulating the public utilities, voted to adopt a “Renewable Energy Pilot Program,” which would mandate the construction and purchase of renewable energy by electricity providers throughout the state. Over the course of three years, companies like Entergy will be required to purchase and/or generate a total of 350 Megawatts, or about 2% of Louisiana’s average total energy consumption.

The adoption of this pilot program will make Louisiana the first southern state to adopt an official, mandatory renewable energy policy. The Commission debated the possibility of adopting an RPS, or Renewable Portfolio Standard for several years. During this time, the Sierra Club, partnering with the Alliance for Affordable Energy, had been working to encourage the Commission to adopt a mandatory, 12.5% RPS. Earlier proposals from the Commission staff included plans to adopt a voluntary RPS of 20% that would include non-renewable sources like nuclear energy and the fabled “clean coal technology.”

The Delta Chapter’s Energy Chair, Frank Neelis, along with Field Organizer Jordan Macha, have been working on this issue as part of the Commission’s Renewable Energy Task Force. Jordan is cautiously optimistic. She will continue to urge the Commission to adopt a more robust, 12.5% mandatory RPS. “They can still do that. But this is better than nothing, or an “RPS” that includes nuclear or clean coal technologies.” -Devin Martin

Report cont

Love Your Coast

requests the Jindal administration to report on progress with the Green Government Executive Order. HCR 44 proposes to study tax credits for coastal preservation projects. And SR 181 ends with a statement that the Senate “will set clean energy development and economic diversification as a priority for the next legislative session as a strategy to reduce the state's dependence on oil and gas, to replace jobs lost by the impacts from the Deepwater Horizon disaster and from the federal moratorium on deepwater drilling, and to secure Louisiana's place as an energy leader well into the 21st Century.”

Two issues pushed by Senator Rob Marionneaux that did not pass but which would make big improvements were first, SB 432 to establish a hydrocarbon processing tax. This would enable taxation of all oil and gas coming through and being processed in Louisiana and would significantly increase tax revenues to the state. Second was the Senate Resolution (SCR 129) to study re-creation of the Louisiana Environmental Scorecard program. This is a program that at one time gave Louisiana one of the most progressive environmental laws in the country. The environmental scorecard was a way of granting tax advantages to industries depending on their rating for environmental performance. The environmental community should look for allies to help us push for both of these ideas in future legislative sessions.

Thanks to our Sierra Club legislative lobbyist Darrell Hunt and to the lobbying efforts of our allied

On June 17th and 18th, the "Love Your Coast" coalition, consisting of the Sierra Club Delta Chapter, the LSU-based Student Coalition to Help the Oil Leak Relief (SCHOLR), and a budding nonprofit called “Coastal Rescue” hosted a two-day rally at the state Capitol. One of the goals of this rally was to introduce a resolution to be passed by the state legislature. The resolution will:

-Urge all state and federal authorities to commit all resources to stopping the leak, and to protect, clean, and restore our shores

-Urge the state to use all legal means to get all affected individuals and businesses swiftly and justly compensated

-Present a strategy for the prevention of another drilling disaster and its related economic consequences by creating safer and more environmentally stringent drilling regulations, prioritizing economic diversification, and clean energy development.

On June 18th, Sierra Club volunteer Rachel Guillory presented this resolution to Senator Crowe (R) of Slidell. He indicated that he would introduce it. He kept his promise, and I am happy to announce that the resolution passed June 21 as Senate Res. 181.

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organizations, particularly LEAN for their efforts to give us a say in the legislative process. You can check out any of these bills at the Louisiana Legislature web site <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

Although resolutions "have no teeth," this is a profound symbolic step by the Louisiana Legislature to put our state on a new track—a track that will wean us of our economic, political, and energy dependence on offshore drilling and begin the process of transformation that Louisiana needs to secure our place as a 21st Century world energy leader. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen. Between now and the next legislative session, let's all work together to hold our lawmakers to their words and make sure that the "Great State of Louisiana" has a bright, clean new future for us and our posterity.

To read the text of this resolution, go to this website: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>. From there, click on the “Search” link on the top right. In the search menu below, find “Bill Search” section, and then the line on the right which says “view a specific instrument.” Click on the drop down box which says “HR,” select “SR,” and type “181” in the box on the right. On the page that comes up, click on “Text—Current” to read the bill. You can also see who voted for the bill, and other details. Remember this website and search method. It is an indispensable resource to use in your efforts to keep track of what our legislators are doing.

Devin Martin

Group Events

Acadian Group:

Check website for updates

New Acadian Group Meeting Location

Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center

611 St. Landry St.

Lafayette, LA

We will meet in Room 108 on the 2nd Wednesday and Room 110 on the third Wednesday of each month. We meet at 6:30 PM. The updated schedule of Acadian Group events is available on the web at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/>

Last Sunday of the month @ 7 - 8:00 pm - Ecologic, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

Outings on web page <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/>

For more information contact Harold Schoeffler: 337-234-4042 or 356-9764

Baton Rouge Group:

The BR Group Excom meets the first Monday nite of the month at 7PM at LaMadeline's on Jefferson. If you would like to put something on the agenda, contact Nancy Grush at 225-938-9353.

Save the Ales is heating up again on the third Wednesday@ 7PM at Chel-seas.

The BR Group will pay someone's admission (\$55) to a First Aid/CPR course if that person will go on at least 3 outings organized by the group. The courses are from 8-4. The Saturday classes are: 9/18, 10/16, 11/13, &

12/11. Contact Nancy Grush 225-938-9353.

Acension Parish Recycles

When: 1st Saturday of the Month:
9am-1pm

Where: Prairieville WalMart on Airline Highway

Glass, styrofoam, plastic wrap and bags not accepted.

If you want to order calendars or note cards contact Nancy Grush at 225-938-9353

Honey Island Group:

Meetings: Sign up for our google groups hotline. Go to louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland.

New Orleans Group

Fall 2010 Schedule.

The General meetings and programs of the New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club are usually on the second Sunday of each month unless a holiday interferes. Please check the Sierra Website for any last minute changes. We meet at the Audubon Zoo, Dominion Auditorium (6500 Magazine St). Doors open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7 pm. The Dominion Auditorium is near the front entrance to the zoo. Go in the gate upriver from the main public entrance. A Sierra Club banner will be on the fence near the entrance.

Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

Sept. 12, New Orleans, Office of Environmental Affairs

Oct. 10, Charles Fryling, Atchafalaya presentation

Nov. 14, TBA

Dec. 12, Holiday Potluck Party

Outings: Colleen Morgan is our new Outings Chair. We will schedule several outings for the fall season so please check the our website for current dates and activities. All Sierra members and guests are welcome

DON'T FORGET TO MAIL YOUR MARCH APPEAL DONATION



This is the only time of year to make a donation to the Sierra Club that goes 100% to your local Chapters work in your state. Mail your donation card in soon. This donation is not tax deductible as it supports our organizational and lobbying work. You can make tax deductible donations and bequests to the Delta Chapter in care of the Sierra Club Foundation, contact lesliemarch@hotmail.com for more information.

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Water Sentinels on Bayou Teche

On the evening of August 5, 2010 Sierra Club and Acadiana RC&D sponsored our second water chemistry sampling workshop for the Bayou Teche Water Sentinels. The session was held in Port Barre and we had excellent turnout with all of our original teams in attendance. We added one new team for a total of five teams sampling at five locations on the Bayou Teche. We also added sampling of Nitrate to our list of tests being run at each location. We now sample for DO, temp, pH, Conductivity and Nitrate. We are also noting field conditions for turbidity, rainfall in previous 48 hrs and general observations of weather and stream conditions. Our second sampling date was on Saturday

August 14 around 12 noon. Results from the sampling run are showing a significant decrease in DO that correlates with higher late summer water temperature in the slow flowing bayou. Cajuns for Bayou Teche, Acadiana RC&D and Sierra Club volunteers will participate in a Bayou Teche cleanup on Saturday August 21, in preparation for the 130 mile Tour de Teche kayak and canoe race to be held September 17. This will bring wide popular attention that we anticipate will generate even more interest in cleaning up and caring for this historic waterway. If you would like to join a Water Sentinel Group contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953.

