



Delta Sierran

Delta Chapter Newsletter

www.louisiana.sierraclub.org

October 2007



Stop the Coal Rush

I don't know how anybody could choose coal when we're so close to a renewable revolution.

-- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D_NV) on his opposition to building new coal-fired power plants.



October 11 was Coal Rally day in Baton Rouge when activists from the Say Yes to Clean Energy, No to Coal and Nuclear coalition rolled into town. Their destination? The Public Service Commission commonly known as the PSC. October 11 was one of the six days that the permit to convert Little Gypsy, a natural gas plant owned by Entergy LA was being discussed. There were lawyers from all sides including the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic representing members of LEAN and Sierra

Club in this transaction. A hearing judge was present as were staff members of the PSC. There wasn't a PSC member in sight. The National Sierra Club has been successful in fighting similar applications in other states including Florida. At press time, the PSC intervention was in mid-stream. Hopefully you will be able to go to our coalition web page, www.sayyestocleanenergy.com for an update. There are at least two more petroleum coke and coal conversions planned

within the state, in addition to proposed new nuclear facilities. We anticipate continuing to work with our partners, the Alliance for affordable Energy, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and the Gulf Restoration Network. We are thankful for the Tulane Environmental Club and LSU ECO for coming out to make a splash.

Wal-Mart Stops Selling LA Cypress Mulch

As a direct result of the Save Our Cypress campaign. Wal-Mart Store told their suppliers that they wouldn't buy Louisiana Cypress Mulch products after October 1, 2007. Home Depot says on their website that they do not sell Louisiana Cypress Mulch products. Lowe's says they won't sell any cypress mulch sourced from below I-12. Congratulations to Delta Sierrans

and our coalition partners across the state. This is a major battle won in the war to protect Cypress. The Louisiana Forestry Association is on the attack. Recently an opinion editotial by Buck Venderstein, president of the Louisiana Forestry Association wrote a guest editorial in the Lafayette Advertiser saying that our Chair, Leslie March was guilty of putting out

misleading information about Cypress Mulch. See the Delta Chapter Blog for our rebuttal. It appears that now they know we are serious. The National Club will be featuring us in Currents, an online activist list soon. Join the list and take action at . Our goal is at least 40,000 emails to the CEO's of Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowes.

View From the Chair



Greetings, hope we are having real fall weather when this arrives in your mail box. I look forward to the turning leaf colors and the crisp air in the morning. My dogs charge around the yard leaving trails of hot breath. It gives me an incentive to go visit Fairview or Fountainbleu park, just to take a walk. Maybe I can talk my husband into a late afternoon paddle at Cane Bayou?

Do you have a favorite place to go and get in touch with nature? Write me and tell me about it, better yet take a friend or a child to that spot and share nature's beauty. Tell us about that and send pictures. The picture to the right is of the sun setting on Cannon Beach, Oregon. These and any you send will be posted on the chapter blog.

We are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful place and we are cursed with what seems like a never ending battle against our environment. I picked up a bumper sticker last week that says "at least the war on the environment is going well."

I would like you to know that Delta Chapter members are working hard to make a difference. There have been victories that we need to applaud and be thankful for. The Wal-Mart decision, Home Depot too! Now if we can get Lowes on board and get them all to stop selling the mulch period, we will have saved Cypress trees in Louisiana, Florida and Georgia. We have aggravated the Louisiana Forestry



Association that has been pro-mulchers all along. Recently, they attacked me in the Lafayette Daily Advertiser. I was accused of using misleading information, must of been the part that was scientific fact? We have a new fact sheet at savourcypress.org that answers that question. Check it out so you can be prepared to share the facts when you ask people in your community to stop using Cypress Mulch. Did you know that New Orleans, St. Tammany and Mandeville, among others do not use Cypress Mulch on public property? You can ask your parish, town or church to sign a pledge not to use Cypress Mulch? There are samples on the Delta Chapter web site.

Can you believe that the way Entergy Louisiana is planning to cut utility costs is to convert a natural gas plant to petroleum coke and coal? Both create higher levels of greenhouse gases and higher emissions. When are they going to figure out that cheap is not better??? Worse yet, they want the rate payers to pay up front for their conversion. Corporate welfare by any other name smells as bad.

Oops I started out on a happy note and have spiraled downward. One last bummer, Maura Wood, our senior regional representative located in Baton Rouge moved on to another green position with the National Wildlife Federation. She will be focusing on coastal and will be standing with us as we try to protect ourselves from the great wall of Louisiana. Best regards to Maura and a huge round of applause for all of the work she has done in her seven years with the club.

This will be the last Delta Sierran before 2008 so I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that you think about the Sierra Club when you select your holiday presents, send a donation on behalf of that person who has everything, give a membership, send a calendar or a popular gift at our house, Sierra Club organic coffee. Happy Holidays to you all.

Leslie March

PS. If you have emailed me to volunteer. Try again! I don't want to lose touch with you.

The Delta Sierran is a bi-monthly publication of the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Members of the Delta Chapter receive the publication as a membership benefit. Non-members may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.00 for one annual membership to the Delta Chapter at P. O. Box 19469, New Orleans, LA 70179-0469. Back issues of the Delta Sierran can be viewed on our website at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org>.

Address Changes: To change your address, send your name, old and new addresses and member number to:

Sierra Club Member Services
PO Box 52968

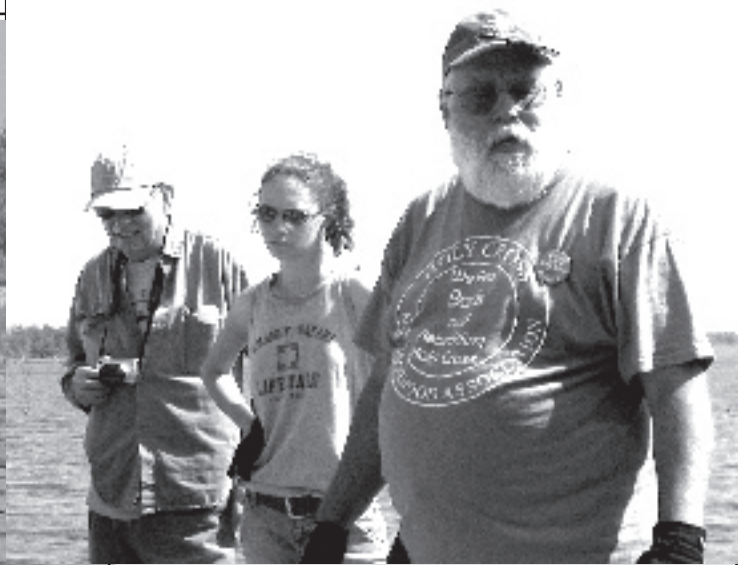
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

or email the information to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org

Submissions: Article and photograph submissions are always welcome. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor at lesliemarch@hotmail.com or mail to Leslie March, 67017 Dolan St., Mandeville, LA 70471

Sierra Club Public Lands Day Sept 2007



Sierrans came from New Jersey to Oregon to help create a public green space in the lower nine. This event was organized by the America's Wild Legacy Committee. The highlight was trumpet player, Leroy Jones performing at Saturday's Spaghetti Supper.

Chapter News

Vote 2007

Have you ever considered getting involved with the Sierra Club on a state level? Do you live in an area where there isn't an active group? Here is your chance to get more involved with the club. We are looking for volunteers in a variety of roles.

We need activists to serve on all of the chapter issue committees. A list of committees and contact information is on the back of the newsletter.

Chapter Outings Leaders

Would you like to share your love of the outdoors with other Sierrans? Work with the group outings leaders to revitalize our state-wide outings program. We will provide all necessary training you will need, both leadership and medical.

Membership Chair

We need someone to contact new members by mail or email to welcome them to the club. The membership chair is also responsible for planning events to encourage active and informed members.

Volunteer Coordinator

Assists the chapter and groups in recruiting volunteers for tabling and other club related events. Works with the Membership Chair to help members find volunteer opportunities that match their conservation and outing interests

Activity Section Organizer

Would you like to contact other Sierrans in your community to start a small group to do conservation activities and outings with or maybe just want to meet with likeminded folks for coffee, potlucks or for a movie night. Do you want to start a Sierra Singles Group? We can help...

If you are interested in any of these positions or want to get more involved in another capacity with the club, please contact Leslie March, 985-871-6695 or lesliemarch@hotmail.com.



Delta Chapter Elections

Every year the Delta Chapter must schedule an election for positions on the ten member Executive Committee (Excom). The positions are for two year terms. The election is scheduled every year so that half of the positions can be re-filled each year.

Three positions are up for election this year. They are the seats currently held by Jeff Thomas, Dean Wilson and Sandra Thompson.

The Delta Chapter nominating committee and board will approve a list of nominees at their meeting on October 28, and ballots with candidates' statements of qualifications will be sent out to members shortly thereafter.

Last year we tried to incorporate the ballots into the newsletter. It was a disaster. Between our printer and the bulk mail, the newsletter went out a full month late. This time you will receive a ballot in the mail in fact you may already have received a ballot and statements from candidates by the time you read this note in the newsletter.

Please be sure to vote by returning ballots to the Delta Chapter nominating committee within the specified time period.. Last year's candidates only received a small percentage of our membership votes. This is a democratically elected body. Think we need new blood, run yourself next year when there will be another two openings.



Sierra Club Outings

Hiking, Canoeing,
Campfires
Great Company and Good Food.
Come join us!
Check your local group
website or the Chapter Blog



Acadian Group

ACADIAN GROUP BOARD & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Acadian Group of the Sierra Club holds its' Board and Conservation Committee meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Acadiana Symphony Building (412 Travis St., Lafayette, LA) at 6:30 PM.

ACADIAN GROUP GENERAL MEETING & LECTURE SERIES

Acadian Group of the Sierra Club has a general meeting and hosts a guest lecture on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Acadiana Symphony Building at 6:30 PM.

The Acadian Group of the Sierra Club is always looking for speakers. Past speakers have talked about wildlife, native plants, invasive species, reforestation, environmental education, the news media, and environmental concerns of local or global nature. If you would like to volunteer or suggest a speaker for the general meeting please contact Harold Schoeffler, Acadian Group Chairman at 337-234-4042.

FALL FILM FESTIVAL

Thursdays Nov 8 @ 6:15 pm - Film Festival sponsored by Sierra Club & TreesAcadiana at St. Martin Parish Public Library, 201 Porter St., St. Martinville. Call Harold Schoeffler 337-234-4042

Mondays @ 5:45 pm Nov 5, 12 - Film Festival sponsored by Sierra Club & TreesAcadiana at Lafayette Public Library, 301 West Congress St., Lafayette. Call Woody Martin 337-295-7073

Group meetings

Sun, Oct 28 @ 7:00 pm - Ecologic, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

Be sure and check the website <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/> for additional November and December Events



Baton Rouge Group

The Baton Rouge group is located in and around our State Capital. Our members have been active in the Save Our Cypress Coalition, alternative transportation and trying to get East Baton Rouge signed on to the Cool Cities campaign.

General Meetings

Our group is going through a reorganization and needs your volunteer help. If you would like to become more active on conservation issues or lead an outing or just want to come to a meeting check out our website at <http://batonrouge.sierraclub.org/> or call chair,, Nancy Grush 225-381-9440

Excom Meetings are where our group sets our goals and plans and are open to all members. They are held at the Sierra Club Office on the first Monday of the month at 7PM 4521 Jamestowne Ave, Suite 12-13 in Baton Rouge.

FALL GARDEN TIP

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS USE CYPRESS MULCH

PROTECT OUR COASTAL FORESTS BY USING ALTERNATIVES LIKE PINE STRAW AND EUCALYPTUS

SAVE OUR CYPRESS.ORG



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



This year, give thanks.

Because what's here today may be gone tomorrow.

Join Sierra Club now.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check recipient. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Make charge by: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Card Number _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$18	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1200
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$34	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Student/parent/teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> \$18	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekend Kit!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax-deductible. They support conservation, education, research and advocacy efforts. Your dues include \$7.00 for a subscription to environmental magazine and 10% of your regular membership.

Reduce, reuse and recycle! Sierra Club, P.O. Box 42600, Boulder, CO 80522-0600 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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The Honey Island Group serving St. Tammany, Washington, Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes. The Florida Parishes, home of many wild areas including coastal and pine forest. The Honey Island Group is active in preserving and protecting our natural areas as we face increasing development. We work primarily on preserving wetlands and coastal forests, water quality and recycling. We need help in all of these areas.

Paddling and cycling are a natural in our area. We plan periodic outings. Contact chair Warren Zimmermann at 985-249-1520 for information or to suggest an outing of your own.

Honey Island meets on the third Thursday of the month, alternating between Excom meeting and General meetings. All members welcome at all meetings.

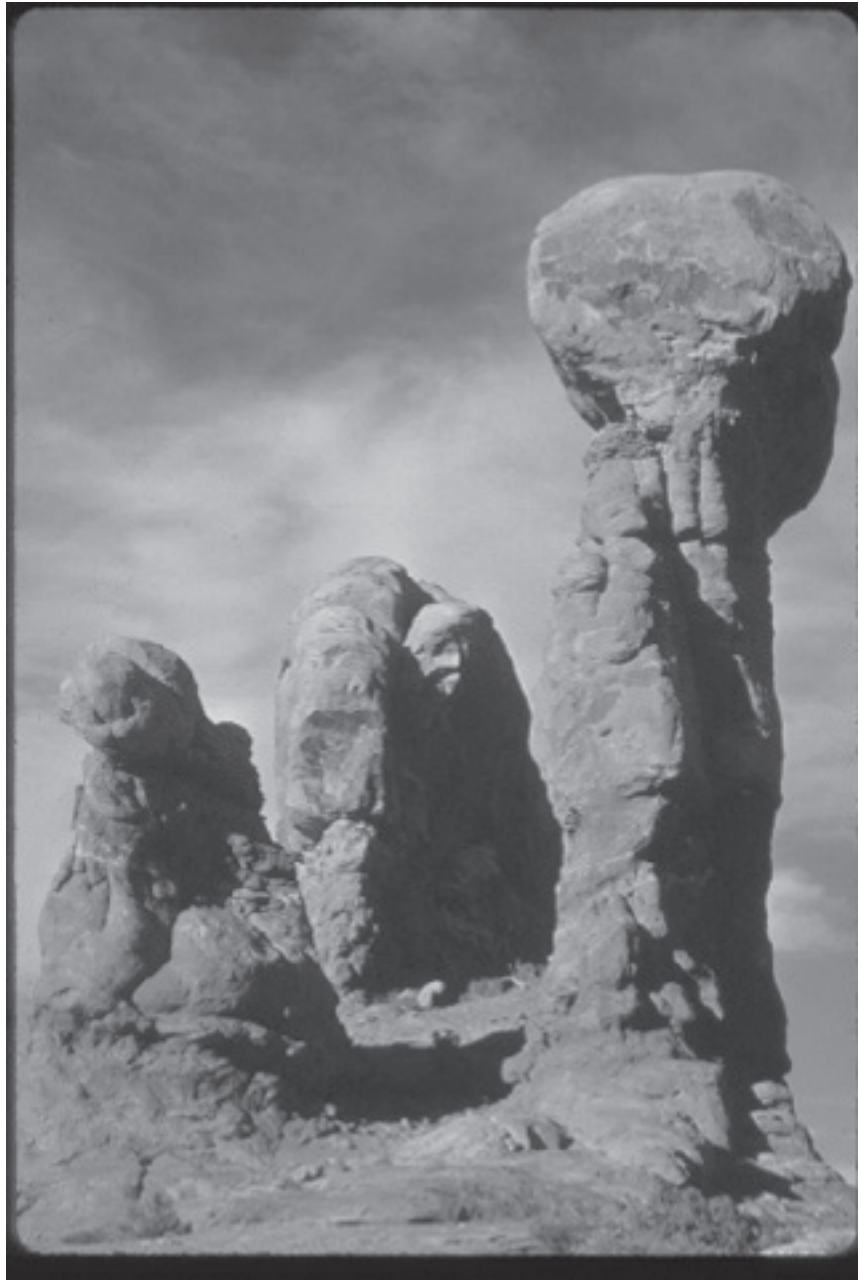
General meetings are at 7PM at the Mandeville Community Center, 3090 East Causeway Approach, Excom Meetings are on the alternate Thursday where we plan events and determine policies. All members are always welcome. Please contact the chair Warren Zimmermann, 985-249-1520 for location.

January 17, 2007

Special General Meeting with presentation from the Save Wild Utah Alliance, 7PM Mandeville Community Center.

Nov 17, 2007

Bicycle trip, meet at Mandeville Trailhead at 8:00 AM, Bike on St. Tammany Trace to Abita Springs Cafe for breakfast and Bike back to Mandeville. Call trip leader Warren Zimmermann at 985-249-1520.



Arches National Park in Utah

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL HI HOLIDAY PARTY

December 8.

Location tbd. check our website for current information

or call the chair at 985-249-1520.



Step It Up II NOLA

Meetings

The New Orleans Group is the largest group of the Delta Chapter. It's membership area includes the greater New Orleans region and Jefferson Parish. The group has been very involved in the recovery efforts in New Orleans. Members of other groups and concerned nonmembers are welcome at all of our meetings.

The Sierra Club New Orleans Group meetings are now held at a NEW LOCATION at the Audubon Zoo, Dominion Auditorium near the main entrance, 6500 Magazine St.

Drive to the front entrance to the Zoo, just off Magazine St. To the right of the Zoo's main public entrance, go through gate and bear right to the Dominion Auditorium. There will be signs for directions. Admission is free and all are welcome.

To get the latest details, call 504-836-3062.

EXCOM

The New Orleans Excom meets periodically. All members are welcome to attend. Please email neworleans-chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org for info, or call 225-252-7346.

Outings

November 10-11 Jeanne de la Houssaye Memorial Canoe Trip to Red Creek.

The trip will begin at the bridge over Red Creek on Miss. Hwy. 26, about 16 miles east of Poplarville. We will meet there about 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10, unload, and shuttle vehicles to the bridge over the creek on U.S. Hwy. 49, 4 1/2 miles south of Wiggins. I hope we can be paddling by 10:00. This will be an optional day or overnight trip. We will camp on a sandbar somewhere along the route, and the day trippers can continue on and take out when they reach Hwy. 49, about 4:00 p.m. The overnights can have a leisurely breakfast and get to the take-out by midday Sunday.

This has always been a primitive-camping outing. Everyone brings everything, including drinking water. Overnights will need tent, sleeping bags, food, drinks, etc. Day-trippers need bring only beverages and lunch. Byron Almquist cannot deliver canoes to the take-in or pick them up. Renters may be able to pick up a canoe at his place and carry it themselves. The outings leader will be Earl Higgins at (504) 738-1361 or email at PietasHiggi@aol.com. Please call to register.

Outings are subject to change. You must *register for all trips in advance by contacting New Orleans Group Outings Chair Jeff Grimes at nola.outings@gmail.com.*

BEADS ANYONE?

The New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club has once again volunteered to partner with The Arc of Greater New Orleans to help recycle Mardi Gras beads. For more information call: Jane Wilson at The Arc 504-897-0134 jwilson9189@juno.com Vance Levesque with the Sierra Club 504-416-8710

arcontroller@bellsouth.net

And tell all of your friends to RECYCLE THEIR BEADS!!!!

This time we'll be calling on our leaders to Step it Up Saturday, Nov 3rd and endorse the three point plan for the planet:

1) GREEN JOBS NOW

5 MILLION GREEN JOBS
CONSERVING 20% OF OUR ENERGY
BY 2015

2) CUT CARBON 80% BY 2050

FREEZE CLIMATE POLLUTION
LEVELS NOW AND CUT AT LEAST
80% BY 2050 AND 30% BY 2020

3) NO NEW COAL

A MORATORIUM ON NEW COAL-
FIRED POWER PLANTS

We had over 200 people turn out last time, can we top 500 this time? With the scheduled time between the primary and the runoff, can we get some of these political candidates polluting TV with their lame commercials to step up and pledge to do the right thing for our climate? We need you to help answer these questions.

Through the leadership of some great Tulane students and the Alliance for Affordable Energy, we've set a second line up from the Art Egg at 1001 Broad. (don't worry, we'll have lots of signs up) to the tailgating festivities of Tulane Football at the iconic Superdome. We've got a brass band lined up, marching clubs, and we're looking into water wings or floaties with our slogans printed on them. - It should be a fantastic event.

Contact Aaron Viles at aaron@healthygulf.net or 504-525-1528 for more details.

FLASH!! JOHN EDWARDS IS COMING TO OUR EVENT!!!

Chef Menteur Prioritizing Clean Closure: protecting ecology and community

Contributed by Camille Tuason Mata,
Environmental Justice Coordinator,
Mary Queen of Viet Nam Community

“Can we test the waste stream? Can we at least do that?”, asked Senator Ann Duplessis at the Senate Environmental Quality Committee hearing held Tuesday, September 11 at the City Council Chambers in City Hall. Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, current director of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, offered no promises. And so the saga of the Chef Menteur Landfill continues.

The campaign to clean close the Chef Menteur landfill, which began in 2006, is exactly one year old. On that day, the residents of New Orleans East held a commemorative rally that reminded New Orleanians how important it is to resolve the landfill problems preoccupying the city. Senator Duplessis subsequently called for a hearing to pressure LDEQ to understand residents’ and ecologists’ concerns about water safety, community livability, and ecological integrity. But, instead of heeding environmental specialists’ recommendation to clean close the cell, the LDEQ approved Waste Management’s proposal to retain the waste. In defense of LDEQ’s position, Dr. Chuck Carr Brown claimed that the cost of removing the waste, loading it on certified trucks, then transporting the waste to a Subtitle D facility (either Riverburch or Environmental Operators) would be between \$25 to \$30 million dollars. This is one of several erroneous claims that Brown has made to counter residents’ opposition to Waste Management’s closure.

Misrepresenting the facts:

Dr. Brown has made several assertions, regarding the waste stream and its impact on the environment and community, that deserve clarification:

1. The waste stream does not pose a threat to surrounding water bodies and the soil because it is not toxic.

While making the claim about the waste stream’s non-toxicity, Dr. Brown and Waste Management has refused to let environmentalists to test the waste stream since the landfill’s closure. However, alternative findings raise questions about the truth of Dr. Brown’s statement. Dr. John Pardue, a water specialist at LSU’s Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute, found significant volumes of treated wood and dry wallboard, sources of arsenic and hydrogen sulfide, respectively. Because of the volume of these materials at the Chef Menteur Landfill, they could potentially deposit high



Sen. Ann Duplessis



MQVN Community Members

levels of hydrogen sulfide and arsenic into the soil and as well as surface and ground waters.

2. The Chef Menteur Landfill, though unlined, does contain a natural clay liner that is sufficient for capturing potential leachate.

In Louisiana, Class I landfills are required to have a protective liner with a leachate collection system. The Chef Menteur Landfill does not follow this guideline. Rather, it contains a natural clay liner that Louisiana geologist Dr. G. Paul Kemp has described as insufficient for preventing leachate or storm water from migrating into ground waters and surrounding soil. The fact that the natural clay liner is

mixed with sand and silt makes it susceptible to fracturing. Adding to the concerns about this liner is Wilma Subra’s, technical consultant to the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), discovery of leachates that have already occurred at the toe of the landfill cell.

3. Where would you put the waste if not at the Chef Menteur Landfill?

There are three operating Subtitle D waste disposal facilities in the area and at least two fully permitted Construction and Debris landfills that have the requisite liners, and are fully equipped to take additional volumes of waste. In fact, a modern landfill owner in St. Charles Parish disclosed

Continued next page

Alternatives to Landfills

Continued from page 8

to a Washington Post reporter that he has enough capacity in his landfill to accommodate the damages of several Katrinas.

4. The cost of clean closure at Chef Menteur Landfill would be between \$25 and \$30 million dollars.

This amount, quoted by Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, appears inflated. The Agriculture Street Landfill, now a Superfund site, costs an estimated \$20 million to clean up. This included uncapping the former landfill, removing the waste and the toxic soil, remediating the area, and payments to families, who have filed class action lawsuits. Comparatively, the Chef Menteur Landfill has not yet leached toxic levels, has not yet been capped, and currently does not entail full remediation. Thus, the likelihood that the cost of clean closure at Chef Menteur would be equivalent to or more than that of the Agriculture Street Landfill is very slim.

Landfills in New Orleans

New Orleans has a history of contaminated landfills, especially in minority communities. Two of the most prominent, Old Gentilly and Agriculture Street, had both been shut down because of hazardous levels of toxins; prior, the LDEQ had ignored warnings of toxicity. Both are located in New Orleans East, a section of the city comprising of predominantly Asian and African-American neighborhoods.

The impact of this negligence has been costly not just in monetary, but also in human terms. The Agriculture Street Landfill is directly below the local Moton elementary school, and several residents have acquired cancer as a result of the toxins. All responsible agencies, like the Housing Urban and Development (HUD), city government, and LDEQ, have passed the buck to each other rather than taking accountability for it. Old Gentilly, similarly, contains trace amounts of toxic diesel compounds, pesticides, metals, and volatile organic compounds.

The prolific illegal landfills throughout the city are reflective of the widespread problem these garbage dumps pose to residents' health and the diminution of the city's urban landscape aesthetics. The Citizens for a Strong New Orleans, a group comprising non-profit and advocacy organizations, have observed 23 illegal dump sites, and 13 illegal automobile junkyards resulting from 30 years of illegal dumping. The Corps of Engineers has cited 3 garbage dumps as having been placed illegally and inappropriately in wetlands. Clearly, the

State needs legislative reform not simply in closure methods, but in the way in which waste is disposed.

Moving Towards the Future

There are only two possible trajectories, which the state should pursue for closing existing landfills and mitigating the daily, state-wide production of waste volumes. Both address long-term city-scape beautification by improving community health and shifting landfill space toward green gardens or reconstructed wetlands.

Presently, the LDEQ closure policy allows for (1) clean closure and (2) closure with waste in place, albeit with strict standards for design of the cap used to cover the waste. Capped or not, waste in the land is still a garbage dump. Thus, clean closure is the best approach because it is the only closure method that protects the integrity of ground and surface waters, and the soil encompassing landfills. Moreover, as long as the LDEQ is given the freedom to choose the waste-retention closure, especially in minority and poor communities, it will do so if for no other reason than "it is easier." History tells New Orleanians that this presumption is accurate.

Landfills, however, do not simply go away; as such, the city's ecological problems connected to landfills will not simply disappear. Pursuing an alternative disposal method is therefore necessary and, given the proliferation of landfill sites around the city, duly imminent. Recycling is the only alternative to building new landfills because it obviates the need for them. There are currently lobbying efforts to open the Newport Landfill. Claiming lands to build another landfill is not the answer.

Research proves that recycling can divert 50 to 60 percent of total waste produced by restaurants, offices, and homes. It reduces consumption of natural resources; it creates a sub-economy because the materials can be re-sold in their original parts to manufacturing companies; it promotes job development. Two years after Katrina, two recycling programs have resumed their operations: Phoenix Recycling and the Green Project. City government has yet to hire new employees and renew their curbside pick up. Phoenix Recycling would like a contract with the city. What is city government waiting for?

Some cities around the country have also pursued plasma technology, a new type of technology that captures waste volumes. This technology accepts a diverse array of organic and inorganic compounds and



Wilma Subra from LEAN Testifies

converts them into plasma, the fourth form of matter, through a heating process. The heat is strong enough to break the double bonds that bind together the elements of toxic compounds before returning them to their basic elements. Thus, hydrogen sulfide, a chemical compound consisting of two hydrogen atoms double-bonded to sulfur is broken apart into its base elements of hydrogen, hydrogen, and sulfur. The disintegration of the double bonds removes the toxicity created through bonding. From this process, three renewable resources are produced: (1) non-toxic solids, which can be used for reinforcements or as bricks, (2) gas, after ionization, is converted to electricity and is then used to both run the facility and sold for other purposes, and (3) steam.

Plasma Technology has already been established in places like Japan and Connecticut. Other countries are continuing to do research on the benefits and possible harmful impacts. In New Orleans, local politicians like Cynthia Willard-Lewis, are seriously considering it. We know that landfills, in the long run, are not cost-effective to the community or the environment, whereas recycling is. New Orleanians owe it to themselves to learn more about recycling and renewable energy technologies. It is their community, after all.

Please contact your local State Senator to get him/her to pressure the LDEQ to ensure that the waste stream is tested and that the Chef Menteur Landfill is "Clean Closed".



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Kick that Bottle Habit

A broad range of national and local organizations, cities, celebrities, student groups and communities of faith launched the Think Outside The Bottle Pledge on October 4th calling on people to choose public tap over bottled water. Those of you reading this who have attended recent chapter meetings will get a chuckle out of this because they know that this is my current soap box and it should be yours too! I think that that we can make a difference in our local water quality by supporting the parish efforts to invest and build confidence in our public water systems. So read about this and stop buying water.

Momentum has been growing over the last year for cities and consumers to reevaluate corporate control of water sources, including city water systems. The explosive growth of the bottled water industry, fueled by misleading advertising, has contributed to a loss of confidence in public water systems. However, scientific studies have shown that bottled water is on average no safer than tap water, and may sometimes be less safe, containing elevated levels of arsenic, bacteria and other contaminants.

What's more, up to 40 percent of bottled water comes from the same source as tap water, which is highly regulated for its safety to consumers. In contrast, the bottled water industry is regulated by the FDA, which lacks the capacity to fully monitor bottled water plants and largely relies on bottlers to police themselves.

This summer the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution, with leadership from the mayors of San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Minneapolis, supporting municipal water systems. U.S. consumers currently spend \$15 billion a year on bottled water. At the same time, there is a \$22 billion funding gap between what cities need to spend on water infrastructure and the money available to them. In the face of shortfalls, cities in the U.S. and around the world are turning increasingly to private corporations to manage public water systems – sometimes at great expense to the public and to the overall quality of service.

Bottled water also takes a toll on the environment, and city budgets. Last year, at least four billion pounds of plastic bottles ended up in city waste streams. It can cost cities more than \$70 million in dumping and incineration fees alone. Furthermore, making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil last year and generated more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Pledge drive will continue over the coming months and be used to educate consumers about why they should choose the tap over the bottle.

Quotes from a few of the Supporters excerpted from an October 4th press release from the Think Outside of the Bottle Coalition.

“Getting good honest information to the public through aggressive, proactive efforts like the Think Outside The Bottle campaign, has clearly improved the consciousness of people around this country. People are making better decisions. It's like that light bulb goes on that says, ‘Oh my gosh, we got sucked into this pattern of buying bottled water without thinking a whole lot about it. We need to be more responsible, more conscious about the impacts of our efforts, and be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.’” – Mayor Ross C. “Rocky” Anderson, Mayor, Salt Lake City, UT

“Here in Boston, we're proud not only to support the pledge, but, in fact, we feel as though Mayor Menino helped write the Pledge.” - James Hunt, Chief of Environmental & Energy Services in the Office of the Mayor of Boston

“I am proud to support the Think Outside the Bottle campaign and its efforts to restore public confidence in tap water over bottled water. I believe in Emeryville's municipal water system and feel that bottled water is both unnecessary and costly for consumers and cities.” Mayor Nora Davis, Emeryville, CA



Protect Public Water

Continued from previous page

“The Franciscan Federation has been supporting the Think Outside The Bottle campaign for a couple years now, and the pledge now today, because we are called by our faith stance and our moral views to do so. For us it’s a moral matter of environmental stewardship.” – Sister Sharon Dillon, Former Executive Director of the Franciscan Federation of the United States.

“Water is a profound spiritual symbol for Christians. This essential life resource should not be commodified, nor should access be limited. Already, privatization of water has limited access to persons in parts of the world. We support this campaign and all efforts to ensure water for all.” - Andrew Kang Bartlett, Presbyterian Hunger Program

“Between our 2 restaurants and the nightclub we have 55 employees and we serve over 1000 guests a week and it’s been really educational and exciting for us to work with our staff and our guests to really understand the issues involved with the Think Outside The Bottle campaign.” – Katherine Manzier, Cofounder and CEO of Bella Luna Restaurant and The Milky Way Lounge and Lanes

“Bottled water allows corporations to control the price of the water we drink. Water is a fundamental human right and should not be treated like a commodity sold to those who can afford to pay the market price.” Nancy Price, Alliance for Democracy

ampaign. The pure water of northern rivers like the Taku and the Stikine is inextricably linked to people’s desire everywhere for pure water. While we work to keep irresponsible mining and energy developments from contaminating great northern rivers like the Taku and Stikine, it is great to know that this campaign is working to safeguard the right of all to a safe water supply.” David

MacKinnon, Executive Director, Rivers Without Borders

“Climate recovery hinges on many things, including public rejection of false solutions of privatization of water services and the commodification of water itself.” - Vicki Lee, Chair of the Corporate Accountability Committee, Sierra club

“When the multi-national corporations come in to take over the water distribution program they make the mistake of treating water as a profit-driven commodity instead of a human right, and because of this misinterpretation, the people suffer, often going thirsty due to their inability to meet the high cost of water.” - Bryan Yunis, student at College of St. Solastica, Deluth, MN

Student Campaign for Child Survival Contact: Bryan Yunis, student at College of St. Solastica, Deluth, MN, johnnybroom@gmail.com, 612-636-7796

“Plastic bottles leach potentially carcinogenic chemicals and toxins into water, and is particularly dangerous for women because of the endocrine disrupting nature of these chemicals.” Kate Zaidan, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

For more information and to take the pledge go to the website, www.thinkoutsidethebottle.org.



How many more days to Mardi Gras?

Preserve The Future

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

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