

March - April
2021

Delta Sierran

MONTHLY ENEWS FROM YOUR SIERRA CLUB

DELTA CHAPTER MEETS

Group Meetings:

[Follow the Zoom link at time for meeting]

ACADIAN-LAFAYETTE AREA

General membership In-Person Meetings are at 6:30 PM on the second Wednesday of the month, First United Methodist Church, Lafayette Acadian is planning to start Zoom meetings on the 3rd Wednesdays: <https://tinyurl.com/rztzn2f>

BATON ROUGE

General membership Zoom meetings are at 7 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month; BR Zoom meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/4m3bta4t>

Meetings: **March 25** - Charlie Fryling discusses the history, obstacles faced, and the beauty of Chicot Arboretum (see March 27th)

April 22 - Katherine Gividen, a LA Master Naturalist, shares Birding in Belize.

Outing: **March 27th** - Charlie Fryling leads a day hike the Chicot Arboretum.

HONEY ISLAND (Northshore)

Outing: **March 21** - 2:PM (2 hours)

Hike at the Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve. The preserve is approximately 4.5 miles from the traffic circle in Abita Springs, Hwy. 435.

NEW ORLEANS

General membership Zoom meetings are at 7:00 PM on the second Sunday of the month;

NOLA Zoom meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/2hx3zs8e>

Meetings: **April 11** - Darryl Malik-Wiley speaks on environmental racism in Cancer Alley.

May 16 - Christen Steele, Tulane Biologist and specialist on Monarch Butterflies and their habitats.



Please send YOUR photos and stories or ideas to margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org to be included in future issues and on our website and other Delta Chapter social media pages.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact: ChapterInfo@louisiana.sierraclub.org

This photo: Palmetto trail by Margie Vicknair-Pray

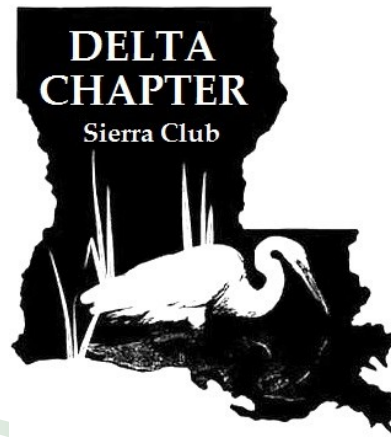
DAVE STETS: A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

From your Chapter Chair:

There has been a lot going on in the last month. Margie has pulled some of it together in this monthly e-Newsletter. Watch for a coming press release on our support for a candidate for LA 2nd Congressional Race. This process took a lot more time than we expected. I hope you can all get to the polls and vote. I hope you all get your Covid vac-

cine so we can all get out safely on outings and events, still wearing mask. Many of the ExCom members have been able to get them. Hoping to see all of you at our May Anniversary.

Dave STETS
Delta Chapter Chair



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Visit us on Facebook:

Sierra Club Delta Chapter

Look for us on other social media

SC Honey Island Group and St Tammany Master Gardeners Host Kick-Off Zoom for Fontainebleau Gardens Project

Sierra Club Honey Island Group and St. Tammany Master Gardeners invite you to join us as we kickoff our project to develop and maintain the gardens and trail areas of Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville, LA.

Because of state cutbacks maintenance staff have been cut dramatically and our planning and planting will help keep this "Queen of Parks" in the dignified state she deserves. We will introduce the basic concepts that we hope to develop in the gardens, such as native plantings and educational tagging of plants whenever possible.

Join our **Zoom Kick-Off Meeting on Friday, March 26th, 2:00-3:30 PM** you can join us to find out more about the project. We're planning at least two work days in April, after Easter.

To join the Zoom meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/35pexnm>

We'll be working to design and improve existing gardens, and to plan new areas for development. We will also be working to improve trails by planting and encouraging native species and identifying them so that visitors can learn what the plants are as well as how they were used by the natives and early settlers.

If you're interested in helping out with this exciting new project, please contact margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org. We are looking for volunteers and donations and hope to get boots on the ground in March. If you are a Master Gardener, you can contact Kim Burt, Project Chair for the St. Tammany Master Gardeners, kimberlee1949@hotmail.com for more information.



Sugar Mill Ruins, FSP

WATER SENTINELS GROUPS FORM AROUND STATE

Louisiana's first Water Sentinels groups formed in Lafayette back in 2010 to monitor the waters of Bayou Teche. They continued monitoring for over six years.

Recently the Delta Chapter formed a new Water Sentinels group to assist in the care of the Atchafalaya Basin. They will work with biologists to monitor the streams in the Basin.

Last month, four members of the New Orleans and Honey Island Groups went through training with the Pearl Riverkeeper program to become monitors. Besides assisting with testing on the lower Pearl, both East and West streams, the new Sentinels will also be testing for bacterial content and other impurities in the Tchefuncte River in St. Tammany Parish.

Inspired by the enthusiasm, Baton Rouge is now working to develop a Water Sentinels group to monitor Bayou Manchac!

Anyone interested in joining - or forming - a monitoring group, please contact Margie at margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org



Louisiana needs you to care. You can make a monthly donation - \$5 helps! - that will go directly to support actions in Louisiana.

Just go here: sc.org/DeltaMonthly



Sierra Club Delta Chapter 50th Anniversary



Postponed to May 23, 2021

~~May 23~~
~~Sunday February 28, 2021~~

11:30 am - . . .

Shelter #1, City Park, New Orleans

Please RSVP to Harvey Stern

hstern@bellsouth.net

Environmental Justice Plays a Key Role in Biden's Covid-19 Stimulus Package

The rescue plan includes an “unprecedented” \$100 million in funding for action on air pollution and environmental health risks in marginalized communities.

President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion Covid relief package includes a downpayment on his ambitious climate plan, including \$100 million to address harmful air quality and environmental health risks in minority and low-income communities.

For the full story: <https://tinyurl.com/pbv56w35>

Skinks and Lizards may be protecting people from Lyme disease in the southeastern United States

...in the south, the ticks prefer to feed on lizards, particularly skinks. These sleek, smooth-scaled reptiles often live in leaves and twigs that have fallen on the ground—so-called leaf litter—and are particularly poor transmitters of the Lyme pathogens. So fewer southern ticks are infected and fewer people get sick—the team reported last week in PLOS Biology.

For the full story: <https://tinyurl.com/3ft8e5rw>

GROW A BIRDSEED GARDEN!

Instead of spending money on birdseed, consider growing plants that feed the birds. We have the tips you need to keep your feathered friends happy!

Growing birdseed and bird food ensures safer seeds without unknown chemical enhancements or pesticide treatments. Instead, you are in control of every step of the growth and harvesting and can ensure the plants are safe for birds.

For more: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/growing-birdseed-35422>

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT?

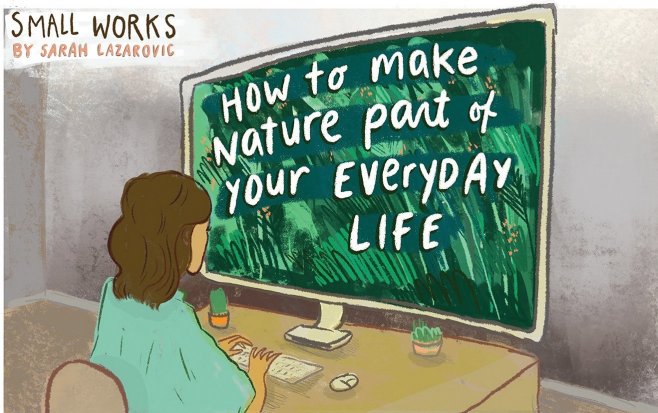
Here's an easy access form to file a complaint with LA-DEQ. For example, if there is a strong chemical smell or an obvious spill of some substance: go to this form!

<https://internet.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/ONLINESERVICES/FORMS/FILE-A-CITIZEN-COMPLAINT>

If you want to submit anonymously, please call the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at 225-219-3640 Monday-Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM

For any problems, questions, or additions to the form please contact SPOC at SPOC@la.gov or call 225-219-3640

SMALL WORKS
BY SARAH LAZAROVIC



We're of two worlds. We know there's a world that should be entirely different, with ecological principles at its core. Where sustainability guides all that we do. Where we understand a thriving planet means thriving people.



But then we go back to daily life, with bills and too much plastic and dental appointments, and our deeper vision of how to live gets foggy.



For more Small Works go to: <https://tinyurl.com/38s5a34w>