



SIERRA CLUB

DELTA CHAPTER

GROUP MEETINGS:

ACADIAN-LAFAYETTE AREA
 Twice a month, Wednesdays at 6:30PM
 First United Methodist Church
 703 Lee Ave, Lafayette 70501

BATON ROUGE
 Fourth Thursdays, 6:30 PM at
 The Backpacker
 7656 Jefferson Hwy. 70809

HONEY ISLAND (Northshore)
 Fourth Sundays, 4:30 PM at
 Abita Springs Trailhead Museum
 22044 Main St. 70420

NEW ORLEANS
 Second Sundays at 6:30 PM at the
 Audubon Zoo, Dominion Auditorium
 6500 Magazine St. 70118

SEE OUR CALENDAR WITH ALL
 UPCOMING EVENTS & MEET-
 INGS AT OUR WEBSITE:
 SIERRACLUB.ORG/LOUISIANA

WHAT YOU CAN DO: CALL!
PSC COMMISSIONERS: DIST.

ERIC SKRMETTA 1
 504-846-6930 METAIRIE
 985-624-4660 N.SHORE

CRAIG GREENE 2
 225-765-5031 B.R.

LAMBERT BOISSIERE 3
 504-680-9529 N.O.
 800-256-9413 B.R.

MIKE FRANCIS 4
 337-514-2000 CROWLEY

FOSTER CAMPBELL 5
 318-676-7464 SHRVT.
 318-362-3318 MONROE

For further info on the PSC:
[http://www.lpsc.louisiana.gov/
 DistrictMapPage.aspx](http://www.lpsc.louisiana.gov/DistrictMapPage.aspx)
 Stay up-to-date on Net Metering:
www.donttakemysunshine.com

Delta Sierran

Sierra Club - Delta Chapter / Louisiana Newsletter

PROPOSED ST JAMES INJECTION WELL FOUGHT

Hundreds attended the LA Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) public meeting last week in St. Landry Parish, with each speaker opposing the proposed hazardous waste injection well Eagle Oil, LLC wants to construct in the parish. Sierra Club Delta Chapter urges its members to tell the LDNR to not approve this permit. The permit is riddled with errors and oversights, including the following: Within a one mile radius of Eagle Oil's proposed commercial facility, there are seventy-three homes. Many of these properties, both residences and farm property, are multi-generational

family owned property. This facility threatens these family legacies, the aesthetic and ecological value of the land, including wetlands on and adjacent to the site, as well as a wetland restoration conservation project adjacent to the site. Further demonstrating the ecological and environmental value of the area, the 11,000 acre Thistlethwaite Wildlife Management Area is just over one mile from the proposed site. The locals don't want it either - property owners' objections are wholly supported by St. Landry Parish Council,

and the Parish Council, via resolution, requests that Eagle Oil's application be denied (Resolution No. 001-2018, adopted January 24, 2018). The Town of Washington, and the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Board of Commissioners also support denial of Eagle Oil's permit application. **Tell LDNR 'NO' to this hazardous waste injection well in St. Landry Parish!** LDNR Office of Conservation: **225-342-5540**



NET METERING & FAIR PAY UNDER ATTACK: AGAIN

The Louisiana Public Service Commission (PSC) is looking at changing the way Louisiana's utilities credit residential solar customers. Currently, customers who have solar receive a credit for every kilowatt-hour of power they send out to the grid. Those credits can be used to offset the energy the customer uses at night when their solar panels are not producing, through a program called "net metering". The proposed draft

would eliminate the 'net' component and create a '2-channel billing system' where the all of the energy produced from solar panels would be credited to the owner's account at an 'avoided cost' or below market value rate that the utility determines, and then all of the energy consumed would be charged at 'retail' rate. This would eventually be true even for existing net metering customers, as the

proposal only grandfathers existing customers for five years. Residents who signed up with net metering are likely to see increases to their bills. There is no economic justification for this change despite multiple calls from experts for a cost-based analysis. The draft rules are also out of step with national practices and will stifle job growth in Louisiana's solar installation industry. Call the PSC Commissioners!

ADVOCATES ASK JUDGE TO BLOCK BAYOU BRIDGE PIPELINE

Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), the oil giant behind the hotly contested Bayou Bridge Pipeline, is actively harming wetlands in Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin by continuing pipeline construction during flood season. Environmental watchdogs, represented by the nonprofit law firm Earthjustice, have asked a Federal judge for a second preliminary injunction to block construction that violates ETP's permit and has gone unchecked by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Atchafalaya Basin groups have spent months documenting significant harm stemming from Energy Transfer Partners' ongoing pipeline construction activities in the Atchafalaya. Despite permit requirements for sediment control and other measures to minimize environmental impacts, Basinkeeper has revealed a pattern of reckless operations causing serious environmental harm. Examples include ETP's excavators digging in high water without any sediment controls; mounds of dirt and mud flowing freely into wetland areas; a sheen on the river presumably caused by diesel oil released from excavators; blocked waterways and trash and debris strewn about in the path of construction. Basinkeeper's expert declared in court documents that ETP is not only destroying the unique river of trees in the Atchafalaya Basin, but also places the people of Louisiana at risk by damaging the ability of the Basin to store floodwaters.

"In all my 31 years working in the Atchafalaya Basin I've never seen anything like this, the amount of unnecessary destruction of wetlands is heartbreaking", said **Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Director Dean Wilson**.



© Julie Dermansky / Greenpeace

"Digging a pipeline path through the Atchafalaya during flood conditions is reckless and irresponsible." -- Earthjustice Attorney Jan Hasselman

EXCERPT: A MESSAGE FROM SC PRESIDENT LOREN BLACKFORD

I want to share with you a hint of your Board's priorities for 2019, and provide some initial information about one of our initiatives, which I think will be important to you.

We're off to quite a start in 2019, with:

- Legal action to hold polluters and corrupt leaders accountable;
- Progress protecting precious places like the Arctic Refuge;
- Victories against dirty pipelines;
- Cities, towns & states rejecting dirty fuels & committing to 100% clean energy;
- Continued wins against coal;
- The launch of the Green New Deal;
- And so much more!

To be sure, we face huge challenges, as constant attacks on our lands, air, water, communities and democracy combine with devastating climate change impacts,

from wildfires to polar vortexes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that we only have until 2030 to avoid irreversible catastrophe. At the same time, the vision of a fair and just clean energy economy, safe and healthy communities and access to nature for all beckons. We need to be bigger and more powerful, together with our allies, to scale our victories and work toward that vision.

With this in mind, the Sierra Club Board of Directors has decided to dedicate 2019 to working with all of you to figure out how we can have the greatest possible impact in the coming decade. To do so, we hope to better align ourselves around shared values, vision and goals; decide how to best leverage our incredible grassroots structure; and identify the top risks and

opportunities we will likely face in coming years. At the same time, we are grappling with how to best provide support and accountability for our staff and volunteers as we welcome more people and navigate the #MeToo era.

This is a lot to take on, but we will approach it in steps. You will hear more about values, vision and goal-setting efforts soon. Last year, we received resolutions from the Council of Club Leaders (CCL) and from the Chapter Directors asking us to undertake a "structural assessment," to dig deeper, and think about more fundamental changes to improve our ability to build and deliver power to win victories, locally and nationally.

Thank you again for your work, and I look forward to hearing from you as we strive to become stronger, together.

GRAND ISLE CHAPTER RETREAT IN APRIL: MIGRATORY BIRD FESTIVAL!

The Delta Chapter Spring Retreat will take place **Friday to Sunday, April 12-14, 2019**, at Grand Isle, Louisiana; we once again booked the weekend of the annual



Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration! The Town, the Audubon Society and LA Wildlife & Fisheries will be offering special programs throughout the town of Grand Isle the entire weekend. Additionally, the Delta Chapter is hosting Rocky Milburn from the Florida Chapter, an avid Outings leader and birder. Bed space is limited to 28 participants; we will be staying in the heart of old Grand Isle in the Tarpon Lounger, a group-friendly camp on the beach. The entire weekend, room and board, is only \$60/adult; \$30 for 12 & under and day trippers (no overnight). This Annual Migratory Celebration Event, initiated in 1998, was created in

Early morning boat tours sponsored by LW&F
Photo: Margie Vicknair-Pray

part to support the purchase and management of the Grand Isle Sanctuary to protect some of the last remaining undeveloped chenier habitats (live oak ridges). Only ten percent of the original wooded habitat is left on Grand Isle. These tracts of maritime forest are the largest remaining stands of live oak-hackberry forest on any barrier island on the Gulf. The rarity of this chenier forest makes it globally unique and critically imperiled.

Sign up and pay in advance to reserve your space! Sorry, but you will need to go online to register for this retreat: look for Delta Chapter Retreat on the Calendar:

www.sierraclub.org/louisiana/calendar



DELTA CHAPTER SETS CONSERVATION GOALS

Your Delta Chapter ExCom has been working to make our state Chapter work better for all of us.

Since December, a work group designated the *Priorities Campaign Subcommittee* has been discussing goals and objectives and trying to decide where to focus most of our energy for the upcoming year.

After much discussion and thoughtful questioning of our motives, abilities and reach, the group chose three main goals for the



Historic home on Grand Isle
Photo: Margie Vicknair-Pray

Delta Chapter's focus. The objective was to select goals that were attainable, useful, not already the main focus of another major group and, of course, things that mattered

to the group.

The first goal chosen is **Lowering Carbon Emissions**. With the successful launch of Abita Springs Ready For 100 campaign and popular National EV Week events, we are already well on our way. That's not to say that we don't have much to do. Louisiana ranks #1 for the total energy consumed per capita in one of the poorest states in the USA. For a damning look at Louisiana's energy picture, go to <https://www.eia.gov/>

Additionally, the climate change scenario is one which Louisianians need to be fully aware of. Sea level rise will decimate the southern part of the state, and movement of populations to other higher areas will cause displacement and upheaval even in places not directly affected by sea-level rise. Carbon emissions are something Louisiana should be working on, so we are. Goal Two is **Responsible Development**. This goal actually ties in to the first. We want to see greener, sustainable develop-

AUTOMATIC GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

Sierra Club Delta Chapter now offers the convenience of **monthly giving**. Go online to our website and click on "What Do You Want To Do?" You will have the option of signing up to volunteer, take action on current events, and many other options, including setting up an easy monthly donation to the Delta Chapter. Just **\$5 per month** can help save our natural world.

ment, not just more destructive slab-on-grade on clay fill. We want better! Solar and EV ready homes built to fit into their surroundings without adding to the problems. The Third Goal is Pollution Reduction. We're still working on the details, and if anyone is interested in joining this workgroup, please contact margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org



Sierra Club - Delta Chapter

"Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet"

Email: chapter-info@louisiana.sierraclub.org
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Visit us on Facebook:



CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTION - **VOTE BY MARCH 18TH!**

Your Sierra Club Delta Chapter (Louisiana Chapter), has an Executive Committee (ExCom) of nine volunteer members whose position provides leadership and direction to the Chapter and Groups. ExCom members are active on various committees, such as Conservation, Political, Outings and the Environmental Justice Committee, which are also open to all Sierra Club members.

ExCom members serve two-year terms and may run for re-election; ANY MEMBER may run for a position on ExCom.

Responsibilities of the Chapter Executive Committee:

- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Executive Committee meetings and General meetings
- Lead and provide educational training and/or conservation opportunities to the general membership
- Promote the Outings Program and help members and others to get out into and enjoy and understand nature
- Participate in long range planning for the Chapter, and guide national on grassroots interests
- Actively assist in fundraising activities or contribute financially
- Ensure financial stability and solvency
- Modify and allocate resources; as applicable to the opportunities, the abilities, and the commitment of the Chapter/Groups
- Monitor, question, and evaluate club activities
- Provide Leadership and Vision within the Chapter/Groups for a just, equitable and sustainable future

Some of you will receive ballots in this newsletter. In the future, if you wish to vote online, please contact the Club and let them know that you wish to receive these emails from the Delta Chapter and your local Group (Email: member.care@sierraclub.org).

**Sierra Club
Delta Chapter**
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Visit us on Facebook:
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