



# DELTA SIERRAN

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## BP Disaster



photo credit: GRN

Clint Guidry,

Louisiana Shrimpers Association

The Oil is Still Here and So Are We. Remembering Six Months Later

Six months after the onset of the BP disaster, a lot has changed in the Gulf region. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar restructured the former MMS, which oversaw offshore oil and gas activities; improved regulations for offshore drilling has been put in place, and enacted a moratorium for deepwater drilling (recently lifted) – however, tougher standards have made it more difficult for oil companies to resume drilling immediately. Recently, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus came out with a report emphasizing the need for federal money from the Clean Water Act to go towards the restoration of the environment and the economy of the Gulf Coast states. This was followed by an Executive Order establishing the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to begin implementing Mabus' plan. However, above all that, oil still remains in the Gulf – on Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and

*Please see page 6*



Photo credit: Sierra Club

Dr. Barry Kohl and Sierra Club National President Robin Mann

## Barry Kohl

### Wins National Award

Dr. Barry Kohl of the New Orleans Group was recently presented with the National Sierra Club's 2010 Special Service Award. Sierra Club National President Robin Mann presented the award to Barry personally. The award was presented to him with gratitude for the years of service that he has provided the Delta Chapter and the National Sierra Club. As a geo physicist and former oil company employee, he was able to lend his scientific expertise to the local environmental community during the BP crisis. This year, Kohl was successful in getting land added to Jean Lafitte National Park, a project that he had worked on tirelessly for years. In addition, Kohl was instrumental in negotiating a clean up settlement with oil companies in northern Louisiana that had leaking mercury manometers. Kohl has served on the New Orleans Group excom and the Delta Chapter excom for many years. As a side note, the Delta Chapter is a small chapter but we have received many national awards for our work. Check out clubhouse.sierraclub.org for more information..

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# Delta Sierran



## YEAR END 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Contributors: Haywood Martin, Earl Higgins, Jeffrey Dubinsky, Jordan Macha, Ann Shaneyfelt, Darryl Malek-Wiley, Rachel Guillory, Leslie March, Devin Martin and others.

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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### 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/>**

**Sign up with us on Facebook**





# View From The Chair

## The Weeks Bay Principles

On October 4-6, 2010, ninety-five people representing forty six community, local, regional, national and international environmental, social justice, and fishermen's groups met at the Beckwith Camp and Conference Center on Weeks Bay Alabama to draft the following set of goals and principles that we believe must guide the recovery and restoration of the Gulf of Mexico, our coast and our communities in the wake of the BP drilling disaster.

The principles are listed in four sections: Community Recovery, Public Health, Coastal Restoration and Marine Recovery and Resiliency. They are available on several websites of groups that participated in the drafting of the principles. You can see them in detail in the Breaking News section of the Delta Chapter website at <http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/ThePrinciples> are also available on the websites of GRN and the Lower Mississippi River Keeper. Our thanks to Gulf Restoration Network for organizing the event. See also related article by Margaret Roberts in this newsletter.

On a related topic, the first round of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process meetings in Louisiana was starting Oct 25. Four meetings were held, each consisting of a presentation by personnel from the Governors Office of Coastal Activities, and then questions from members of the audience. You can monitor the process at <http://losco-dwh.com/> and by attending some of the many public meetings that will be part of the process.

## Prop 23, prop 26 and Feed In Tarrif

California is the battleground for progressive energy legislation and rulemaking. The recent elections

marked an overwhelming victory with the defeat of proposition 23 in California. This was an attempt by two Texas oil companies and Koch Industries, the Kansas-based oil conglomerate to suspend California's clean air and renewable energy legislation. The defeat of prop 23 was the most important decision for clean energy to occur in this election cycle. More information on prop 23 can be obtained at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_Proposition\\_23\\_%282010%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_23_%282010%29). But in a related development Californians narrowly passed proposition 26 which requires a two-thirds supermajority vote in the state Legislature for many fees and new taxes.

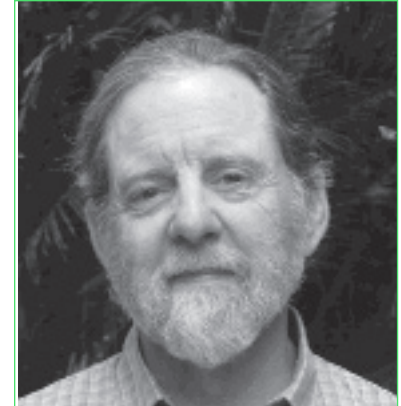
An analysis released by the law school at University of California, Los Angeles found that Prop 26 could "erect significant barriers" to many environmental programs in California. (NY Times)

Another critical fight is to enable Feed In Tarrifs (FIT) that encourage utilities to purchase certain amounts and types of renewable energy. This establishes long term contractual market based mechanism for renewable energy and has been very successful in driving renewable energy expansion in Europe, Canada and Gainesville, FL,

To see a great article about a recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decision in favor of multi-tiered feed in tarrifs go to <http://www.allianceforrenewableenergy.org/2010/10/federal-regulator-blasts-open-door-to-differentiated-feed-in-tariffs-in-usa.html>.

Quotes from the article:

"This ruling is a huge victory for clean energy as it provides states with clearly



defined flexibility in implementing comprehensive Feed-In Tariffs," says Craig Lewis of the [California] FIT Coalition. "We've long argued that states have significant flexibility in setting avoided costs and pricing bundled RECs (Renewable Energy Credits) to support Feed-In Tariff design at the state and local levels."

According to Sue Kateley, Executive Director of the California Solar Energy Industries Association (CalSEIA), "The FERC decision clears the way for State utility regulatory commissions to implement FITs and we look forward to working with California utilities to implement FITs in a responsible way that creates local jobs and clean renewable generation."

*Happy Holidays*

*On behalf of Sierra Club Delta Chapter I would like to wish all of our members a Happy Holiday Season that leaves you refreshed and connected to family, friends and neighbors.*

*Woody Martin*

# Earl's Pearls

## *Frogs, frogs and more frogs...*

On the wall behind my desk hangs a calendar provided by BTNEP (Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program). A factoid at the bottom of the October 2010 page informs that there are 22 species of amphibians in the B-T estuary. That includes frogs. Although I do not live in the geography included in the B-T estuary, as I write I am watching a green tree frog climb the wall alongside the calendar. My office must be a source of nourishment for the little climber, and, indeed, the spiders and some mosquitoes get in because the gap at the bottom of the door to my office is larger than a good environmentalist should allow. My office opens to my back yard, populated with all sorts of wonderful fauna, including, it seems, frogs.

Wait a minute. My amphibian ID book tells me that the little frog that visited my wall and BTNEP calendar is not a "true frog." Rather, it is classified as "hyla," from the Greek word for "tree" rather than "rana," the Latin word for "frog." Apparently a hyla is not a "true frog" even though we call it a frog. (Just who determines what is "true"? Does that mean that the tree frog is a "false frog" or an "imposter frog"?) There are barking tree frogs, cricket frogs, pig frogs, and bull frogs, all with convenient names to identify them by sound. The green tree frog is conveniently green.

Frogs have fascinated people since the beginning. The ancient Greek dramatist Aristophanes wrote a comedy called *The Frogs*. It is still occasionally performed 2400 years after it first appeared on stage. In the Bible, Moses calls a plague of frogs to descend on Pharaoh's Egypt. Back then there were too many frogs; today some environmental scientists say that frog populations are declining all over the world, and they're not sure why. Maybe because of disease, maybe habitat decline, maybe pollution. Did the scientists not remember that millions of high-school biology students dissect millions of frogs every

year? In the swamp, the frogs are chow for birds, raccoons, alligators, and fish, not to mention people who catch them to eat. No wonder they are disappearing; they're being chopped up and eaten.

Speaking of eating frogs, they used to be a delicacy item on restaurant menus. There were many frog farms in south Louisiana to provide the critters for home and restaurant consumption. Rayne, Louisiana, touts itself as the Frog Capital of the World, with frog art all over town and an annual frog festival. Some lucky teenager is chosen for the coveted title of Queen of the Frogs for the

Frogs are part of the culture. There's a Frog's Leap Winery in California. Let us hope that their wine is made from grapes, not frogs. New Orleans legendary bluesman Clarence "Frogman" Henry has been belting out "I'm a Lonely Frog" for about five decades. Does he get a frog in his throat when he sings so that he sounds like a frog?

There is a pizzeria in Madisonville called "Frog's Pizza," but, you will probably be relieved to learn, they sell no frog pizza.

The legendary New Orleans Bakery, McKenzie's, gone like so many other cherished local institutions, sold a small loaf of French bread very much like what is called a pistolette. McKenzie's, in the days before ethnic sensitivity in language and when "wop salad" was still on New Orleans restaurant menus, called their little loaves "Frog Rolls," the word "frog" being a somewhat derogatory term for "French." No one protested, and the bread was delicious. Particularly when eaten with wop salad.

My Random House Dictionary lists ten different definitions for "frog," including the ornamental clasp to fasten the front of a coat. In the 1980s there was a popular video game called "Frogger." Apparently, the object was to get the frog safely from one place to another, avoiding perils while doing so.

The very first piece of humor, satire, and nonsense I wrote for the *Delta Sierran* in the January 1980 edition was about the discovery of a new species of frog on a Sierra Club canoe trip. I identified the creature as *rana hirsuta major*, the Great Hairy Frog. It was the first and only time in scientific history that a frog was discovered covered with hair, hair in the style of The Beatles. It has never been seen again.

Think frogs. They're part of life. But if you get a frog in your throat, clear it.

-- Earl Higgins



occasion. Then they eat the frogs. Frogs, it is said, TLC (taste like chicken), but that's not accurate. Frog tastes like frog. Do not discuss eating frogs with Kermit the Frog of the Muppets. It's indelicate and bad manners to do so.

# Update on Cypress Campaign



Photo: Greg Guirard

Basin Boat Trip Participants

In late 2009, in an effort to help Atchafalaya Basinkeeper offer more protection to the Atchafalaya Basin and Louisiana's coastal cypress forests, the Delta Chapter enabled Basinkeeper to hire part-time staff attorney Leigh Haynie by donating one-third of her salary. Thanks to this direct contribution from the Delta Chapter, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper and the Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper are suing one of the illegal cypress loggers in the Maurepas Basin, an effort that resulted in putting a stop to cypress logging in coastal Louisiana for the second time since logging for mulch began around the year 2000. We also managed to review 269 permits for work done in wetlands in coastal Louisiana including the Atchafalaya Basin, send legal comments on 11 permits for potentially destructive activities in wetlands and on the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, and sue illegal developers in the Atchafalaya Basin.

In 2010, Delta Chapter and Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, together, educated 785 people about wetland

ecology, the Atchafalaya Basin and the importance of wetlands in Louisiana. Our education programs have included boat trips into the Basin as well as classroom presentations to various age groups. A highlight of our work in 2010 was the workshop Ex-Com member and Basinkeeper director Dean Wilson and Basinkeeper attorney Leigh Haynie provided at the Waterkeeper Alliance Annual Conference in June, training other Waterkeepers from around the nation how to use the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act to protect wetlands.

For more information you can find Atchafalaya Basinkeeper on Facebook or at [www.atchafalayabasinkeeper.com](http://www.atchafalayabasinkeeper.com).

Written by Dean Wilson.

Delta Chapter Excom member  
and Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

# Chapter Retreat Time March 25-27

It is time for the annual Sierra Club Delta Chapter Retreat. The Sierra Club Delta Chapter Retreat this year is at Bogue Chitto State Park. Dates are Friday, March 25 thru Saturday the 26th, leaving on Sunday morning the 27th.

You can look at the state park at <http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iboguechitto.aspx>. Spaces in cabins will go for \$41 for two nites. Cabin space is limited so if you want that please let me know early.

There are plenty of tent sites available at \$18 per nite. For a tent site just register yourself on the Louisiana State Parks reservation web site at <http://www.reserveamerica.com/la/state/campgrounds/r/campgroundDirectoryList.do?contractCode=LA>

You can always contact me at the below listed email address for further info or cabin space reservations.

Plan on bringing your canoe, bicycle and walking shoes. This is a chance to get together with other Sierra Club members and have a relaxing weekend in the woods.

Contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953 or [hmartin2sc@gmail.com](mailto:hmartin2sc@gmail.com).



# Oil Spill continued from page 1

Florida's coast – and those who depend on coastal waters for their livelihood continue to struggle.

On October 20, 2010, the sixth month anniversary of the BP oil disaster, citizens of Louisiana coastal communities gathered in front of the Federal Building in downtown New Orleans to send a message to Congress. The Sierra Club, and other local groups, asked Congress to pass a legislation which would commit \$20 billion of the Clean Water Act fines levied against BP to go towards restoration of the Gulf Coast. Speakers ranged from locally-based organizations to fishing communities who have been affected. All encouraged the government to remain dedicated to the Gulf Coast, cleaning oil off our marshes and beaches and restoring the Gulf Coast for its citizens. The speakers emphasized that the oil in the Gulf is still present and how regional and community action is necessary to make changes. Similar gatherings occurred in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama, and a total of 11 solidarity events calling for clean energy gathered in the Gulf States.

As part of the six-month remembrance, 46 environmental, social justice, and fishermen's groups from across the Gulf Coast, the United States and the international arena released a plan for the recovery and restoration of the Gulf of Mexico and coastal communities. The plan, known as the Weeks Bay Principles for Gulf Recovery, calls on the government to take responsibility

and action to:

- Make coastal communities whole again;
- Commit to cleaning up and restoring the Gulf;
- Hold BP accountable;
- Ensure local participation in decision-making;
- Conduct short and long-term monitoring; and
- Invest in economic opportunities to support locally-driven, sustainable recovery that restores and enhances America's Gulf coast.

The fundamental guidelines demand that local, state and federal agencies begin to build confidence and trust, be inclusive, act and communicate with full transparency, and ground decisions made for restoration in science. The Weeks Bay Principles are a crucial step to the development of a regional commitment to coastal restoration. The Sierra Club and other regional groups are calling on Congress to create a Regional Citizen Advisory Council that would meet frequently to address these issues and overlook current and future developments in the oil industry in the Gulf. This cooperation is necessary for the recovery process of the communities and the Gulf coast to take place.

Written by: Margaret Roberts, Intern, Beyond Coal Program, Sierra Club New Orleans Regional Office

# Nucor

Recently, the Jindal Administration announced that Nucor Steel will place their five phase industrial steel facility in Louisiana. Nucor has bought property and plans to build in St. James Parish in Romeville, at the former site of the formerly proposed Shintech facility. But as usual, the ultimate question remains, "At what cost?"

For decades, Louisiana has chased smokestacks in the hopes of achieving economic prosperity. However, we continue to sit at the bottom of the economic barrel, reaching toward polluting industries as an answer to our economic plight.

Nucor has played a game of cat and mouse since the beginning, keeping the public in the dark as to what they really intend to bring to the table. On one hand Nucor is playing up an iron facility that would burn natural gas, leaving little discussion of their ultimate plans to build a coal-fired iron plant that would cause Louisiana to emit more benzene, a known carcinogen, than 30 states combined.

Nucor should be upfront and disclose its complete plans so we may understand the cumulative impacts to our communities, instead of playing a piecemeal game with missing parts.

Louisiana is at a crossroad. We can continue to support jobs that will not shape our communities, and potentially cause increased harm, or we can advocate for jobs that will lead us into the new, clean energy economy. It's our decision, Louisiana.

Which way will we go?

Written by Jordan Macha, Associate Field Organizer, Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club New Orleans Field Office

# Options to the Concrete Jungle or Nature Knows Best

In 2010, why are so many projects still being planned and designed to hand drainage the way it has always been handled -- with more pipes and more pumps? We have to start moving away from that approach, toward a sustainable land and water management system for South Louisiana.

To that point, pervious paving is one of the most underutilized best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater quantity and quality control. Pervious paving can take many forms:

- pervious concrete -- my personal favorite because it reminds me of my Granny's rice krispie treats, but gray in color,
- pervious asphalt -- my least favorite because it does not make sense to me as asphalt leaches petroleum products,
- pervious pavers -- Pavestone's Eco-Priora is one of several good products that provides the 13% porous ratio required to be considered pervious,
- grass pavers -- Invisible Structures' Grasspave is one of several good products that is structurally sound (strong enough for the biggest hook and ladder fire trucks) and provides adequate soil for grass to thrive, and
- structural soils -- a patented soil mixture developed at Cornell University that adds structural fibers to soils, stabilizing areas for less frequent vehicular use.

A lot of misinformation about pervious paving is out there in the biosphere, and it's being quoted as definitive. My favorite is that pervious paving does not work in South Louisiana because we have clay soils and intense rainfall events. It is true that pervious paving is well-suited to the sandy soils of a place like Florida, even with heavy rainfall events. But the key in our part of the country is to properly design and install aggregate base material. This involves calculating the water falling in a catchment area or watershed and planning the system to handle that much water. One simple idea is to use the clay soil base as a means of conveyance: grade the subbase to gently slope toward a wetland or other stormwater BMP, fill with aggregate base, then pervious paving on top (and a sand leveling course if pervious pavers are used).

Water flows vertically into the pervious paving, then horizontally away.

Besides pervious paving, vegetative drainage systems and their components are woefully underutilized best management practices. In a landlocked city like New Orleans, for instance, with limited financial resources, we must make our public dollars and public lands serve more than a single purpose. Stormwater BMPs, the vegetative BMPs, can do this by making our drainageways into bioswales that also serve as pedestrian and bicycle corridors, and turning detention/retention basins into biodetention ponds that also serve as recreational amenities.

We need to change our philosophy of dealing with rainwater. We need to think of using the drop of water where it falls to the ground, or as close as where it falls, as much as possible. Instead, we build systems and facilities to take all of the rainwater immediately away from where it falls for fear of flooding. This practice exacerbates downstream flooding and causes the infamous backflooding that often occurs during an average rainfall in South Louisiana. Instead, use the rainwater by harvesting it for irrigation and toilet use. Design raingardens, wetlands, and vegetative ponds to delay runoff so that evapotranspiration can occur and plants can uptake the water, as well as uptake the pollutants in the water. This is known as extending the time of concentration or maximizing the residence time of water. Some infiltration into the soil will also occur, even in clay soils. All of this reduces the quantity of water that must be put in pipes and pumped over levees or stored in retention/detention basins, which in turn saves taxpayer dollars.

We should drain runoff that cannot be used at the spot where it falls to the ground toward areas planted with wetland loving plants, resulting in more green space, no need for irrigation, reduced runoff (less water to deal with downstream), and cleaner runoff (with pollutants being filtered out or absorbed by plants). This is analogous to the coastal wetlands issues we are facing, which are a result of believing we can control nature. In the long run, we have created an even greater problem than the flooding problem we were seeking to solve.

This moment in time presents an amazing

opportunity to examine and rethink many of our design and engineering practices, redirecting our approach toward more sustainable solutions -- environmentally, economically, and culturally sustainable. We will never be able to afford large enough pipes and pumps to artificially engineer drainage systems to the extent we have done so up until now. We must instead take a fresh look and adopt principles of biomimicry -- applying the means and methods nature has already developed. Nature's methods are agile and adaptable to changing conditions, including climate change, compared to our past methods of creating systems out of concrete as though they will hold firm and be immune to change. This decade of hurricanes and storms have proven that is not possible.

For some interesting reading on sustainable approaches to how we live on this planet, I suggest Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature by Janine M. Benyus.

Written by Dana Nunez Brown, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP, Baton Rouge Group Member

(editor's note, Check out this great talk by Janine Benyus on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n77BfxnVlyc>)

If you're interested in more environmentally friendly drainage systems, the Baton Rouge Group would love to hear from you. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at La Madeline's. For more information, contact Nancy Grush at 938-9353 or [nancygrush@gmail.com](mailto:nancygrush@gmail.com)



# RPS in LA

Renewable energy is possible in Louisiana. From solar power to biomass potentials, Louisiana has the resources to make a real transition to clean energy. Over the past year, the Sierra Club has worked with Public Service Commission to encourage the adoption of a Renewable Portfolio Standard – and we finally have a our first step towards Louisiana’s clean energy economy.

Last March, we traveled to communities across the state to discuss the importance and benefits of adopting an RPS for Louisiana. Over 500 supporters submitted written requests to the PSC asking that they adopt a mandatory, strictly-renewable RPS. Because of these efforts, the PSC hosted a public hearing later in early April to hear from their constituents and industries who would benefit from this policy. Supporters came out in full force, ranging from concerned citizens to upstart green industries who want to invest in Louisiana. After a long eight-hour meeting, the Commissioners left knowing that their constituents want renewable energy for Louisiana.

In June, the Commission decided to adopt a RPS pilot program to test and observe the strength of the renewable energy future for Louisiana. This program would seek achieve 3% renewable power by 2013 and, at that time, the PSC would make the decision to adopt a full RPS program. After the vote in June, the Sierra Club worked with PSC staff and intervenors to develop what would be considered a renewable resource and how the program would take shape over the next 3 years. We successfully eliminated the inclusion of advanced coal technologies, synthetic natural gas derived from coal and petroleum coke, natural gas, nuclear power and combined heat and power derived from fossil fuel sources.

On 13 October 2010, the Commission approved to implement the RPS pilot

# Coal Ash EPA Hearing



Photo: Sierra Club

*Lily Stagg and O'Neil Couvillion, Sierra Club*

On September 8th, a delegation of energetic Louisiana citizens joined the Sierra Club in Dallas to tell the EPA to regulate toxic coal ash. Supporters from New Orleans, Hammond, Greater Baton Rouge and Lafayette got on the “Stop Louisiana Coal Ash Bus” and traveled the 9 hours to Dallas for the EPA Coal Ash public hearing.

Volunteers took the stand to urge the EPA to carry out its mission of protecting human and environmental health by regulating coal ash as a hazardous waste and force industry to internalize the cost that has been a burden on so many communities.

Currently, Louisiana has 11 coal ash landfills across the state, which poses significant harm to surrounding communities. In a recent report released by the Sierra Club and allies, *In Harm's Way*, all 11 coal ash landfills showed contamination of surrounding groundwater and/or public wells. Contamination of lead, arsenic and selenium are just a few of the toxins that

program, and industries now have the green light to begin developing projects that would help LA achieve its 3% renewables over the next three years. While the plan isn't ideal – there are a few resources that are questionable – there is a lot of potential to prove that Louisiana can adopt a RPS, and rely on truly renewable resources. We will monitor the pilot program over the next three years, and encourage changes where changes need to be made.

I encourage all our supporters to

are currently poisoning groundwater in Louisiana. These risks are avoidable, and with proper regulation, surrounding communities could be alleviated of one less worry.

Louisiana volunteers met with folks from around the region who are also suffering from the effects of dirty coal ash in their communities. Delegations from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas all spoke of the serious damage that coal ash caused their communities and environment, and all spoke of the communal damage of our nation's addiction to coal and the need for better regulations.

Following the hearing, students from University of Louisiana's SPEAK and Southeastern Louisiana University's ReCONNECT encouraged their student body to become involved and submit comments to the EPA to regulate coal ash. With their help, the message continues to spread and we hope to see new regulations from the EPA in early 2011.

continue to contact your Public Service Commissioner and let them know that you support renewable energy for Louisiana. Together, we can move beyond fossil fuel power and turn to a new chapter in Louisiana's history!

To reach your Public Service Commissioner, please visit: [www.lpsc.org](http://www.lpsc.org). Jordan Macha, Associate Field Organizer, New Orleans Regional Office



# 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.

January 8 Day Hike at Clark Creek

Contact Nancy Grush at 225-938-9353 for meeting place and time.

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](http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland).

New Orleans Group

Winter 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:

Dec. 12, Holiday Potluck Party



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet.  
Join Sierra Club

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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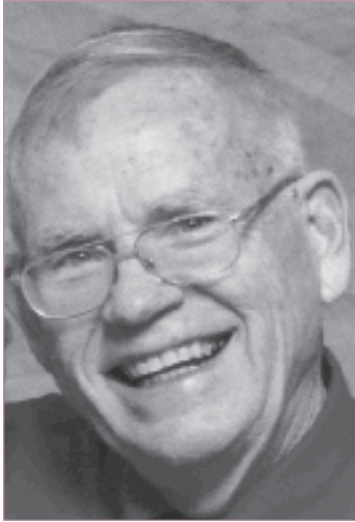
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PM 10 11

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

# 2010 Chapter Excom Candidates



**Charlie Fryling**

As a member of the Club since 1968 I have seen the importance of the Sierra Club and Delta Chapter to Louisiana. The Club has been the lead organization shaping public opinion and working on such issues as coastal and wetlands protection, urban sprawl, clean air and water, wildlife protection, and environmental justice. We have made a difference but there is much more that needs to be accomplished.

I teach landscape architecture at LSU so my vocation and avocation fit nicely together with many of the issues that challenge the Club. Through the years the Atchafalaya Basin has been of special interest to me. At present I am the East Baton Rouge Parish representative to the Atchafalaya Trace Commission. We have recently made the area surrounding the Atchafalaya a National Heritage Area. It was Delta Chapter that got the Commission established.

The Club has always been enjoyable to me and it should be fun for all its members. Outings are an important aspect of the Club. They provide both environmental education and pleasure that leads to strong membership. Delta Chapter Ex Com is responsible for all aspects of the Club within the State and we should be working to provide our members with as many opportunities as possible to appreciate the good qualities of Louisiana and to make environment better when needed.



**Harvey Stern**

Greetings—I have been a member of the Delta Chapter since 1981, and have served previously on both the Delta and New Orleans Group ex-Comm. I was honored to receive the Delta Chapter's Atchafalaya award this year.

In 2003 I began the Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy Campaign, an independent effort to identify, landmark, and promote the stewardship of cypress over 200 years old-- alive at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Our remaining old growth cypress is a national treasure which deserves recognition and protection.

I have been active on land use and wetland issues for many years—we need to redouble our efforts to hold the Corps of Engineers accountable for its inexcusable leniency in issuing wetland development permits. .

I am concerned that the post Katrina/Rita mantra of “rebuilding smarter, safer, and greener” in coastal Louisiana is being subordinated to the unregulated repopulation of our most vulnerable floodplains. I think the Delta Chapter needs to revive its anti-sprawl/smart growth campaign and speak forcefully for truly rebuilding smarter and greener in coastal Louisiana. The Pontchartrain Basin is also a coastal ecosystem, and all growth around the misnamed “Lake” will continue to be vulnerable to storm surge, regardless of levee improvements.

The Delta Chapter and its regional groups have always been at the forefront of protection and enjoyment of our precious natural environment in Louisiana—as Chapter delegate I will promote efforts to keep our membership engaged and active.



**John Westra**

Since moving to Louisiana nine years ago, I have been actively involved as an ExCom Member with the Baton Rouge Group. During that time, I have helped support various campaigns our group has worked on, including cypress mulch, “jobs and the environment”, smart growth and public/mass transportation issues of concern to folks in the Baton Rouge area. While on the Group ExCom, I have participated in Delta Chapter ExCom meetings as a representative of the Baton Rouge Group. In my other job, I conduct economic research looking at programs and policies for reducing nutrients from agricultural systems in the Mississippi River Basin so that the size and damages associated with the Hypoxic Zone in the Gulf of Mexico are reduced. I appreciate the opportunity to work on environmental issues important to the State by serving on the Chapter ExCom.

# Sierra Club Delta Chapter Ballot, December 2010

Mark one of the following: \_\_\_\_\_ Single membership, \_\_\_\_\_ Joint membership. (Check your mailing label to see if two persons are listed.)

Joint membership allows two people to vote so please use both columns.

The following three candidates in alphabetical order have been nominated to fill three Chapter At Large Positions for a two year term (2011-2013). You may vote for one, two or all three candidates. Sierra Club rules require the Chapter to conduct an election every year regardless of the number of candidates. Thanks for your cooperation.

Single Membership

Joint Membership

Mark this column only

Mark both columns

Charlie Fryling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Harvey Stern

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John Westra

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This Ballot must be received by the Chapter no later than 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 15, 2011. The Ballots will be counted at 400 Glynnedale Ave., Lafayette, LA. at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 17, 2010.

**Please return your ballot by US Mail to Sierra Club Delta Chapter Nominating Committee, 400 Glynnedale Ave., Lafayette, LA 70506.**

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