



DELTA SIERRAN

Delta Chapter Newsletter

www.Louisiana.sierraclub.org

Winter 2010

Requiem for Pam

December 2009 started with the sad news that our dear friend and collaborator Pam Dashiell from the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association and the Lower Nine Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development, passed away at her home in Holy Cross. Her close friend and colleague Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club Environmental Justice organizer, sent out an email saying "We in New Orleans are still in shock with the passing of Pam Dashiell, she is already missed and we will need 10 people to work full time to do all the work that she was doing". I received the news via email and phone calls at my home in Oregon. I was stunned because I had just returned from New Orleans a few weeks prior. I attended the Green Building Conference sponsored by the Delta Chapter where I spent a few hours with Pam catching up.

The Delta Chapter has been involved with issues surrounding the Industrial Canal and the MRGO for a long time. Pam lived in the Holy Cross Neighborhood for the last twenty years. She was always an active member of her community but after Katrina, she dedicated her efforts to recovering sustainably.

I first met Pam after Katrina when the Delta Chapter did a neighborhood clean-up in Holy Cross. We became friends that day. Our friendship continued based on our mutual values, desire to help our communities and sense of humor. You couldn't be discouraged around Pam. She had that special optimism and warmth that guaranteed that our projects would succeed. When the local politics had me climbing the wall, she could get me to laugh it off and keep going. When I looked for pictures of Pam, almost all of the ones I had were of her speaking. She was always willing to speak up for her community and people listened. Her calm practical manner gave us all confidence. Many of the sustainable projects happening in New Orleans had her touch to get them started and to keep

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Pam speaking to the media at Sierra Club Holy Cross Cleanup

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Delta Sierran



WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA CHAPTER

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

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We Need Your Email Address

Please send us your email address. Occasionally we need to communicate with you about important Delta Chapter concerns and issues. You can easily do this by sending your email address along with your membership number (found on your Sierra Club membership card) OR send your email address with your complete name and street address to membership.services@sierraclub.org. " The club has policies limiting the number of emails to members and the club will not allow other organizations or persons to use your email address. You will not get a barrage of emails from unsolicited sources.

Communication with you is important for our effectiveness. Feel free to contact me any time at hrmartin2sc@gmail.com
Haywood Martin, Chair



View From The Chair

The Climate Battle

The battle over the science of climate change that was raging hot and heavy up to and during the meetings in Copenhagen has now given way to assessment of just what was or wasn't accomplished. Those who wanted the meeting to fail are calling it a failure. Those hoping and working for success are looking at the bright spots, and they are substantial. President Obama was successful in personally obtaining broad commitments from the largest emitters. For the first time we have agreement that the U.S., China, India, Brazil and the other fast-growing developing countries will take their first steps to curb their emissions. Commitments included agreement on verification, even with China, which had strongly refused to consider such measures. The signed accord removes several substantial obstacles to agreement in the U.S. Senate on legislation to address climate change.

It is important also to note that in the face of withering criticism and disinformation from well funded obstructionists, the meetings were successful in drawing world attention to the overwhelming consensus that action must be taken to control human caused climate change. But the battle will go on. There seems to be no end to the lengths to which the forces of resistance will go in order to try and stop the changes that must be made in the world's huge consumption of energy from fossil fuels.

Sierra Club Delta Chapter member Rachel Guillory was there in Copenhagen to report on the meetings and to represent the community of people in Louisiana who want action to control human caused global warming. You can see her postings by going to <http://sscinternational.org/> and clicking on Rachel's name on the right side. I want to express our appreciation to Rachel for her good work in representing all of us at Copenhagen.

Mississippi River Issue Team

The Sierra Club Mississippi River Issue Team (MissRIT) is a group of representatives from states in the Mississippi River watershed, who are putting together strategies to

reduce nutrient flows to the River. Most of the nutrients Nitrogen and Phosphorous (N and P) come from point sources such as municipal and domestic wastewater systems, and fertilizers applied to farm fields. These nutrient pollutants are the principal cause of the Gulf of Mexico dead zone. The Issue Team will work with partner organizations and will develop a plan for each state. Your MissRIT volunteers currently are Woody Martin, Matt Rota, and Jay Vincent. Interested persons are invited to work with us on this project.



Chapter Conservation Coordinator

In other news The Delta Chapter has decided to look for an individual to serve as its Conservation Program Coordinator. This will be a paid position that will organize and implement conservation programs, campaigns or initiatives, using such activities to increase club member and volunteer involvement. Program activities may include clean energy, air/water quality, wetlands preservation, forest conservation, endangered species and educational outings. The job advertisement closes Dec 21 and the selection process will commence after the holidays. We will let you know the outcome of this process.

For current status on any of these issues you can go to the Delta Chapter web site at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/>

Pam Dashiell

On a final note the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club deeply regrets the passing of Pam Dashiell, a community organizer and long time activist who was committed to the rebuilding of the Holy Cross community and the lower 9th ward in New Orleans. She inspired faith and confidence in the possibility that a community can rebuild itself in a way that maintains community health and vitality, and that sustains the planet. Pam will be missed by many who benefited from her leadership and her participation in everything that was good and constructive in her community.

Sincerely,

Woody Martin

Tiny Fish in Global Pond



Lisa Jackson, Director EPA and New Orleans native surrounded by Youth Representatives including Rachel, Bottom center.



Sierra Student Coalition in Copenhagen

Rachel Guillory lives in Slidell, Louisiana. While she attended LSU, she was an active member of ECO and the Sierra Student Coalition. She is currently a member of the Honey Island Group. Rachel was selected to be part of the official Sierra Club delegation that attended the Climate Change Conference held in December in Copenhagen, Denmark. What an amazing experience for one of our local members. We asked Rachel to blog on her trip for the Delta Chapter.

It took 2 planes, 2 trains, 1 ferry, 1 light rail, and 1 taxi cab to get there, but I finally got to Copenhagen on December 4th. And now, sitting in a hotel room in Frankfurt, waiting to catch my flight home tomorrow morning, there's a lot to be said about United Nations Climate Change Conference (also known as COP15, or the 15th Conference of the Parties) that's actually still going on in Copenhagen, Denmark.

COP15 is the 15th annual meeting of the 192 countries who have ratified an international climate treaty called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, of which the Kyoto Protocol is a part. For the first time, youth (a term that

applies to anyone who identifies as such) have been recognized as an official constituency in the UNFCCC proceedings in Copenhagen this December, which allows youth more access to meeting rooms, seats in the plenary sessions, and the right to hold press conferences and other side events.

Along with 17 other youth leaders from the Sierra Student Coalition, I was given the opportunity to attend COP15 as a youth delegate. And the weekend before COP15 started, actually, we attended something called the Conference of Youth at the University of Copenhagen. For the last 5 years, youth have been holding a Conference of Youth leading up to the official Conference of the Parties negotiations, in order to coordinate efforts between countries' youth delegations. A total of 750 youth attended this year, which is only a fraction of the 2000 youth delegates accredited to attend the actual COP15 negotiations. The climate stories that we all had to share with each other were fascinating. The Nepalese Youth Climate Coalition

is dealing with the melting of the Himalayan glaciers. The Australian Youth Climate Coalition is suffering from drought and heat waves. (And Louisiana got snow again this year?) Every delegation complains of a lack of political leadership in their governments. But the enthusiasm and tenacity of every person in our big, crowded lecture hall overshadowed every obstacle in front of us.

On December 8th, our delegation had the opportunity to attend a closed-door, off-the-record briefing with US negotiator Jonathan Pershing and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, who had announced the previous day the obvious fact that carbon dioxide is indeed a harmful pollutant. During the question and answer period, six of the nine questions taken were asked by US youth, either from our delegation or another youth delegation. We coordinated our questions ahead of time so as to stay on message, and the administration thanked the 500+ US youth attending COP15.

continued next page



Sierra Student Coalition Environmental Leader Training Program

Now, for you policy wonks out there, I'll attempt to assess the progress (or lack thereof) of the negotiations themselves. The small island nation of Tuvalu (near American Samoa) has proved themselves the strongest climate leaders by far, demanding a legally-binding treaty tougher than the Kyoto Protocol. Because richer, developing countries like China opposed the proposal, negotiations were suspended already on December 9th until the issue could be resolved. Despite criticism, Tuvalu stuck its neck out repeatedly, refusing to back down from its firm stance on carbon emissions reductions across the world, but instead standing up on behalf of all small island nations who will feel the first effects of sea level rise in the not-so-distant future. It was inspiring to hear country after country speak up and support Tuvalu for being so brave-- even big, developed countries like Japan and Brazil had their back. Tuvalu activists and supporters staged an impromptu rally outside the plenary session that day, but the UN Secretariat apparently had not approved the rally, so the UN police got

involved, and yours truly got into a little trouble for participating. As you can see in the video on this blog (<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/datelinecopenhagen/climate-activists-rally-for-tuvalu/>), no one in the rally became violent. But because the rally was so close to the plenary session doors, the UN police took down several of our names, including mine. I received only a warning, but I learned my lesson-- always ask before you start showing your support for other coastal communities.

As I write on December 17th, the negotiation process looks dim. Jonathan Pershing continuously insists that overall global carbon emissions can be capped at 450 parts per million, instead of the 350 parts per million that the scientific and environmental communities are calling for. Canada refuses to raise its emissions reduction goals, or even meet the goals its promised the world thus far. But worst of all, the thousands of non-governmental delegates, or civil society delegates, like myself have been literally shut out of the conference center. Using the excuse that the UN Secretariat accredited 30,000 people when

the conference center can hold only 15,000, all but 90 nongovernmental delegates will be denied access to the conference center on the last day of the negotiations, December 18th. This marginalization has led to numerous incidents of civil disobedience, but not enough to incite the police brutality occurring in Copenhagen this week. Starting with the 900 arrests made at the end of the climate march on December 12th, Danish police have gassed, beaten, and detained hundreds of people whom the police have deemed "suspicious." Obviously, some of the detainees were in fact trouble-makers. However, a member of our own delegation was detained for 10 hours simply for biking in a Critical Mass bike ride—a monthly event I know we all hold dear back home.

Let me remind you that the youth delegates being shut out of the conference center are not your average down-with-the-man anarchist punks. These are valedictorians, leaders of student government, and highly achieving youth who are skipping class and losing two weeks of pay to devote themselves to international politics. As our own Sierra Club delegate Professor Michael Dorsey said, "The surgical removal of non-governmental organizations underscores the lack of democracy inherent in these negotiations. The only way to avoid catastrophic climate change is fully supporting and including peoples movements like the very ones illegitimately removed from this process."

Cross your fingers for a fair, ambitious, and legally binding climate treaty. But whether or not we see one, keep up with our delegation on our blog (www.sscinternational.org) and with the entire international youth climate movement at <http://youthclimate.org/>.

Sincerely,
your tiny fish in a big, global pond

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Bring Back the Fern Bars

What?! You've never heard of a fern bar? You must be way, way too young. To educate the ignorant and to refresh the memories of those whose recollections of the past were, shall we say, clouded as a result of the ingestion of strange and wonderful substances of that era, a refresher course in the recent history of American popular culture is in order.

It is said that Fern Bars first appeared in the early 1970s in San Francisco, then as now the ancestral home of our beloved Sierra Club. The appearance of Fern Bars marks, culturally, the end of the '60s and the beginning of the '70s. Tie-dyed garb and peace medallions gave way to business attire as hippies transformed themselves and their culture into yuppies. They realized that they eventually had to work for a living, so why not do it in style. After business hours, people who worked in tall buildings, the bankers and insurance people, the lawyers and the stockbrokers (they hadn't yet become "financial advisers") gathered at trendy watering holes to see and be seen, look prosperous and successful while sipping white wine and other spirits. No longer was a bar a place primarily for the consumption of booze; it was a scene of attraction behavior and mating rituals, with the males in fine suits and ties, the females in heels and stockings, even on Fridays after work. "Casual Fridays" had not yet been invented, and neither had the Internet. Meeting members of the opposite sex was still being done the old-fashioned way, with all sides in fine clothes. In a fern bar a young professional could mingle comfortably and exchange chit-chat with people of his or her own socio-economic clan while sizing up the prospects.

So what did ferns have to do with this social interaction? Somebody came up with the idea that hanging baskets of ferns and placing ferns on stands and around a drinking emporium would soften the atmosphere, change the scene from one of mostly liquor to a place of elegance and civility. The addition of soft-light Tiffany lamps added to the cozy atmosphere of a fern bar. Soon fern bars were opening everywhere, even a couple in New Orleans, a place that practically invented the cocktail. Of course, the trend eventually came to an end, and fern bars are out of vogue and maybe out of existence.

In the brave new green world of 2010, the fern bars, with their live greenery absorbing carbon dioxide and thus contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas, need to make a return. Environmentally conscious persons wishing to connect with others of the same persuasion for socializing or romance would find their kind in a green fern bar. To further the atmosphere, the proprietor should decorate the establishment with ferns that are on the Endangered Species List. The presence of these plants would heighten awareness of endangered species in general. While sipping on a glass of organically produced Sauvignon blanc, a customer in a new fern bar could read labels explaining the endangered fern in the pot in front of her or him. This setting could also provide for the creation of some interesting pick-up lines: "Say, I've never seen an American hart's-tongue fern before; have you?" "My ex hated ferns; I love 'em." "How much CO-2 do you think that fern takes out of the atmosphere?" And so forth.

In addition to the aforesaid American hart's-tongue fern, here are some endangered ferns that might be part of a 2010 fern bar:

Elfin Tree fern - It grows at high elevations in the mountains of Puerto Rico. It should do well in an air-conditioned fern bar.

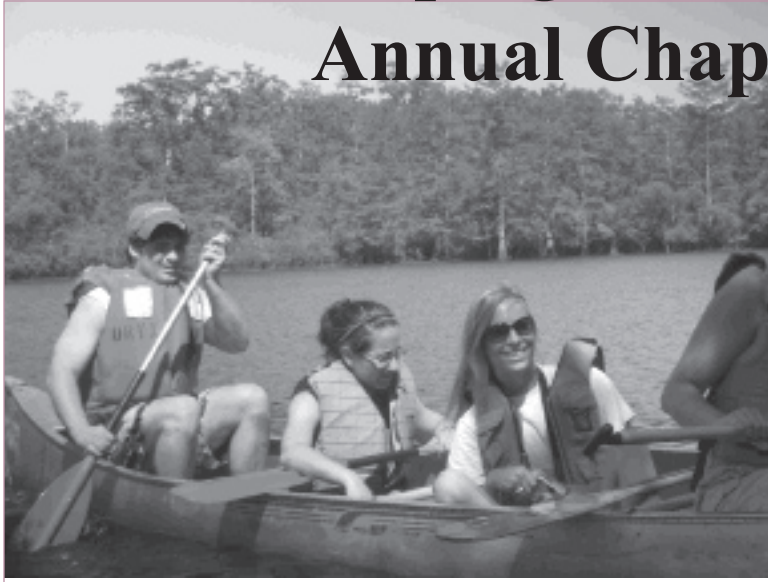
Natong fern - This fern in the mountains of the Philippines grows very large and would be ideal for filling up corners in a fern bar. Its leaves are 1-2 meters long, and its stalks are a meter or more in length, covered with hairs and dull brown scales. Very exotic, a real conversation starter.

Adder's-tongue fern - This fern grows in Massachusetts, and it sounds like something that went into the boiling pot in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* ("Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting"). Another good conversation starter: "Hey, 'Adder's tongue' reminds me of my boss."

There are no Louisiana plants that are taxonomically ferns on the Endangered Species List, but the Louisiana quillwort, which consists of a very few populations growing along shady streams in the Florida Parishes, is described as a "relative of the fern." All family members should be welcome at a fern bar, so a Louisiana fern bar should necessarily include a Louisiana quillwort.

My favorite endangered species, based simply on its name, is the Furbish lousewort. With a name like that, it's no wonder it's endangered. It, too, has a place in the modern fern bar because only a botanist could tell that it's not a true fern. It is a perennial herb with lance-shaped leaves that resemble fern fronds. So there. To call attention to the endangered ferns, a modern fern bar should serve appropriate cocktails. See page 15 for some tasty cocktails.

Camping, Biking, Paddling: Annual Chapter Retreat



Delta Chapter Retreat March 26 – 27, 2010 at Lake Fausse Point State Park

This is to announce that the annual Delta Chapter retreat is scheduled for March 26 – 27, 2010, at Lake Fausse Point State Park. The address, so you can find it using Google maps, is: Lake Fausse Point State Park, 5400 Levee Rd, Saint Martinville, LA. 70582.

All are encouraged to attend at least the Saturday daytime and evening events.

Accommodations: Cabin spaces are available for \$30 per person for the two nights, both Friday and Saturday. The contact person for booking your reservation is Diane Casteel, 999diane@gmail.com . Contact her for reservation availability as soon as you can. We were only able to get three cabins this year on the preferred dates. Each cabin sleeps up to 8 people with 1 double bed, 2 bunk beds and 1 sofa sleeper. Other options for overnight stay include RV and tent camping in the Park, or staying at nearby accommodations (ask Diane for a list, if needed).

Friday evening will be an informal get together. We will provide snacks at cabin #6 on Friday evening as people are coming in. Saturday breakfast and lunch makings, and Sunday breakfast will also be available at cabin #6. Folks are welcome to bring their own prepared dishes or snacks.

The big day is Saturday, March 27 and all are welcome to attend just for the day and evening. Location of daytime activities and Saturday dinner will be at pavilion #1.

Saturday morning is for outings: bicycle ride, hike, or canoe (bring your own boat or rent one at the state park entrance.) Saturday afternoon we will have a 2 hour Ex Com meeting at which we will discuss environmental voter day, conservation issues and whatever else comes up. Also, Harold Schoeffler will be conducting discussions in the afternoon starting at 1:15 pm. Subjects will be Atchafalaya canoe and hiking trails, map compass and GPS, and knot tying. Length of time for each session will depend on level of interest.

Saturday evening around 6 pm we will serve up something good for dinner. We will have non-alcoholic refreshments, but feel free to bring your own other types of refreshments. After dinner we will go out on the water under a $\frac{3}{4}$ moon.

The Lake Fausse Point website is <http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ilakefaus.aspx>

For further info you can contact Diane Casteel 999diane@gmail.com or Woody Martin hrmartin2sc@gmail.com



Acadian Group

Protecting Bayou Teche Sierra Club Water Sentinels

One of the most successful strategies for protecting water quality has been the adoption of streams and watersheds by interested volunteer groups. The Sierra Club Water Sentinels Program <http://www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels/> is a successful program. Look up Louisiana and you will find that there are four Water Sentinel programs operating in our state. However we need more water sentinels to be effective.

The Delta Chapter is developing a new one for the Bayou Teche. Water Sentinels activity can include cleanup, sampling and monitoring, and boating and fishing outings. The outings serve multiple purposes such as allowing us to admire the beauty of our natural waterways and providing opportunities to look for illegal discharges and other water quality problems.

Three members of the Acadian Group participated in a recent cleanup on the bayou (see photos). The cleanups were initiated by Cajuns for the Bayou Teche, with participation from several organizations including Sierra volunteers. Sierra Club Water Sentinels is working with partner organizations to put together a sampling program to monitor water quality along the Bayou. We will start with streamside sampling for DO (dissolved oxygen), pH, conductivity, turbidity, temp, and later move to sampling for nitrogen, phosphorous, e coli, and stream bottom small organisms. We will need volunteers to help with the sampling on a quarterly basis.

We will provide training and technical assistance, and sampling equipment. Volunteers will get to perform sampling, record data, and post their information on a web site. We are planning a six hour training session in March.

We look forward to extending the Water Sentinels sampling program to other watersheds in Louisiana. This is an opportunity to have a fun day outdoors, learn a little something and protect the water quality of our communities. If you are interested in getting the training and volunteering to do stream sampling or just to volunteer for a clean-up day contact me at hmartin2sc@gmail.com.

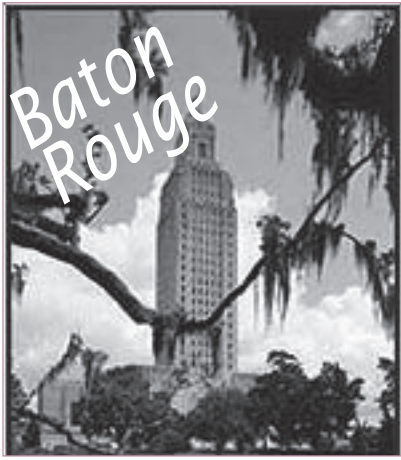
Woody Martin



Piles of debris removed during clean up.



Boat trolling in Bayou Teche



Baton Rouge Green Crawl

Held on October 21st, the Baton Rouge Green Crawl was designed to introduce Baton Rouge residents to our green businesses and resources in a fun relaxed atmosphere. Even with threatening thunderstorms looming all day before the event, we had a huge turnout and fantastic weather! Participants purchased a passport and got stamped at each location. At the end of the trail, participants turned in their passports for prize drawings and an armband giving them entrance to the finale party at Chelsea's. If you rode your bike, you received extra perks. Abita beer was served at the party.

The Baton Rouge Green Crawl's founders are Jeff Shaw and Ann Shaneyfelt of Gulf South Solar and Amy Strother of the Green Building Shop. The Baton Rouge Group sponsored a stop with Time Warp and Honeymoon Bungalow.

Mark your calendars for the next Baton Rouge Green Crawl – St. Patrick's Day / Spring of 2010! Check out the Baton Rouge Green Crawl on Facebook.



Ann Shaneyfelt



ECO LSU Folks



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Commitment has its rewards



Since 1892, Sierra Club has been committed to preserving the American wilderness; and the rewards are all around us. From our mountains to our forests to our rivers - and the wildlife that inhabit them all - Sierra Club has successfully campaigned to protect Earth's natural beauty for decades.

The need for vigilance continues in many of our wild places. You can carry on the fight by becoming a Sierra Club Life Member. Your dues go right to work in a special Life Member Fund that supports vital Sierra Club conservation programs.

So enroll today, and become a Sierra Club Life Member. And make a commitment that will have an impact today and tomorrow!

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (optional) _____
 Email _____

I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
- \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
- \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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SAVE NEW ORLEANS: CRAWL FOR CLIMATE ACTION



NOLAREcycles2010 began late last summer with the goal of returning city-run curbside recycling services to New Orleans. Our group meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Sierra Club office in Uptown New Orleans, with Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club Southeastern Region Environmental Justice Coordinator, chairing the meetings. Those attending are New Orleans residents and groups concerned about the city's failure to restart its curbside recycling services four years after Hurricane Katrina.

We have been working on several projects: a White Paper on recycling (in its final stages); a six-point pledge for mayoral candidates to sign; and a recycling kickoff campaign at Langston Hughes Academy (original date of Dec. 14th changed to January 11th, due to the bad weather). On Oct. 26th, we had a very successful initial kickoff at the Bridge Lounge on Magazine Street, to get people signed up (on our NOLAREcycles2010 petitions), and for people to learn more about our group, and what we were planning. Mayoral candidates and City Council Candidates came to the event, as well.

For more information, please see: <http://nolarecycles.com>

Wendy King
Chair New Orleans Group Waste
and Recycling Committee

Local conservation groups and Decatur Street bars host a pub crawl to raise aware- ness about Climate Change.

On 5 December 2009, New Orleans citizens gathered together to "crawl for climate action" during the fourth annual Crawl for the Climate Pub Crawl. Together with a national day of action, hosted by 1Sky, the Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network and 1Sky spoke to community members about the importance of addressing global climate change and its effects on Louisiana.

Hosted by Igor's, Checkpoint Charlie's, Tomatillos and Balcony Music Club, energy saving tips and information about each organization's campaign were given at all locations. Each location allowed crawlers to enter cover free and gave specials to those who were participating.

"Tomatillo's is more than happy to host an event that makes New Orleans open their eyes to an environmental problem that will affect us not just today, but also well into the future if we do not address this problem now," said Tomatillo's owner Alaina Stokke. "There are solutions that we need to implement, not just talk about...action is key."

Louisiana is ground zero for the effects of global warming. From sea level rise to stronger storms to ocean acidification, Louisiana

residents face an increasingly daunting future. Scientists conservatively predict that sea-level will rise 8 to 20 inches this century. According to the U.S. Climate Action Report, a sizable chunk of the Gulf coast could be swallowed if sea-level rise continues unabated. Combined with subsidence and salt water intrusion into salt sensitive habitats, the result will be a devastating loss of coastal wetlands which offer storm protection to coastal communities and homes to valuable species.

"We are in a time where critical decisions need to be made regarding energy, climate change and its impacts on Louisiana and the nation. We have the opportunity to provide green jobs to stimulate the economy and help reverse the consequences of our past choices," notes Jordan Macha, Sierra Club Conservation Organizer in Louisiana. "Today's leaders and youth will inherit this crisis and are in need of serious education on the issue."

This event highlights that doing more of the same is not only dangerous to the health of our coasts, but it won't solve our problems. Embracing clean energy options and efficiency measures can accelerate the transition to new energy while creating new jobs, spurring investment in new industries and curb the effects of global climate change.



Honey Holiday Bash Island Group

Members of the Honey Island Group of the Sierra Club gathered at one of Mandeville's finest Chinese restaurants, Trey Yuen, on Saturday, Dec. 5th to celebrate our successes over the past year and to look ahead to our activities for 2010.



The HIG partnered this year with St. Tammany Parish at its very successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in March 2009. We will participate again at the Spring 2010 HHWC Day. (See separate article.) The HIG also worked with Repower Louisiana to present a special environmental

forum on the Southeastern Louisiana University campus in Hammond. HIG members Frank Neelis and Prof. Kent Neuerburg were members of that discussion panel. Members of our group were also privileged to tour two solar-powered homes in Madisonville and Folsom this fall.

The Honey Island Group organized a Bike Safety and Maintenance event on November 7th at the Causeway branch of the St. Tammany Parish library. HIG member Eric Nye hosted this presentation and recruited David

Moeller, owner of The Bike Path bicycle store in Mandeville, to show our group a checklist of the dos and don'ts of bicycle maintenance. The next weekend, our group got a chance to practice their bicycle skills on the 31-mile St. Tammany Trace with a bike ride from the Abita Springs Trailhead to the Mandeville Trailhead and back. We finished the ride with pleasant afternoon dining fare at the Abita Brew pub conveniently located at the trailhead pavilion.

Our group is looking forward to expanding our presence on the Northshore in 2010 with an active environmental outreach program and future outdoor activities. We welcome all members to become involved in their Honey Island Group. We are ON THE MOVE. You can join us online at: <http://groups.google.com/group/honeyislandsierran/web/welcome>

Present at the 2009 HIG Holiday Dinner were, left to right: Erlinda Nye, Frank Neelis, Alma Chasez, Jim Long, Bruce Barton, Diane Casteel, Donna Neuerburg, Kent Neuerburg, Charlie Barton, Michael Tapie, Therese Kwieciem, Frank Revitte, and Eric Nye.

March 20th Next Household Waste Dropoff Planned

Announcing the 5th Annual St. Tammany Parish Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Honey Island Group is delighted to announce that St. Tammany Parish will host another Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day tentatively scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at the Koop Drive Parish Complex in Mandeville.

Parish residents are urged to pool their materials with friends or neighbors and drop off items between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Please make note that materials cannot be accepted before or after the stated hours.

The Honey Island Group is tasked with recruiting volunteers to work that day from 8 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Based on the number of households participating in the previous years' events, we estimate that approximately 60 volunteers, age 18 or older and able to lift 30 pounds, will be needed to

unload vehicles and stow the materials for transportation. To volunteer, please contact Diane Casteel at sierradiane999@gmail.com or 985-626-5268.

Participation by those unable to help at the Collection site is greatly valued as well. School groups, Scouts and other community based groups are encouraged to collect and car-pool materials to the Collection. Please let Diane know if your group can participate so that recognition can be sent afterwards. Additionally, everyone's help is needed to advertise the event through the media or through churches and clubs. Let us know if you would like to receive a flyer to post or forward.

To offer monetary or in-kind donations of snacks, gloves, safety vests, etc. please contact Brett Henry of the St. Tammany Parish Dept. of Environmental Services at (985) 898-2535.

The following are some of the materials accepted at this Household

Hazardous Waste Collection Day:

- Latex & oil-based paints and polyurethane stains in original containers with readable labels (including spray paint)
- Mineral spirits, kerosene, lamp oil, turpentine, tung, linseed, neat's-foot, & cottonseed oils in original containers with readable labels
- E-waste, including computers, monitors, copiers, fax machines, TVs, microwaves, stereos/radios, VCR/DVD players, typewriters, miscellaneous computer equipment

Checkout our website for a full list.

Delta Chapter Partners with Steelworkers and Community Groups at Green Rebuilding Conference

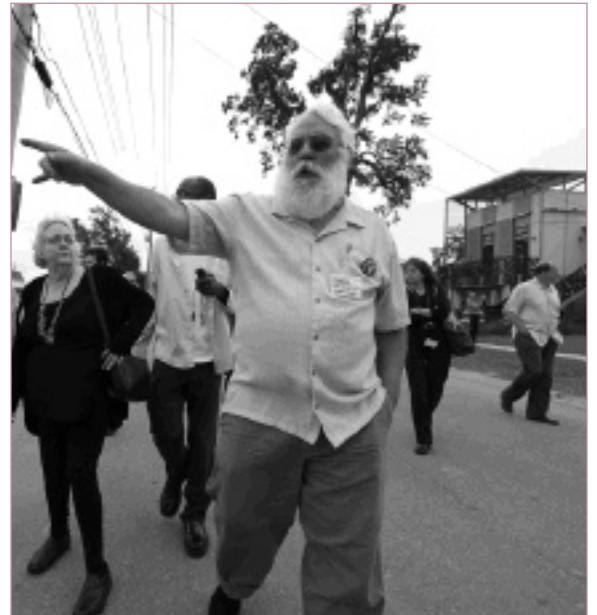
The first annual Green Rebuilding Conference was held November 8th and 9th at the Doubletree Hotel in New Orleans. The conference subtitled: 4 Years Post Katrina had over 200 participants from community groups, Universities, federal agencies, environmental organizations, unions, and youth job corps members. The conference was organized by members of the Sierra Club regional staff with assistance from the Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED). The purpose of the conference was to bring together parties that are involved in green rebuilding in New Orleans to share ideas, experience, learn about new techniques and finally to put it all together to plan for next steps in the future. If you didn't attend the conference, you missed out on world class speakers.

The first day was opened with a bus tour of Green projects within the city. Darryl Malek-Wiley, Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer led the tour. It wasn't the usual tour that Darryl has led over and over again showing destruction and then glimpses of recovery. Now after four years, although the destruction still exists, there are strong programs within New Orleans that are taking center stage from the destruction. The remainder of the first

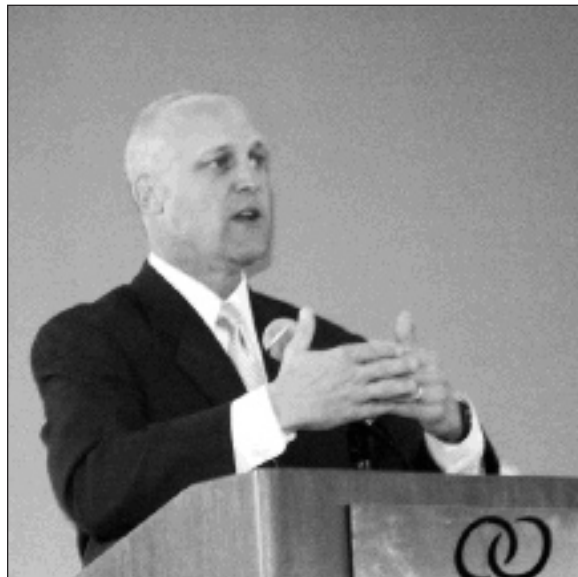
day was taken up with speakers. John Moore, an energy efficiency expert and New Orleans Native formerly with Southface and Global Green represented Green Nola, the official City of New Orleans Green Initiative. Rebecca Solnit resident of

San Francisco, environmentalist, activist, essayist and author of many books including her latest "A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities Arise in Disaster" read from her new book concerning Katrina. Closing out the panel and the highlight of the day was Michael McDonough, Boston Native, award winning designer and author, who specializes in zero-energy/zero-carbon footprint buildings. Michael is the author of over 80 articles and two books on architecture and design. His work

planning think tanks for Lower Manhattan, these sponsored



D. Malek-Wiley Leading the Way



M. Landrieu

has been exhibited in Museums and Galleries worldwide. He has collaborated with as diverse a group of people as author, Tom Wolfe to Industrial designer Hartmut Esslinger. He served in post-911 urban

by the Regional Planning Associate and the Pocantico Conference Center. He also works on regional development issues, and consults on green schools, green agriculture, and urban and regional planning projects. You can find out more about Michael at <http://www.michaelmcdonough.com>. The second day was designed to divide the group into three tracks: Green Building; Green Jobs; Urban Education and Agriculture. The first sessions consisted of presentations about projects in each field that were happening in the New Orleans region. The number and variety of green related projects was considerably more than existed prior to Katrina. Speakers included representatives from Futureproof, Green Light New Orleans, South Coast Solar, Ground Works Rain Gardens, the Alliance for Affordable Energy, EnviRenew among others.

continued next page



Lieutenant Governor, Mitch Landrieu gave a passionate speech during the lunch program, applauding the efforts of all of the groups attending. He stressed the fact that the green economy is the future and for us to keep up with the rest of the world, we needed to step up. He also talked about the opportunities that rebuilding is bringing to New Orleans to bring it back to the prosperity and prestige that we had in previous times. (Ed Note: the speech sounded like a stump piece and Landrieu announced his candidacy for Mayor a few weeks later).

The attendees continued on the three tracks in the afternoon, this time focusing on the future plans of local organizations. Each track ended with a brainstorming workshop to develop three goals to move New Orleans/Louisiana forward into 2010 and beyond. The groups were facilitated by professionals provided by the Institute of Cultural Affairs and the Technology of Participation Program. The facilitators report, photos and a more detailed article is available on the Delta Chapter's Blog.



l to r Michael McDonough, Sierra Club staff, J. Dubinsky, LA Greencorps Conference Attendees. photos by Vanishingforests.org and L March

LA Green Corps Wins Award

Sundance, the Independent Film Channel and Earthjustice announced that the Louisiana Green Corps won the top prize in a national short film competition in the "Spirit of Energy Efficiency" category. Their rap video, *Going Green*, was created by Corpsmembers and filmmaker Julie Kumari Drapkin and features the Corpsmember rappers mixing rhymes about radiant barriers and door sweeps.

In addition to winning the award, the biggest award was the recent extension of this successful program. While not an official Sierra Club project because it is funded by federal dollars, the success of this program is built on the early efforts of Sierra Club Environmental Justice Organizer Darryl Malek-Wiley, former Delta Chapter Chair Leslie March and New Orleans Group Chair Vance Levesque. They worked together with a coalition of local groups including the Alliance for Affordable Energy to obtain the original grant. Program Director Susy Mason and her staff have gone on to build a successful program teaching young people green job and life skills. Watch the full feature video and learn more at the Alliance for Affordable Energy website.

Pam

Continued from page 1

them going.

After Katrina, the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association held weekly meetings in the church at Chartres and Lizardi. If you dropped in on a Thursday night, you would always find Pam and her board engaging and educating their community. Pam motivated her community to stand up for themselves and care, something that is often lacking in New Orleans. She refused to accept no for an answer as she negotiated with the city moving her neighborhood from being abandoned to being back with vibrant vigor. Her handpicked successors, Charles Allen, Bill Waiters and many others will carry on as her legacy.

Pam was always willing to sit down and put together the agreements and grant applications that it took to make things happen. I was only involved with a small portion of her plate. As a result of her efforts and the Alliance for Affordable Energy, we were able to start the Radiant Barrier project where the Delta Chapter put up funds to help HCNA to buy energy efficient materials in bulk for homeowners to rebuild their homes. Over 90 houses have been done so far and the work continues. As part of this project, Pam was involved in getting the New Orleans Green Jobs Corps started. In addition, Pam worked with the Make It Right Foundation and Global Green to create energy efficient housing in the lower nine.

Pam worked with Darryl Malek-Wiley and students from major universities to bring back



Sunset on the Bayou and Rose Petals

Bayou Bienvenu. This long term project aims to bring back the cypress swamp that used to abut the lower nine before the MRGO killed it. The Bayou is providing recreation for the community through canoeing outings sponsored by the New Orleans Group. Our dreams are to bring it back to how it was in the 50's, a place for swimming, boating and fishing. Pam was totally dedicated to bringing nature back into the lower nine. Her ashes were spread on the waters. If you come and visit the platform overlooking the Bayou, say a few words to Pam.

Another close colleague Mark Davis from the Tulane Law School sent an email around,

"In losing Pam we have lost a friend and a great champion for a smarter, fairer, greener – in short a better – community. She was as joyful as she was passionate about her causes. In keeping with the season of thanksgiving we should all balance our shock and sorrow with thanks for all she did and a greater appreciation for the many others who work every day to make this a better place."

Pam will be greatly missed in her adopted city. She was the co-director of the Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development. She recently served as president and board chair of the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, was a founding member of Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal, had worked as a program coordinator for the Louisiana Bucket Brigade Holy Cross/Lower 9th Ward Initiative and served as an adviser for the Gulf Coast Fund. She also was a board member for other local organizations, including the New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club, Smartgrowth Louisiana, the Alliance for Affordable Energy and the National Center for Community Health Research.

Pam touched our lives and will continue as we try to follow in her footsteps. She would be the first to tell you that she was an ordinary person who rose to the occasion when her neighborhood needed her. This tribute only covers a small part of this wonderful woman's life. If you would like to read more about Pam or if you would like to make a contribution in her honor go to helpohlycross.org

Leslie March

Group Event Calendar

Acadian Group

Check website for updates

Meetings held at 412 Travis St., Lafayette unless otherwise noted.

Wed, Jan. 20 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group General Meeting,

Sun, Jan. 24 @ 7 - 8:00 pm - Ecology, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

Sun, Jan 30 @ 6:00 pm - Bon Fire on the Levee, carpool from Schoeffler's 5 pm

Wed, Feb. 10 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group Conservation Meeting,

Wed, Feb 17 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group General Meeting,

Sun, Feb 21 - Car tour Cameron, Vermillion, Hackberry Island, beachcombing, burn a hotdog over a fire, meet at Schoeffler's 12 noon

Sun, Feb 28 @ 7 - 8:00 pm - Ecology, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

Wed, Mar 10 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group Conservation Meeting

Wed, Mar 17 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group General Meeting

Sun, Mar 21 - Field trip to Chico State Park Arboretum, meet at Schoeffler's 12 noon

Fri - Sun, Mar 26 - 28 Delta Chapter Retreat, Lake Fausse Point, contact Woody Martin hrmartin2-sc@gmail.com or 337-232-7953

Sun., Mar 28 @ 7 - 8:00 pm - Ecology, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

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

New Orleans Group;

We usually meet on the second Sunday of each month unless there is a > conflict with a holiday/event and then we reschedule. Please check our calendar on the Delta Chapter website. All programs are in the Dominion Auditorium at the Audubon Zoo (6500 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA). The doors open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7 pm. Refreshments served.

January 10: Tim Ruth, a Biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, will present a program entitled: "Biology and Conservation of the Threatened Gulf Sturgeon".

February 21: John Ettinger, EPA; and Rob Heffner, USACE; "Protection of our Coastal Cypress Forests". They will discuss their agency's success in preventing illegal logging along Lake Maurepas and other areas under threat.

March 14: Tom Kennedy, TNC; "Conservation Issues in the Pearl River Basin, LA and MS". Tom will present the Nature Conservancy's program to protect and preserve habitat and species in the Pearl River Basin.

For more information contact

Vance Levesque at mrkahuna@juno.com

Earl Continued

Fern Gulley
½ oz. coconut cream
2 tsp. lime juice
1 oz. O.J.
1 oz. dark rum
1 oz. light rum
½ oz crème de noyaux

The ingredients are shaken -- not stirred -- in a glass of ice, then strained into another glass. Add some more ice and toast the ferns.

Here's how to make a drink called the Red Fern:

¾ oz. crème de cassis
1 tsp. Fernet Branca
½ oz. Grand Marnier
1 ½ oz. Canadian whiskey

Shake all ingredients with ice, strain into a cocktail glass, squeeze a twist of lime over the glass and drop it in. It's ready to drink.

In case you're wondering what Fernet Branca is, it's an Italian concoction usually consumed as a digestif after dinner. It contains more than 40 different herbs and spices including rhubarb, chamomile, myrrh, saffron, and cardamom. Now how's that for a conversation starter. Save the Ferns, Open a Fern Bar today.

Earl Higgins

Mardi Gras Bead Recycling

The New Orleans Group is partnering with ARC of New Orleans to recycle Mardi Gras Beads. Contact Lance Levesque at mrkahuna@juno.com if you want to donate or buy beads.

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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