



DELTA SIERRAN

DELTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.LOUISIANA.SIERRACLUB.ORG

JAN-MAR 2009

RESIDENTIAL **SOLAR** TAX CREDITS **DEMYSTIFIED**

Conversations today are often about skyrocketing utility bills, dependence on foreign oil, climate change, and pollution. Solutions for America's energy future are available now in the form of clean renewable technologies like solar power.

There is an ugly rumor going around that it takes 20+ years for your investment in solar power to break even. The truth is that going solar is more affordable than ever before. Thanks to the **best in the nation** state tax credits here in Louisiana we are now in a position for average home owners to get their own solar systems installed on their homes and start reaping the benefits of lower energy bills and peace of mind during power outages.



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How do these tax credits work?

One of the provisions of The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 is the extension of the Investment Tax Credit that gave homeowner 30% off solar systems - this means a refund or direct reduction of the tax you owe. The best news of all is that on January 1, 2009, there will no longer be a \$2,000 cap on what the federal government will pay you back! 2009 is looking like the year to finally make your dream of owning solar panels come true.

If that isn't enough of an incentive to go solar then how about this? The Louisiana state government will give you an additional 50% off the cost of EACH residential system you purchase up to \$12,500 per system. There is no limit to how many systems you can purchase. When you combine these two tax credits, you get an effective 80% off the cost of your residential solar system!

YES, 80% off.

So what will it cost me?

A typical 3 kilowatt grid-tied system will cost your approximately \$25,000 before tax credits. This kind of system will sell clean energy back to the grid and you will see a credit on each month's bill for the amount of energy you system produces. However, if there is a power outage, your system will shut down to protect workers who are working on the lines. If the grid is down, your solar system will be down. All in all, you could potentially see savings up to \$1,000 a year or more on your energy bill, reducing the breakeven point to 5 years!

Cost of system: \$25,000* + 50% State Tax Credit (\$12,500) + 30% Federal Tax Credit (\$7,500) = **You pay only: \$5,000**

2.5 kilowatt Hybrid battery backup system

With this system, you get a little bit less power produced each month than the example above, but you get the added benefit of having a backup system that is tied to your most critical loads in your home. When power is cut off from the grid to your home, the system switches over and starts pulling power from your battery backup system. How long your system can run on these batteries depends on how many batteries you purchase, but typically, a modest backup system can run for 4 days without being recharged. If the sun is shining, you could continue to recharge the batteries each day and potentially maintain power to the critical loads indefinitely.

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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, sponsoring a Mercury Public Education Campaign, raising public awareness about climate change, and working to keep the Atchafalaya Basin, America's greatest river swamp, wet and wild. In addition, we encourage our members to get outside and enjoy our beautiful planet.

The Sierra Club's members and supporters are more than 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR: CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

During a recent visit with my younger sister in Annapolis, Maryland we went on a walking tour of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. You might logically wonder why talk about this in the Sierra Club Delta Chapter newsletter. The response is that this is a great model for something that could be done in here in Louisiana as a way to highlight the value and beauty of Atchafalaya Basin, especially those areas of the basin which still exist in their natural condition.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) is owned by a private, not for profit foundation and is located on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. It is a 500 acre preserve with a variety of natural habitats that represent the bay shores in their natural condition before commercial and residential development came along. The preserved acreage serves as a great location for bird watching, boating, walking nature trails and beachcombing, nature education and research into components of the natural eco systems. Examples of programs conducted there include: fishing surveys, a water quality awareness festival, underwater grasses research, volunteer activities in natural area restoration, eco-adventure camps, sustainable homebuilding and an eco-triathlon.

They have constructed a new education center which qualifies for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The beautiful building incorporates numerous innovative design features for energy efficiency, use of recycled construction materials, and indoor environmental quality. The building serves as a showcase for features that homeowners and commercial developers can include in their designs.

The obvious question to ask is what about an Atchafalaya Basin Environmental Center? Planning for implementation



research into the unique characteristics of the Atchafalaya Basin that make it worthy of designation as a cultural and environmental heritage area of national stature.

Establishment of such a center could be accomplished with cooperation of visionary people including landowners, public officials, and the citizen interest groups that would benefit from such a center. Numerous possibilities exist for the use of private and/or public land in the basin for the purpose of establishing an environmental center. Some of my favorite places are the wildlife refuges along the Rio Grande in New Mexico that serve as feeding grounds for birds migrating along the Rio Grande flyway. These refuges were built by Civilian Conservation Corps workers during the depression of the 1930's, and they still serve as highly valuable part of our natural infrastructure.

An Atchafalaya Basin Environmental Center is something we could do here in Louisiana.

- HAYWOOD MARTIN



AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

*SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM WOODY'S TRIP ON PAGE 5

Earl's Pearls: GREEN IS THE NEW GREEN

Hey, we won. Haven't you noticed? I'm not talking about any election; I'm talking about the fact that after decades of the Sierra Club spreading the green gospel, everyone is catching on and singing hallelujah. Being green is so trendy, so up-to-the-minute. I mean, even Britney and Paris and Lindsay and Miley and the Jonas Brothers are all probably doing the green thing, even if they don't know what that means, just as long as it gets attention. Advertising has taken to green like George No. 2 Bush, II, Jr., to war. Green is everywhere, it's the new paradigm. If you're not green, you're out of it.

But wait; green has been around a very long time. Why are we into green hype now all of a sudden? Open the Good Book and read what King David wrote about being green: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." That psalm was written long before somebody started selling home furnishings or autos by touting them as being green. In fact, David's pastures were green because they were fertilized by the animals hanging out in them. So be extra careful where you lie down in a green pasture, even more careful than when you walk through one.

The Middle Ages produced a primordial piece of English literature that anticipated the green frenzy of 2008 by 1000 years. Why did the anonymous author call the famous poem "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"? Did the good knight feed his horse organically grown oats and hay? Did Sir Knight eat lots of whole-grain bread and fresh vegetables; did he damp down his hearth fire so as not to spew ash and carbon into the atmosphere? Was his wooden jousting lance made from a tree grown in a renewable forest? The answers to these important questions must be left to a creative graduate student's dissertation.

Speaking of students, Tulane University's athletic teams are known as The Green Wave. Being green has apparently helped the baseball team, but the football team looks perpetually green. Every year.

As children we heard that the moon was made of green cheese. Why not

bleu? Or brie? With some crispy crackers on the side? Being green was out of this world.

Place names have been green for a long time too. Think about Greenville, Mississippi; Evergreen, Alabama; and the whole State of Vermont, which means "green mountain" in French. That state's militia in the War of American Independence was called the Green Mountain Boys and was led by Ethan Allen, who is now in the furniture business. His web site says nothing about being green. There was Another green hero of the American Revolutionary War. He was General Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island.



In the 1950s there was a green frenzy with the commercial exploitation of chlorophyll, you know, the green stuff in plants, to combat bad odor. The invention of chlorophyll-infused Air Wick, with ubiquitous green bottles with jutting felt wicks on top of toilet tanks and elsewhere led the charge in a war against stink and set the world on a green path for a few years. These were in the halcyon days before the green Air Wick juice got into aerosols with fluorocarbons, which chased the bad odors but destroyed protective ozone in the upper atmosphere. Not so green after all.

About 1970 a popular book was published called The Greening of America. The book's exuberant optimism and starry eyes about the counter-culture revolution then in full-energy mode made the reader wonder if the author wasn't smokin' somethin' green and funny.

Our folding money is called greenbacks, we drink green beer on St. Patrick's Day, and we watch television commercials about the valley of the Jolly Green Giant. Some people listen to the romantic songs of Al Green whose super-smooth baritone is perfect bedroom music for the type of people who shop at Pottery Barn.

Green is big in the world of sports, too. In order to play a round of golf, a duffer needs to pay a green fee. In Boston's Fenway Park, the Red Sox try to hit the ball over the left field fence called The Green Monster. And then there are the Green Bay Packers, whose fans wear chunks of cheese on their heads, but not green cheese from the moon.

Green goes to war. Even though soldiers and Marines have traded their green battle uniforms for desert dusty, the safety zone around the American embassy in Baghdad is known as the Green Zone. Maybe this name was chosen in hope that there would be less red blood shed there.

Some farmers' markets have dropped that quaint name in favor of Green Market. In those trendy places a shopper can go whole-heartedly green by buying red tomatoes, yellow squash, blueberries, and purple eggplant. Figure that one out.

Need a New Age potion to mellow your mood, soothe the soul, shield yourself from all sorts of physical evils, and maybe even get a boost to the libido as a side effect? Your drink is green tea, the "in" beverage in hip circles and cool zip codes from 90210 to 70115.

Green hasn't always been associated with good. Here are some greens that we'd rather not see: green slime, seasickness ("turning green"), gangrene, verdigris (corrosion), green envy, and that ominous modern green evil, greenhouse gas.

After a trip to the green market, relax in your greensward with a cup of green tea, listen to "Greensleeves" on some radio station that promises to be green, and ponder your next Sierra Club trip - to The Emerald Isle or even to Greenland.

- Earl Higgins

DELTA CHAPTER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

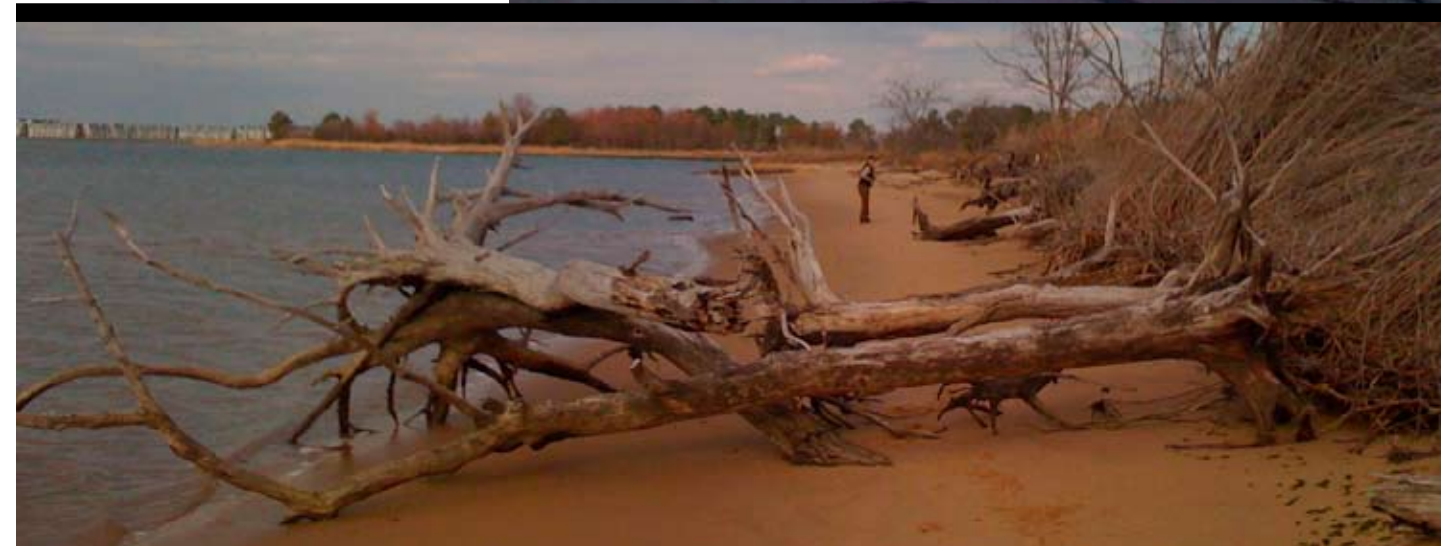
ELECTION BALLOTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT, WITH VOTING TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31ST, AND BALLOTS COUNTED ON JAN 5TH. RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED THE WEEK OF JAN 5, 2009.

JANUARY 24, 2009 - DELTA CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING. MEETING LOCATION WILL BE IN BATON ROUGE AT THE HILLTOP ARBORETUM, 11855 HIGHLAND RD, BR, LA 70810.

DELTA CHAPTER IS LOOKING FOR PERSONS WHO WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH OR CHAIR FOUR COMMITTEES. THEY ARE THE FUNDRAISING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES, AND OUTINGS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEES.

IF INTERESTED IN HELPING US WITH THESE ACTIVITIES PLEASE CONTACT WOODY MARTIN, DELTA CHAPTER CHAIR, AT HRMARTIN25C@GMAIL.COM OR CALL AT 337-232-7953.

PHOTOS FROM WOODY'S TRIP TO *Chesapeake Bay*



(CONT)...RESIDENTIAL SOLAR TAX CREDIT DEMYSTIFIED

Cost of system: \$25,000* + 50% State Tax Credit (\$12,500) + 30% Federal Tax Credit + (\$7,500) = You pay only: \$5,000

**This is an approximation of cost and will vary by the brand of the system you and your solar installer select for your home and personal needs.*

Will this run my whole house or my A/C?

The size of this particular hybrid system will not be able to handle the energy demands for your entire house or A/C, unless your home is LEED Platinum Certified and your energy consumption is minimal. You can, however, run such things as your lights, refrigerator, TV's, computers and window units on a system of this size. When designing your system, think of those items you would most need during an extended power outage and your certified installer will directly wire your system to handle these loads in times of power outages. If you have dreams of going off grid completely – be sure to maximize efficiencies in your home. The more efficient your home is, the better your solar systems will work for you.

For information on LEED Certification Programs, visit the US Green Building Council's LEED website at (<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>)

How is this better than running generators?

During our last extended power outage after Gustav, did you enjoy hunting for gas each day and listening to the constant hum of the generator? How about the carbon monoxide? Your hybrid solar system is quiet, clean and it will never ask you to go stand in line for 3 hours for gas.

How is this better than a natural gas line generator?

The price of natural gas is not regulated. The built in generators do not automatically take over each and every time the power goes out like your hybrid solar system will. Plus, you are still burning a fossil fuel. Your hybrid solar system will cost you nothing to run and sells energy back to the grid all year long. Running a gas line generator will drastically increase your gas bill when used.

Clean, Reliable and Affordable

With just a \$5,000 investment into your home, you will drastically cut down your energy bills, reduce your carbon foot print and increase the resale value of your home! Plus, there are programs such as HERO and home equity loans with low interest rates that make it even easier to take the plunge and make the investment.

If you are thinking that now is the time to make a call and get a system quoted for your home, make sure that the solar installer you select has certified installers on staff. To find a certified installer near you, call LSES (Louisiana Solar Electric Society) or visit their website at www.lses.org. To find a NABCEP certified installer, the highest ranking of certified solar installers available, go to www.nabcep.org

Solar – affordable, reliable, pollution-free energy. Energy savings you can rely on, now and in the future! Solar energy is not only a personal investment; it's also an investment in our planet's future. Invest today and have greater control over tomorrow's energy costs.

Author: Ann Vail Shaneyfelt

Ann is an ExCom member of the BR Group, Chair of the Delta Chapter Recycling Committee, a Keep Ascension Beautiful Board member and has most recently begun working at Gulf South Solar in Marketing. If you have questions about going solar or would like to volunteer with our recycling efforts in Ascension Parish, she can be reached at 225-677-5535 or by email at ashaneyfelt@gmail.com

GOOD JOBS, GREEN JOBS

CONFERENCE - FROM FEBRUARY 4-6 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Just weeks after a new Congress and new administration take office — the 2009 Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference will set the stage for stakeholders from across the country to forge an agenda for realizing the enormous opportunities we can achieve by investing in green jobs. The Sierra Club is one of the major sponsors of this conference.

- Prominent national leaders and breakout sessions to explore new ideas and exchange best practices;
- Green Jobs Expo featuring various companies, academic institutions and organizations displaying green technology or products from manufacturing; and
- Green Jobs Advocacy Day – Conference participants head up to Capitol Hill to educate lawmakers about the new, green economy.

<http://www.greenjobsconference.org/site/c.rv13liiNWJqE/b.3820537/>

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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Thank you.



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: GULF GATHERING 2009

A Gulf-wide conference for coastal advocates and organizers concerned about the Gulf of Mexico. If you're interested in Climate Change, Coastal Habitat Resiliency, Wetlands and Cypress Swamps Conservation, or would like to meet other folks from across the five Gulf states who want to Protect the Gulf - this is the environmental conference for you.



To receive agenda updates and further information, contact Briana Kerstein, briana@healthygulf.org, (504) 525-1528 ext. 208

LOUISIANA GREEN CORPS TRAINING YOUTH IN GREEN JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

As part of the newly formed LA Green Corps, the Arc Americorps Krewe is one of four Americorps teams located throughout the New Orleans area. All LA Green Corps programs are focused on training at-risk youth to fill voids in the green or ecologically sound job market. Other project sites are the Mid-City Neighborhood Organization Old City Building Center, where deconstructed building materials are reclaimed and sold; the Alliance for Affordable Energy, which provides energy efficient upgrades for houses and Mary Queen of Vietnam, CDC whose Corps members are landscaping a neutral ground. Along with job skills participants have practiced life skills.

Graduate Aaron Hawthorne says, "My experience (with the Arc) has been wonderful. It's been awesome...We learn a lot from one another...We have a lot of opportunity now." All three graduates will continue working at the Arc. Two will work in newly formed positions in the green industry – assistant to the coordinator of the Arc's Mardi Gras bead recycling program and prep-chef trainee at the Arc's locally-sourced, natural foods catering business, the Vintage Garden.

The Louisiana Sierra Club staff and volunteers played a major role in researching and writing the grant proposal which supports this great green jobs training effort.

- DARRYL MALEK-WILEY



CORPS MEMBERS ON A 'SWAMP TOUR' JULY 2008

THE FIRST EVER GNO LA GREEN CORPS CLASS GRADUATES!

The photo to the right is of the first ever AmeriCorps graduating class from the Arc of GNO's LA Green Corps. Another class will have graduated in December 2008. The organization's website states,

"The Louisiana Green Corps (LA Green Corps) is a "green" job skills training program for 16-24 year old youth living in the Greater New Orleans Area."



AUGUST 2008 GRADUATING CLASS OF LA GREEN CORPS (PHOTO – SUZY MASON)

MISSION: To involve youth in environmentally focused service learning projects while teaching valuable 21st century job skills. The LA Green Corps utilizes an innovative training method in which Corps members gain a sense of ownership and pride for their work while planning and implementing service projects that benefit the environment and the community.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Eligible LA Green Corps members are part of the national AmeriCorps movement. Upon completion of a four month term of service and required training, Members receive an educational award of up to \$1,250.00. Members also earn an hourly wage while conducting service activities. Training encompasses a wide variety of subjects including: computer skills, life skills, academic skills, and site specific technical skills such as: green building, deconstruction and materials reuse, warehouse management, organic and sustainable farming, and energy conservation."

According to an article written by Adira Riben, one of the leaders of the group, "The partnership of the Arc and the AmeriCorps Corps Network represents the first ever AmeriCorps program for participants with intellectual disabilities. Since May, the krewe of five members have built raised garden beds; planted and grown herbs, vegetables and fruit trees; planted a butterfly garden; brainstormed new ideas; toured local gardens; recycled Mardi Gras Beads and volunteered in the community."

More information and photos about this organization can be found at: www.lagreen-corps.org. For additional information on the Arc please call 504-837-5140 or email arcgnoinfo@bellsouth.net Young adults ages 16 to 24 interested in applying to the Louisiana Green Corps should contact Suzy Mason at 504-382-9941 or lagreencorps@gmail.com

LDEQ ENVIROSCHOOL TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2009

LDEQ is offering a series of "Enviro-school" events around the state, a regular monthly schedule. The sessions are about their permit programs (mostly air). The sessions are open to the general public. The stated purpose of the sessions is to invite "citizens to participate in an informative 'school' to help the public understand the agency and how it operates." LDEQ is planning to continue the sessions through 2009.

Classes offered in the 1st quarter 2009:

January Air Quality 101: Nonattainment & You De-ning Attainment and Non-attainment; Identifying the Areas; How it Affects the Regulatory Standards & Permitting; How New Standards Impact Louisiana

February Water Permits 101: Understanding the Process Program Mission; Major Regulations That Govern; Flowchart of Permit Stages; Permit Types and Examples; Community Involvement in the Process; Who Needs a Permit

March Water Quality 101: Understanding Water Quality Issues Water Quality Assessment and Standards; TMDLs-Total Maximum Daily Loads; Drinking Water Protection; Non-point Source; Fish Advisories

Training sessions will be held throughout the state at the DEQ Regional Offices as scheduled below:

- Baton Rouge 10 AM First Thursday 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802
- New Orleans 10 AM Second Thursday 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420 New Orleans, LA 70123
- Lake Charles 10 AM Third Thursday 1301 Gadwall Street Lake Charles, LA 70615
- Shreveport 10 AM Fourth Thursday 1525 Fairfield, Shreveport, LA 71101

More info, the full schedule, and online registration links are on the LDEQ website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>, and the LDEQ contact person is Ms. Tomeka Prioleau, Executive Management Officer 225.219.0877.

CELEBRITY TV STAR JOINS LEAN CONFERENCE

The 22nd annual Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) conference was held on October 18th at the Sheraton Hotel in Baton Rouge. If you haven't been to a LEAN conference before, you have missed an opportunity to mingle with representatives of organizations from all over the state that are concerned about preserving our environment and protecting our communities. The conference usually includes inspirational speakers, food, music and fun; 2008 was no exception. Marylee Orr, Executive Director of LEAN and her staff outdid themselves. Invited speakers included Harold Leggett, newly appointed Secretary of LDEQ. Harold prefaced his remarks with a quote from Peter Coors, "Find pollution or waste and you've found something you've paid for but can't sell!" The jist being that eliminating waste and pollution from your manufacturing process will save you money. According to the Secretary, he believes we can promote business and save the environment too! He also said that polluting businesses weren't going to be welcome in Louisiana under Governor Jindal's watch.

Another featured speaker was Dr. Paul Connett, an internationally renowned proponent of Sustainability, who laid out his plan to reach zero waste by 2020. His theory is based on the premise that we need to change our over consumptive economy to one in which there is a full circle that brings all products back to production or recycled back into use. You can see his power point on <http://leanweb.org>. If you have an opportunity to hear Dr. Connett in the future, I strongly recommend it; he is an entertaining and provocative speaker.

In addition to talking about sustainability, Dr. Connett gave a short lecture on the perils of fluoride in drinking water. Unfortunately our legislature passed a bill late in the session in 2008 making fluoride in drinking water mandatory. Dr. Connett's main point is that fluoride treatments on the exterior of your teeth are beneficial but drinking fluoride has many unpleasant health threatening after effects. These include malformation of tooth enamel in the very young and ties to Alzheimer's in the elderly. For more information you can go to www.AmericanHealthStudies.org to read about the dangers.

The star of the day was the after lunch speaker, Ed Begley Jr., a veteran actor in movies and television who despite living the Los Angeles celebrity life has kept his environmental integrity. Some of you may have seen his HGTV "Living with Ed" series, and if not, it is being rerun on "Green Planet TV". Ed Begley, Jr. is a proponent of walking the talk. He encourages each and every one of us to take the simple steps of cutting back on our personal energy consumption. To his credit, he came and spent the entire day with us and even took notes. You could tell he was one of us just with a better haircut. Needless to say I had to get my picture taken with him. My husband was disappointed that I didn't find out where to get the bicycle driven toaster.

The space in our newsletter is limited so I will briefly describe the remaining speakers. We heard from the LEAN super lobby duo Kay Wascom and Barbara Dodds. We also heard from members of the United Church of Christ who are focusing on recovery from technology-caused disasters, and we received an update from the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper. Cake and dancing to local Cajun music ended a terrific day!

I hope that you will consider going to this conference next year, you will listen, learn and accept the love from the greater environmental community in Louisiana.



LESLIE MARCH & ED BEGLEY JR. - LEAN 2008 (©DUBINSKYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

– LESLIE MARCH

MERCURY HAIR TEST EVENT HELD NOV 21ST

NEW ORLEANS - One in six women of childbearing age in the U.S. already has enough mercury in her body to put a fetus at risk of learning disabilities and developmental problems. Many New Orleans residents have been wondering if they are at risk of mercury poisoning - and what can be done about it. On November 21st, the Sierra Club and the Gulf Restoration Network led clean energy groups in sponsoring a free, sim-



ple hair-test for local women to determine the levels of toxic mercury in their bodies. Aveda stylists from the Paris Parker Salon were on hand to professionally clip a small piece of hair needed to test for mercury exposure.

Currently Entergy Louisiana is working to obtain permits to repower their Little Gypsy natural gas power plant in Saint Charles Parish to coal-fired power. Coal-fired plants are one of the largest man-made sources of mercury pollution in the country. Local residents are concerned that the proposed Little Gypsy coal repowering project will expose them to dirtier air and serious health problems.

There are cleaner alternatives to coal and by looking at our alternatives we can improve public health, boost the economy, and protect the environment. Entergy's current proposal puts our environment and the health of our community at risk. Mercury is linked to learning disabilities and other developmental problems in young children. When coal is burned, mercury is released into the atmosphere and falls back to earth in rain, running into our lakes, rivers, and streams. There it is converted to the toxic form of mercury - methyl mercury - which accumulates in fish and shellfish. When contaminated fish are eaten it is absorbed by the body. Currently, 41 of Louisiana's waterways,

including the Gulf of Mexico, have a mercury-in-fish advisory.

"We all recognize outer beauty, but often we forget to take care of what's happening on the inside," says Debra Neill, CEO of Neill Corporation, owner of the Paris Parker Salon and Spa group. "We applaud the Gulf Restoration Network, the Sierra Club and their partners in their quest to help raise awareness of the mercury issue to women in Louisiana."

On the day of the event, stylists with the Paris Parker Aveda Salon took a small sample of hair from each participant and sent it to an academic laboratory for testing. The data will be anonymously included in a University of North Carolina research study, which has the largest sample size of any study to date, on the effects of mercury in the U.S. population.

The Sierra Club is actively working to ensure that the Little Gypsy plant and other coal plants across the state reduce their mercury pollution and update their pollution controls to comply with new, more protective pollution standards.

To see the full article written by Molly Reid in the Times-Picayune, please visit http://blog.nola.com/mollyreid/2008/11/salongoers_get_free_mercury_te.html

- JORDAN MACHA

REPORT ON THE DELTA CHAPTER QUARTERLY EXCOM MEETING

The Sierra Club Delta Chapter holds quarterly executive committee (Ex-Com) meetings hosted each time by Delta Chapter groups in rotation. The recent meeting was held on November 8, 2008 in the Holy Cross neighborhood of New Orleans at the Greater Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The meeting

was well attended. Reports from groups are followed by legislative and conservation reports and discussion of specific conservation issues. The meeting was followed by a walking tour of the Global Green House and a driving tour of the Bayou Bienvenue site and the 'Make-It-Right' homes along Tennessee Ave. We finished

up a very full day with dinner in honor of Leslie March, recent past Delta Chapter Chair, who is moving to the northwest.

The next meeting will be held in Baton Rouge on January 24, 2009 and all Sierra Club members are invited to attend.

PHOTOS/TEXT: WOODY MARTIN



J. DUBINSKI, C. FRYLING, B. KOHL, R. GUILLORY, A. SHANEYFELT, D. WILSON



JORDAN MACHA, CARA LEVERETT

14TH ANNUAL TULANE LAW SCHOOL SUMMIT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY: DEFINING GREEN IN TIMES OF CHANGE APRIL 3-4, 2009 • NEW ORLEANS, LA

A new administration, economic recovery, climate change

What does it all mean for being "green"?

Times are changing. Our country is experiencing changing political, economic and physical landscapes. In Washington, a new administration will inherit not only preexisting environmental challenges but a spectrum of competing responses as well. While the current economic crisis has potential to threaten conservation efforts and the development of green technologies, our physical environment is also seeing degradation of natural resources, threatened wildlife populations, sprawling exurbs, shifting energy portfolios, mounting contamination in oceans and waterways, and increasing storm surges. And in 2009, the Gulf Coast remains a flashpoint of pres-ervational crisis.

The Tulane Law School Environmental Law Society was founded to enable students to become involved in ongoing environmental issues and programs on both a local and national level. Each year our work culminates with a summit on environmental law and policy, where we bring together environmental leaders from around the country to discuss possible solutions for some of the most pressing environmental issues. This year, the Summit will feature a multidisciplinary range of experts addressing the fate of the environment in light of a new administration, a recovering economy, and a continually changing climate. This is the country's only student-run event of its kind.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans has moved into the national spotlight as a potential model for sustainable development. This national attention and unprecedented potential for growth makes New Orleans the ideal venue to redefine the meaning of green in times of change.

Preliminary topics to include:

- Promises v. Action: Can our new administration honor its environmental promises?
- Sustainable city planning & redevelopment following Kelo v. City of New London
- A shifting energy portfolio & the future design of our national power grid
- Oil dependency & litigation in the Gulf Coast region
- Coastal restoration and new ways to envisage the Mississippi River + Standing to sue following Mass v. EP A
- Environmental justice and the demographics of the green movement
- A Native American preservation perspective: Pacific NW salmon & Four Corners uranium mining

For more information, go to <http://summit.law.tulane.edu> • envirolawsummit@tulane.edu or call 303.475.1345

5TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL VOTER LOBBY DAY IN BATON ROUGE - APRIL 21, 2009

(FYI: 21 April is also John Muir's birthday)

We want all members possible to attend. It's a great, informative and inspiring day.

- Lunch with briefings from environmental and legislative leaders
- Fantastic opportunity to meet concerned citizens from around the state
- Citizen lobbying training - Lobbying 101 from Sierra Club lobbyist
- Darrell Hunt
- Help set up and hold meetings with your state legislators

This will be a day when environmental and environmental justice leader come to Baton Rouge and let our Louisiana Representative and Senators know that protecting Louisiana's Environment is an important issue. Aaron Viles is the contact person at 504-525-7534 ext 207.



(L TO R): KARYNNE ABEL AND HARVEY STERN

Harvey Stern (above photo, on right) is a long time Sierran and founder of the Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy. The purpose of Harvey's organization is to inventory, landmark, and promote the stewardship of cypress trees in Louisiana that are over 200 years old -- dating back to the Louisiana Purchase! Harvey was accompanied on a recent core sample outing by Baton Rouge Sierra Club Group member Jeffrey Dubinsky and new B.R. Excom member Karynne Abel. According to Harvey, although the tree sampled on the day of the outing is by no means the oldest tree he has sampled, the core taken from it is the largest he has ever taken. The age of the tree has yet to be determined. If the tree is determined to be old enough (200 years or greater), a plaque will be placed on it indicating its age.

TEXT: JEFFREY DUBINSKY
PHOTOS: JEFFREY DUBINSKY & KARYNNE ABEL



(L TO R): HARVEY STERN, JEFFREY DUBINSKY

DATING LOUISIANA CYPRESS TREES



(L TO R): KARYNNE ABEL & HARVEY STERN

Join us!

Sign up online
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or return this form:

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Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Please charge my Mastercard VISA
Cardholder's Name _____
Card Number _____
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts, and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.59 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Be sure to check our website, at <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/> for all of our November and December events, meetings, and outings! If you are interested in organizing or hosting an event, please contact your local group leader, as follows:

THE ACADIAN GROUP is the hub of Sierra Club activities in Lafayette and its surrounding areas. Contact Harold Schoeffler, Acadian Group Chairman at 337-234-4042, or check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/acadian/>

- The Acadian Group holds its' Board & 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 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.

- Wed, Jan. 14 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group Conservation Meeting, 412 Travis St., Lafayette

- Sat, Jan. 17 @ 9 am - TreesAcadiana's Arbor Day Tree Planting Cajun Dome new parking lot

- Wed, Jan. 21 @ 6:30 pm - Acadian Group General Meeting, 412 Travis St., Lafayette

- Sun, Jan. 25 @ 7:00 pm - Ecologic, Acadiana Open Channel 5, Live Call-In

- Wed, Jan. 28 @ 6:30 pm - Outings Planning Pot Luck Meeting at Schoeffler's, 3502 E. Simcoe

- Sat, Jan. 31 @ 1pm Schoeffler's or Benoit Landing @ 2pm - Basin Canoe Trip from Bayou Benoit to Sandy Cove with House Boat Fish Fry along the way.

For further information & reservations on any of these outings or events call Harold Schoeffler, Acadian Group Chair at 337-234-4042

THE HONEY ISLAND GROUP covers the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain including the Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, Hammond and Pontchatoula areas. This group is in transition and will have new events and outings planned soon! Check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland/>

THE BATON ROUGE GROUP is where you will find all the Sierra Club action in the Baton Rouge metro area. Contact Ann Shaneyfelt at ashaneyfelt@gmail.com.

- There is a monthly "Save the Ales" "meet & greet" at 7 - 9 pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Chelsea's (under the overpass on Perkins, <http://www.chelseascafe.com>)

- The general meeting is held at 7 pm, each 1st Monday of the month, at the Goodwood Blvd. Main Parish Library.

- The BR Group ExCom meets on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m., at Whole Foods, near Jefferson Hwy. & Corporate Blvd., upstairs in the Community Room. The meetings are open to the general membership (1Q09 dates are: 1/5, 2/2, & 3/2)

- If you are certified in First Aid or CPR or would like to become certified, please contact Nancy Grush at nancygrush@cox.net.

- Current areas of interest include: extending recycling to apartment complexes; pushing for school buses that run on cleaner fuel; fighting plans by existing and new plants that entail increased emissions of carbon dioxide & other pollutants; and educating the public about the myths of drilling and the price of gas at the pump; and encouraging the city/parish to include in its road planning amenities for cyclists and pedestrians.

- The Baton Rouge group is also asking its members to support the Ascension Parish Monthly Recycling Day, held the 1st Saturday of each month at the Prairieville, LA Wal-Mart, 9 am - 1 pm. Newspapers, magazines, milk and juice cartons, cardboard, and empty metal food & beverage cans, plastic containers labeled #1 or #7, household bleach and cleaners containers, and prescription medicine bottles are accepted. The Recycling Day is a joint effort of the Ascension Parish Government, The Recycling Foundation, Inc., several businesses, and Keep Ascension/Louisiana/America Beautiful! Organizations. Call Mr. Terance Irvin at 225.621.5722, for more details.

- We also encourage people to join our Facebook Group. - Baton Rouge Area Sierra Club.

THE KISATCHIE GROUP covers all Sierra Club activities in the northwestern region of the state centered on Shreveport. Contact Jeffrey Wellborn, 318-222-1801, jwellbrn@seaber.com. Check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/kisatchie/>

THE NEW ORLEANS GROUP anchors all Sierra Club activities occurring in Southeast Louisiana south of Lake Pontchartrain, centered on the New Orleans metro area.

- Sierra Club New Orleans meetings are now held at the NEW LOCATION at the Audubon Zoo, Dominion Auditorium near the main entrance, 6500 Magazine St. Drive to the front entrance to the Zoo. 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. Doors open at 6:30 pm and program starts at 7:00 pm. Admission is free; all are welcome. Details @ 504-836-3062.

- Sunday, Jan 11 meeting: Andreas Hoffman from Green Light New Orleans will speak about their organization's work to distribute thousands of compact fluorescent light bulbs to homes in New Orleans. The model could be used to spread other green technologies.

- Sunday Feb. 8 meeting: Richard Campanella from Tulane University will speak about "Early European Accounts of the Louisiana Environment, 1519-1699". He will explain what the early French and Spanish explorers saw and the transformations to the environment that followed.

- All meetings are at 7 PM, refreshments and socializing at 6:30 PM in the Audubon Zoo Auditorium. Call Charles Pfeifer 504-780-8889 with any questions.

- Calendar: If you want information about upcoming Programs, Conservation Committee Meetings, or Executive Committee (ExCom) meetings in our area, go to our online calendar or call 504-836-3062. General Programs are open to public; other meetings are open to all members.

- Email neworleans-chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org for info, or check out their website at: <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/neworleans/>





Sierra Club in Louisiana
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Chapter Outings Coordinator

Avid outdoors person or persons (this could be shared) needed to help develop state-wide outings program. National training is available

online. Will be required to be Red Cross CPR and First Aid qualified. Free instruction available. Wilderness First Aid optional. Will be

asked to recruit group level outings leaders and to organize at least one state-wide retreat or outing per year. Contact Woody Martin at

337-232-7953.

Join a chapter committee:

Coal Campaign-contact Woody Martin 337-232-7953

Atchafalaya - contact Dean Wilson 225-659-2499

Legislative-contact Aaron Viles 504-55-1528

Membership/fundraising/events-contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953

Delta Chapter History contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953

Clean Energy/Coal/Nuclear Campaign Volunteers and Community Voices

Need designated point people in every chapter to set up phone trees, email lists and recruit volunteers to help fight new coal and nuclear

plants. Need individuals willing to work with churches, PTA, business and women's groups in their own communities to set up coffeees,

potlucks and meetings where we can present our materials on coal plants and for clean energy. We don't have 30 lobbyists working full

time on our behalf. This is a grassroots movement and we need your help.

Contact Woody Martin at 337-232-7953

Members of the Sierra Club Delta Chapter receive this 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 michael_hebert@bellsouth.net.