

DELTA SIERRAN

LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

JAN/FEB 2004

Please see our website for more information on Chapter and Group activities, outings, and events at <http://www.louisiana.sierrclub.org>.

MERCURY POLLUTION, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

By Aaron Viles*

Mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants is one of the most persistent, toxic, and harmful chemicals. This invisible poison ends up in our waterways and accumulates in the fish we catch and eat, threatening public health and Louisiana outdoor recreation. Despite this threat to our health and way of life, the Bush Administration announced recently that it will push to overturn Clean Air Act protections and allow as much as five to six times the toxic mercury pollution that is allowed under current law. To do this, it is declaring mercury a non-toxic pollutant – when every child knows that mercury is a deadly poison.

This is bad news for Louisiana's \$700 million-a-year sport fishing industry, and for those of us who make fishing part of our lifestyle. It is terrible news for anyone who eats fish. The risk of mercury poisoning takes away much of the simple enjoyment of eating freshly caught fish. Exposure to mercury can damage the brain, kidneys and cardiovascular system. It is especially harmful to children whose brains are still developing, and to children still in the womb who are exposed when their mothers eat contaminated fish. Roughly 300,000 newborns each year are already exposed to dangerous

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mercury levels, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To protect against the health risks of mercury, 43 states issued mercury advisories last year warning people to limit consumption of fish from 12 million acres of lakes and 450,000 miles of river. Here in Louisiana, we've got 30 mercury-in-fish advisories stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Ouachita River outside of Monroe.

The good news is that we don't have to choose between fish and public health. There is a common sense way to make fish fit to eat – keep toxic mercury out of the environment and out of the food chain by cutting mercury from power plants, the largest unregulated source of mercury emissions in the United States. The bad news is that

President Bush and his campaign contributors from polluting industries seem unwilling to take this easy step.

More than 500 coal-burning power plants emit about 100,000 pounds of mercury into the air each year, more than any other industry. Here in Louisiana we've got 4 coal-fired facilities cranking out nearly 1,400 pounds annually. While other sources of mercury, like garbage incinerators, are already subject to stringent emission control requirements, mercury emissions from power plants are completely uncontrolled. If we are to address the problem of mercury contamination in fish, we must close this gap. We know that we can – the Bush Administration's own scientists have found that by using current technology, we can reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 90 percent over the next five years.



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**DELTA CHAPTER
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The **Delta Sierran** is the bi-monthly newsletter for the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. This newsletter is published to inform state-wide members and interested non-members of the activities of the Chapter and pending local, state, and national environmental issues.

Members of the Sierra Club can subscribe to the **Delta Sierran** through annual dues.

POSTMASTER: Address changes may be sent to: **Sierra Club Member Services, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968.** All correspondence to the Chapter may be sent to: **Delta Chapter Sierra Club, P.O. Box 19469, New Orleans, LA 70179-0469.**

Doing so would result in rapid reduction in the incidence of mercury poisoning. A recent EPA study done in Florida shows that when tough mercury emission standards are enacted, mercury begins to leave the food chain almost immediately.

Louisiana fishermen and anyone who eats fish urgently need real action to protect against the debilitating impact of mercury poisoning. In our "Sportsmen's Paradise," the link between fishing, our culture, and our economy is far too prominent to sit idly by and watch President Bush put the

wishes of campaign contributors in the utility industry before the health of Louisianans and the environment.

* Aaron Viles is the Gulf States Field Director for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, a non-profit, non-partisan public interest advocacy organization. U.S. PIRG, in association with state PIRGs in 28 states, conducts research and public education on public health, environmental, consumer, and democracy issues. Aaron Viles is the New Orleans Group Membership Chair.

OUTSIDE INTERESTS PUSH TO HIJACK SIERRA CLUB

By Drusha Mayhew

The internal Sierra Club election this spring could prove pivotal and could dramatically alter the direction and mission of our organization. In fact, the Sierra Club we all joined may have a very different look to it next year, depending on the outcome of the 2004 Board of Directors election. That's because current members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors have openly recruited candidates with agendas widely different from the Club's historic conservation mission.

The Sierra Club's direct elections make us unique – and vulnerable. One of the most important opportunities Sierra Club members have is the chance to select our own Board of Directors. Every year members select five directors for three-year terms on our fifteen-member Board. But as the Club has grown, the proportion of our members who vote has declined.

And now the Sierra Club is in trouble – our own democratic process is being used against us to take over our organization and hijack our agenda and assets. Because fewer and fewer members are voting, it has left us vulnerable to take-over efforts by people and parties with narrow, personal, one issue agendas – like

animal rights and anti-immigration. These outside groups can recruit and run petition candidates from outside the Club who share their ideology.

And that's exactly what's happening – with help from some current members of the Club's Board of Directors. Director Paul Watson outlined this effort at an animal rights conference earlier this year, just weeks after he was first elected to the Club's Board. "One of the reasons I'm on the Sierra Club Board of Directors right now is to try to change it," Watson proclaimed.

"And once we get three more directors elected, the Sierra Club will no longer be pro-hunting and pro-trapping and we can use the resources of the \$95-million-a-year budget to address some of these issues," said Watson, who calls fishermen "sadistic bastards" – even though about a sixth of the Club's membership fishes.

Watson noted his task will be made easier by low voter turnout in Club elections: "The heartening thing about it is that, in the last election, of the 750,000 members of the Sierra Club, only 8 percent of them voted. So, you know, a few hundred, or a few thousand people from the animal rights movement joining the Sierra Club – and making it a point to vote – will change the entire agenda of that organization."

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Noted outdoors writer Jim Shepherd characterized this statement as an “attempt to hijack the Sierra Club,” an effort Watson confirmed at the Club’s annual September meeting, when he admitted that he’s trying to “take over” the Sierra Club and its agenda.

In addition to Watson’s efforts to commandeer the Sierra Club, the anti-immigration forces which have been targeting the Sierra Club for more than a decade have now joined forces with the animal rights activists. Club Director Ben Zuckerman, another Club Director with close to zero Club experience when he was elected to the Board, has recruited candidates to run for the Sierra Club board from an obscure organization called the Diversity Alliance for a Sustainable America. This organization shares his desire for the Club to become involved in closing down immigration into the United States. The DASA has been funded in part by grants totaling \$125,000 from foundations controlled by the notorious Clinton hater and right wing patron Richard Mellon Scaife and his family. According to the Washington Post, “Scaife and his family’s charitable entities played a central role in the rise of the right, giving at least \$340 million to conservative causes and institutions.”

Director Zuckerman’s principal focus on the Board has been a relentless effort to persuade his fellow Directors to overturn the membership vote several years ago to unite the Club by remaining neutral on the question of immigration policy. Zuckerman has compared immigration to cancer, defended Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo – an anti-immigration zealot who earns an average LCV score of 15% – as “the person in Congress doing the most for the environment,” and called for the Club to work on halting immigration as a means of fighting the war against terrorism. A number of anti-immigration web sites have recently been urging people to join the Sierra Club in order to elect the candidates recruited by Zuckerman.

These unrelenting efforts to undermine the Sierra Club, its conservation agenda, assets, and democratic process prompted the Southern Poverty Law Center, perhaps the nation’s leading organization in exposing hate group activities, to advise the Club’s volunteer leadership this fall: “We think that members of the Sierra Club should be fully alert to the methods and motives of some of those who are trying to shift it from its historic mission.”

So consider yourself alerted to these take-over efforts, this deliberate attempt to undermine our democracy and hijack the agenda chosen by a majority of Sierra Club members. Consider all that is at stake in this Sierra Club election – our democracy, our direction, our ability to stop the Bush administration’s assault on our environment and overcome some of the most serious environmental challenges we have ever faced.

Don’t sit on the sidelines this election. Vote.

Ballots will be mailed to all Club members at the end of February, and must be filled out and received back by the Judges of Elections by April 21. Every Sierra Club member will receive a ballot and an accompanying statement, in which each candidate describes his or her background, qualifications, and goals for the organization. These last are often written in rather general language, but the Club and the candidates provide internet mechanisms through which they can be questioned more specifically about their views. Take the opportunity and question them.

“Sierra Club Board elections are a fine opportunity for our members to look at our Club and determine the directions they want the organization to go,” says Club President Larry Fahn. “I urge all our members to study the candidates carefully. And I urge all members to vote. It is member participation that has made the Sierra Club the most effective environmental organization in the world. It is member participation that will empower us to stop George Bush, and will allow us to carry on our wonderful tradition of effectiveness into the future.”

Drusha Maybue is a long time Club grass roots leader, and has held many positions including Chair of the Houston Group. She currently sits on the Montana Chapter Executive Committee. If you have comments or questions, or would like further information, please contact Drusha at: drusha_m@yahoo.com.

Act Now and Save the Environment!

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

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
John Calaway, Director, Gift Planning
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EARL'S PEARLS WELCOME TO YOUR NATIONAL (PRIVATE) PARKS

By Earl Higgins

Some elected officials are filled with self-loathing. They have labored hard and spent copiously to get elected to a position in government, all the while protesting that they are not politicians and that government does not do things as well as private business. Some of these politicians actually believe that they are not politicians, and they are filled with the ideology of being anti-government and pro-business, which they always believe are mutually exclusive concepts. Others are hustlers and frauds, like the legendary, infamous convict and former Secretary of the Interior James Watt, whose protégée, Gayle Norton, holds down her mentor's former government job. When he was Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Watt vigorously proclaimed the pro-business line as a means of awarding some of his private-industry friends advantageous positions at the government trough.

Although not apparently venal as was her mentor, Secretary Norton endorses the doctrine of private enterprise as the means of carrying out the federal government's business. This doctrine applies to the always popular National Park System. Funds for maintenance, personnel, and capital improvement are kept away from those nasty bureaucrats who wear Smoky the Bear hats while the Department of the Interior tries to figure out how to implement the ideology of privatization in the national parks, even as they grow shabby.

The *Delta Sierran* has learned that Louisiana's prestigious "think tank," the Florida Parishes Institute of Phrenology and Cuisinart Maintenance, located in lovely and majestic downtown Tickfaw, has been working on this project for several

months under contract with the Department of the Interior and has developed several recommendations that will further the goal of privatization and save lots of money in the process. User fees and vehicle passes are all well and good, but that stuff is carfare compared to the big bucks that private business can raise. Here are some of the ideas that will be recommended.

Fast Food in the Parks. Can you imagine how much Burger King or Taco Bell will pay to get a restaurant at the base of Yosemite Falls? Not only will the money pour in to fund other important national park projects such as paving parking lots and building roads through wilderness areas, these eating activities will provide access to *all* Americans, including those too lazy to pack a lunch and those too food-obsessed to do anything at all without eating. Hikers can look forward to soft drink machines on the trails, obviating carrying liquids in the backpack. Don't you get hungry just thinking about eating a McGeyser burger while gazing on the spouting Old Faithful?

Rescue Services. The National Park Service spends a lot of money on personnel, fuel, vehicles, and helicopters going after people who get lost, get trapped in a snowstorm, and so forth. Why should everyone else, the taxpayers, pay to rescue someone who was too stupid or took too many chances? After all, risk is part of the experience and thrill of visiting a national park. When a person seeks help in a national park, private industry can respond, the requester pays, and the taxpayers won't be stuck with the bill. Consider someone who has slipped and fallen off a trail in the Rocky Mountain National Park. He presses the emergency number on his cell phone, and cheerful voice (a recording) welcomes the caller to the emergency service provider, recites the menu, and asks for a credit card number and expiration date. Once the important information is given, caller can then describe his plight and the needed services.

Sponsorship and Naming Rights. This proposal promises to bring in enormous amounts of money for the National Park Service. Although parks will not be sold outright to those with the heavy cash, they will identify the sponsor in the park's name. Sponsors whose names and products fit the name of the park will pay extra for that similarity. Think about "United Artists' Rocky Mountain National Park," the movie-maker of the "Rocky" movies. (But not the "Rocky Horror Picture Show.") When entering Yosemite National Park, visitors will be greeted with an enormous cartoon of Yosemite Sam on the face of El Capitan, with a speech balloon stating "Yosemite Sam Welcomes You To Warner Bros.' Yosemite National Park." Tobacco companies, who are now very low in the social and moral pecking order, could regain some public approval by sponsoring a park. Are you ready for the "Phillip Morris Great Smoky Mountains National Park"? How about "Rush Limbaugh's Mount Rushmore: Curse Those Liberals In Front Of Four Great Presidents"? "Getty Oil Company Gettysburg National Cemetery"? Or even "Maidenform Grand Tetons National Park"?

Closer to home, Louisiana's only national park, the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, is named for someone who was, among other occupations, a pirate, an organized-crime boss. If the campaign to increase private enterprise in the national parks succeeds, you may see signs promoting the "Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve: Brought to you by the Medellin Cartel in Association with La Cosa Nostra." Private enterprise: it's what made America great.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINES

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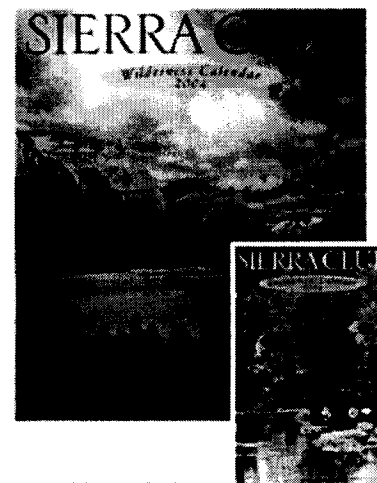
NEW ORLEANS GROUP MEMBER BARRY KOHL RECEIVES LEAN'S 2003 DEFENDER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AWARD

By Wendy King

At LEAN's (Louisiana Environmental Action Network) Annual Conference on Saturday, November 22, 2003, New Orleans Group member and Conservation Chair Barry Kohl received LEAN's Defender of the Environment Award, for his eight years of hard work and research on mercury's hazards to the environment. He has worked with state agencies and the public in advocating more protection for high-risk groups of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under seven years old.

Thanks to Barry's work educating state legislators, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the general public on the dangers mercury poses to pregnant and nursing mothers and to the growth of very young children, and his research on mercury's buildup in the flesh of freshwater fish, such as large-mouth bass, catfish, and bowfin (or choupique) and large predatory fish, such as king mackerel, 29 fish advisories for high-risk groups of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children under 7 years old, have been posted on many of Louisiana's lakes and rivers. This posting was part of a Sierra Club EPEC Campaign, from about 3 years ago.

The LEAN Conference was, according to the Baton Rouge Advocate (11/23/03), attended by "more than 100 people" at the Embassy Suites Hotel.



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RECYCLING TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND OTHER OCCASIONS

This is from Yarrow Etheredge,
Director of the City of New
Orleans' Office of
Environmental Affairs.

(Editor's Note: Even though this comes after the Christmas and New Year's holidays, this is always good advice for year-round gift giving and sending.)

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

New Orleans Group's co-chair (and Alliance for Affordable Energy's interim Executive Director/Program Coordinator) Micah Walker gave birth at home to a beautiful 7 pound baby girl on January 4th, at 1:34 am. Her name is Maia Avanel Parkin, and Micah and her (and husband Nate Parkin's) daughter are both doing very well. They can't wait for everyone to meet her.

December is the highest waste producing month of the year. You can help change this by sharing & observing the following tips during the holiday season:

* Bring your own reusable shopping bag rather than using separate bags for your holiday purchases.

* Ask mail-order companies who ship your holiday gifts to use paper instead of packing peanuts. Save your bubble wrap and peanuts -- there are places where they can be recycled (i.e., Mail Boxes Etc.).

* When possible, buy recycled gift-wrap or wrap your gifts in brown paper, colorful newspaper or festive holiday fabric that can easily be reused.

* A great number of holiday cards are made from recycled paper. When you buy recycled cards, you cut down on waste -- it's that simple.

* Be party savvy. Use cloth napkins, silverware, and non-disposable drinking cups. Don't

forget about reusable plates instead of disposable plastic or paper. Reuse your plastic margarine tubs or yogurt containers for leftovers.

* Recycle your Christmas tree.

ON MAD COW DISEASE

FROM THE NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

With the practice of including animal parts in feed for a wide range of animals, fatal diseases are entering the food chain which threaten our food supply and the health of all species involved. The National Sierra Club Agriculture Committee opposes the inclusion of any body parts, body fluids, milk or waste material from any diseased animal in food or feedstuffs for any creature. Further, the Committee opposes the inclusion of any body parts, body fluids or waste material from animals in feed for ruminants.

HONEY ISLAND GROUP PROMOTES RECYCLING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

By Leslie March
Honey Island Group

In 2003, we saw the advent of Sandy's Recycling Corner in the HIG newsletter. Sandy Parke of Slidell began a column giving recycling tips and advice to Honey Island members. There was an excellent response. Numerous members began contacting Sandy for more information.

In March, Diane Casteel of Mandeville proposed to the ExCom that a parish-wide recycling sheet be formulated. This met enthusiastic Ex-Com approval. In April, the first meeting was held of the subcommittee consisting of Sandy, Diane, Therese and Margie Vicknair-Pray. The latter served in a consulting role.

A list of items was identified for research and then divided between the active members of the committee. Several meetings and not a few pizzas later, the sheet was ready to be dispersed. Therese did all the computer layout work – a formidable

job. It has become an ongoing labor of love for Diane and Therese to keep actively updating the information. The recycling sheet is available at libraries in St. Tammany Parish and on the HIG website (maintained by Bill Sussky). If you would like one, call one of the ExCom members.

We would like to encourage other groups in the state to follow our lead. This is an offshoot of our Cypress Mulch campaign. We have found it helpful to formulate a plan, only take on what each member can complete, think local and act global, and of course have fun doing it.

OUR GOVERNOR'S ELECTION

By Wendy King
Delta Sierran Editor

By the time we read this editorial, we Louisianans will have a new governor, new lieutenant governor, new Attorney General, a lot of new senators and representatives (and several returning ones), new council and parish officers, votes on 15 new Constitutional Amendments (with the first three crucial to saving and restoring our state's disintegrating coastline), and, in New Orleans, a vote to put slot machines at the New Orleans Fairgrounds. Here at the Sierran, and at the Delta Chapter, we are most interested in the governor's race and the three Constitutional Amendments supporting coastal restoration funding (and they all passed, by the way). The next governor (and it's now down to Bobby Jindal and former Lt. Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco) and those new and returning state senators and representatives will inherit outgoing Governor Mike Foster's edict that the coast will be protected by either the state, the feds, or the oil companies, depending on the formula the Legislature (or Congress) works out to figure out how investing in our state's coastline, its

fisheries, and its wildlife is divided among these three parties, and many other agencies and groups which will weigh in, as we watch our coastline dissolve, and the Gulf of Mexico wash more of our state away. We are doing what we can to help our legislators, both state and federal, understand how important this state's environment is, and how critical it is that it be protected. We spent one Monday night, for about two hours, in Baton Rouge talking to each other (but, alas, not to either gubernatorial candidates Bobby Jindal or Lt. Governor Kathleen Blanco, both of whom decided not to come, and tell us where they stood on environmental issues. Jindal said that he'd only come if there were a television camera and a reporter there. Lt. Governor Blanco said she had a fundraiser in Houston that night.). We used the two hours to outline all, or most, of our environmental concerns. We put

these concerns on giant sheets of paper, and have forwarded them to the two candidates. So, whether Bobby Jindal or Lt. Gov. Blanco becomes Governor, we will be here, and we will remind the next governor that our environmental concerns are important, and that they should be reflected in the next governor's term, both in his (or her) actions and in the priorities set forth by both the Louisiana legislature and our state and local agencies and officials. Let's hope they're all up to the challenge.



Make the Sierra Club part of your New Year's Resolution—Give a Sierra Club Membership to protect the wild now and for the next generation.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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SIERRA CLUB
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THE EVENTS PAGE

DELTA CHAPTER EXCOM MEETINGS

Baton Rouge	January 17 & 18
Honey Island	April 17 & 18
Acadian	July 17 & 18
New Orleans	October 16 & 17

ACADIAN GROUP

General Meeting & Lecture Series:

Held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Acadiana Symphony Building, 412 Travis St., Lafayette, LA. The Acadian Group is always looking for speakers. Past topics include native plants, wildlife, invasive species, reforestation, environ-mental education, the news media, and environ-mental concerns of local or global nature. If you would like to volunteer or suggest a speaker, please call Paul Fontenot at 337-235-0011.

HONEY ISLAND GROUP

<http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland/>

Please see our website for meeting info.

The Honey Island Group (encompassing St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes) hosts a gathering at the Mandeville Community Center on Thursday, Feb. 19. The get-to-know-you potluck dinner begins at 6:30 pm with an open discussion of environmental issues affecting our community to follow. For directions, call Diane Casteel, 985-626-5268.

As a way of addressing the growing crisis of solid waste disposal, the group has introduced a new directory for the St. Tammany area entitled "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle", featuring listings for sites and charitable groups who will accept your cast-offs. Please come and pick up a copy for yourself or a stack to distribute. Suggestions are welcome for additions to the directory for future editions. We are also soliciting volunteers interested in working on editions specific for Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes as well.

Recycle Those Electronics!

For a pilot project to foster our parishes' recycling efforts, the Honey Island Group will be collecting used PDAs, pagers, and cell phones. Dig into your electronics drawer and either bring the item(s) to the next meeting or call one of the ExCom members to arrange for pickup. Your efforts will aid the environment and help support your local Sierra Club.

Actually, Recycle Everything!

A recycling info fact sheet is being prepared to advise our membership of ways to recycle, reuse, or properly dispose of many items. From papers to autos, inkjet cartridges to shoes, the list will be a preliminary one and open to suggestions and contributions from our members. Watch your newsletter for info on availability.

BATON ROUGE GROUP

<http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/batonrouge/>

General Membership Meetings

Please see our website for information.

Executive Committee Meetings

Held the 1st Sunday of each month except holiday weekends, in which case it'll be held on the 2nd Sunday. Location: Goodwood Library at

7 pm. Meetings are open to all members.

Transportation Committee Meeting

Held at 6:45 pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Bluebonnet Library, 9200 Bluebonnet. For more info, call David Lindenfeld, 766-1983.

Conservation Committee Meeting

Held each month on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm at the "Community Room" of the Law Office of Moore, Walters, Thompson, et al. at 6513 Perkins Rd. across from the Pennington Center.

Group Vacancies

The Baton Rouge Group needs a new membership chair. Robbic Richter is stepping down to pursue a career in medicine. Good luck, Robbic!

The Baton Rouge Group also needs someone to serve as member-at-large on the ExCom. If interested, call Nancy Grush, 225-381-9440.

The Baton Rouge Group is in dire need of a newsletter editor. Charlene Deroche, former editor for the past five years, has offered to train the new editor. Although the newsletter has been published monthly for some time, that requirement is not set in stone. If interested, contact Nancy Grush at (225) 381-9440.

Check out <http://www.sierraclub.org/wwatch> and tell your friends about it! The "W" Watch is a great way to see the havoc the Bush administration is wreaking on the environment while using national park photo-ops to green-wash his image.

NEW ORLEANS GROUP

<http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/neworleans/>

Executive Committee Meeting

February 3 at 7 p.m. EXCOM meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in attending, please call New Orleans Group Chair, Darryl Malek-Wiley at 504-865-8708. Meetings are also scheduled for Mar. 9 and Apr. 13.

General Membership Meeting

February 8 at 7:00 p.m. Please call Aaron Viles (work: 504.314.0773; cell: 504.259.7664) or check the website for meeting info. Meetings are also scheduled for Mar. 13 and Apr. 8.

Bayou Savage NWR Clean Up!

We've been removing trash from Bayou Sauvage NWR regularly, with some success. Wayside Park at the Refuge has changed from a dump to a place where tour buses stop. We now need more people for our "possible volunteer" list, to clean once a month or once in a while. Interested people can contact Betty Brody at 586-1381 or CleanRefuge@aol.com.

Red Creek Canoe Trip

Once again, Earl Higgins is planning a Red Creek Canoe Trip on Memorial Day weekend, May 29-31, the 33rd year for this Sierra Club tradition. Anyone interested can call him at (504) 738-1361 or e-mail PietasHiggi@aol.com.

Jean Lafitte National Park

The Barataria Unit of Jean Lafitte National Park is looking for volunteers for the spring iris season. A 3-hour training session, scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 6, or Sunday, Mar. 7, is required. The volunteer will be asked to give at least 12 hours total on the weekends of Mar. 27-28, Apr. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18. Call (504) 589-2330 ext. 10.

N.O. Group Sign Up For Group Notices!

Please send e-mail addresses to receive notices

of upcoming outings, meetings, and events. Sign up by e-mailing: SierraClub_NewOrleanssubscribe@yahoo.com or Betty Brody at SierraClubNO@aol.com. We promise you will not be bombarded with email but will get notices of the Club's interesting outings and lectures, and a few emails about environmental issues from Membership Chair Aaron Viles.

Environmental Happy Hour

Come one, come all for the happy hour that celebrates all things environmental. Meet activists, organizers, and interested others. Really though, it's just an excuse to hang out, get together, and share stories. If you work on environmental issues, lead canoe trips, or simply like the company of good-hearted folks, bring a friend and come on out. 6pm-until? on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact Aaron Viles, 504-314-0773, for more info.

Fall Planning Session/Lunch'n'Canoe Outing

On Saturday, Feb 7, join the New Orleans Group ExCom for a day-long planning and strategy session, with a delicious lunch and short canoe trip at Jean Lafitte National Park's Education Center, in beautiful surroundings in the heart of Jean Lafitte National Park, less than 20 minutes from New Orleans. The planning and strategy session begins at 10 am. We will be planning conservation outreach and general group strategy. Afterwards, we will enjoy a quick canoe trip in the Park. Bring comfortable clothes, shoes, and lots of ideas for our planning session. Meet some of our most active, involved, and engaged local Sierra Club activists, learn about conservation issues facing the Greater New Orleans area, and enjoy some great canoeing in Bayou Segnette. For more info, email Aaron Viles at aaronviles@netzero.net.

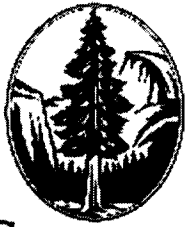
KISATCHIE GROUP

The Kisatchie Group is home to Sierra Club members throughout much of northwestern Louisiana, centered on Shreveport.

The Kisatchie Group is looking for an activist and/or volunteer to coordinate quarterly or more frequent meetings. Any members who want to become more active in any aspect of the Group will be welcomed and assisted.

The Kisatchie Group is currently involved in a number of local activities, including supporting efforts to form an advisory group to help develop a plan for Shreveport's Riverfront to preserve greenspaces, the kick off of the Community Foundation of Shreveport/Bossier Environmental Field of Interest (F²OI) to support and promote environmental education, and the responsible development of the Red River Education and Research Park at Bickham Dickson Park, as well as monitoring issues such as siltation at Cross Lake (the City's water supply) and underfunding of City water and sewerage infrastructure needs. If you are interested in assisting with these efforts or joining the Group, please call Jeff Wellborn, Kisatchie Group Chair, 318-222-1801, jwellbrn@bell.south.net, or write to: Kisatchie Group, PO Box 2098, Shreveport, LA 71166-2098.

On a related note, Jeff Wellborn was recently recognized by the Shreveport Times newspaper as the class of 2003 "Leader for the New Century." He is one of ten people recognized for 2003. Congratulations, Jeff!



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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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