



2014 Year End Report For Our Delta Chapter

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*Care for  
the Environment  
Today and Tomorrow*

By including Sierra Club in your estate plans today you are creating a way for future generations of Sierrans to steward the earth tomorrow.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

**Sierra Club Gift Planning Program**  
85 Second St, Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270 • [gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org)



**View from the Chair**



2014 has been an action packed year with lots of Delta Chapter activity in a number of different program areas. Our Delta Chapter priorities over the past year have been in three areas: 1) Control and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, 2) Protection of our Louisiana Scenic Rivers, and 3) Protection of our native forests. We will be reporting on some of these in other articles in this report. We have also been very active supporting the Green Army legislative initiatives in the 2014 legislature. We opposed the Louisiana Public Service Commission efforts to cut back incentives for renewable energy. We have also taken the time to get out and enjoy this beautiful state. The Chapter retreat was well attended and all

had a great time. We are still following the trails in the old trail book and updating them to reflect changes to our environment and to document new trails. We encourage our members and their families to get outdoors.

Please note that your Delta Chapter Excom annual election candidates statements and ballot are on the back pages of this newsletter. Please fill out the ballot and send it back to us in the enclosed envelope.

For the most up to date information about our efforts on your behalf please visit our website at [www.lasierraclub.org](http://www.lasierraclub.org) and/or our facebook pages by searching for Sierra Club Delta Chapter on facebook. Our effectiveness as a member based organization depends on your response to our calls for action such as calling your legislators or public service commissioners when needed.

The Sierra Club National slogan is to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect our Environment. Delta Chapter has many opportunities for member involvement, see page 4 for more information. And last but not least, our effectiveness greatly depends on your continued membership in Sierra Club and your donations of financial support to Delta

Chapter during our March and year end funding appeals. You could also do your Holiday shopping at the Sierra Club by sending your family and friends gift memberships.

We will have some exciting developments over the next year as we continue to pursue our goals. As always you can contact me directly at [hrmartin2sc@gmail.com](mailto:hrmartin2sc@gmail.com) or 337-298-8380.

**Delta Chapter Retreat 2015**

The Delta Chapter Chapter Retreat for 2015 will be held on March 13, 14 and 15 at Chicot State Park.

We usually get together for potluck dinner around 6 pm on Friday. We conduct outdoors oriented workshops on Saturday and eat dinner together on Saturday night. We paddle canoes and kayaks during the day and in general have a good time.

A limited number of beds will be available in our reserved cabins at the State Park. Primitive camp and Rv camping will also be available. If you want to reserve a bed in one of our cabins you can send an email to Woody Martin at [hrmartin2sc@gmail.com](mailto:hrmartin2sc@gmail.com). If you want your own cabin, or if you want to reserve an RV spot or primitive camp you can go to [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) or contact Chicot State Park at (337) 363-2403. We will have more details later. Watch the website. All are invited.

# Protecting Our Public Lands and Waters

## Will Our Forests Be Razed To Keep the Lights Burning in Europe

Traveling on highway I-10 east over the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge, you may have noticed two huge white golf ball looking structures at Port Allen, just to the north of the river crossing. These structures were built to store up to 80,000 metric tons of wood pellets manufactured by Drax Biomass that will come from Louisiana and Mississippi harvested forests. The wood pellets are destined to be shipped to Europe to be burned to generate electricity.

Policies encouraging the development of forest biomass energy have generally adopted a view of biomass as a carbon neutral energy source. The rationale being that growing forests would over time re-capture the carbon emitted by wood-burning energy facilities. Recent studies have shown that this assumption is much too simplistic. Given that the supposed intention of burning biomass is to reduce CO2 emissions relative to coal, two principal problems have emerged.

- 1) In most cases the initial release of carbon into the atmosphere from burning biomass is higher than that of fossil fuels as biomass is less energy dense than fossil fuels. This means that more biomass must be burned and more carbon released to get the same output of heat or electricity.
- 2) It takes time to re-sequester the carbon released from biomass combustion and to recover the foregone sequestration capacity lost when the biomass is harvested. Depending on how the fuel is harvested and burned CO2 emissions from

biomass can be re-sequestered in forests quickly or it may take many decades (Manomet, 2010). For example Louisiana cypress are 90 to 120 years old and it would take that amount of time to re-capture the same amount of carbon burned even if they would grow back which field observation shows does not happen.

Two pellet mills are planned for Bastrop LA and Gloster MS. Each will take in 1.1 million green tons per year. The map of six wood pellet manufacturing facilities being constructed in Louisiana and Mississippi tells a scary story of overlapping 100 mile diameter circles around each pellet manufacturing plant, from which huge amounts of forest material would be extracted to feed the pellet mills.

Our concerns are that since only a very small percent of Louisiana native forests remain to support their unique ecosystems, our native forests within trucking distance of the pellet mills would be in extreme danger. There are generous tax incentives for wood biomass industry growth are based on unrealistic assumptions of long term carbon reductions. The world needs reductions in carbon emissions now, not theoretical net emissions reductions that occur 20 to 50 years from now. On a practical level the burning of forest biomass for electricity in Europe makes no sense. Cut the trees in the US, destroying a carbon sink, then create wood pellets and transport the pellets for thousands of miles overseas using diesel fuel to burn it in Europe. Does this make sense to you?



The Delta Chapter in coalition with LEAN and the Dogwood Alliance is following this issue closely. We think that the public needs to call for re-evaluation of the dollar and carbon economics that have been used to support this destructive scheme. We need to protect our unique forest habitat for future generations. For more information and how you can help with this issue go to our website at [www.lasierraclub.org](http://www.lasierraclub.org).

## Lend us a Hand

Five things you can do today...

Sierra Club engages in a variety of roles from public education to citizen lobbying to electoral engagement. Here's how you can assist us with our work!

1. BECOME A SIERRA CLUB MEMBER or give a gift membership. Use the form on this page or go to [www.lasierra.org](http://www.lasierra.org).
2. MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION to Delta Chapter's effective, citizen-based advocacy efforts. Donations to support our citizen engagement work, including citizen Lobby Days and work with the Green Army are not tax-deductible but vital to our success. Just send a check in the envelope provided for your ballot or to the Delta Chapter Address.
3. SUPPORT US WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT to The Sierra Club Foundation. This supports our educational and administrative policy work including litigation, protecting our forest biodiversity, protecting Louisiana against the dangers of fracking and moving towards a future of clean energy. Checks payable to The Sierra Club Foundation should be mailed to the Delta Chapter Office.
4. CONSIDER COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL GIFTS. Celebrate important events or remember a loved one with a donation that supports protection of Louisiana's environment. Contact Haywood Martin at 337-298-8380,
5. SEND A MESSAGE, Take time this Holiday season to write one of your elected officials and tell them that the environment in Louisiana deserves protection. Tell them that it matters to you and your family that our cypress forests be protected for the future.



**A small way to make a world of difference.**

Giving a Sierra Club Gift Membership is a wonderful way to show someone you care - about them and the environment. So why wait?

**Good things come in small packages. Join Sierra Club now.**



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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to**  
**Gift Recipient** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

| Membership Categories  | Individual                      | Joint                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Special Offer</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15   |                                 |
| Standard               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$49   |
| Supporting             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100  |
| Contributing           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175  |
| Life                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| Senior                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35   |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35   |

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.  
**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

**F94QW** 3500 1

# Victory Over Fracking

In a victory for the environment four out of the five recent applications to withdraw huge amounts of water from Louisiana Scenic Rivers have been withdrawn. This represents a significant victory for Sierra Club Delta Chapter. We have been in the forefront of the battle to protect our Louisiana Scenic Rivers by keeping the oil and gas companies from using huge quantities of scenic rivers water for fracking in the Florida parishes.

Sierra Club filed comments on permit applications for withdrawal of water from Louisiana Scenic Rivers pointing to numerous areas in which insufficient or contradictory information has been provided. We demanded that public hearings be held regarding the permit applications. A public hearing had been set for Oct 29, 2014 for five recent applications to withdraw water. Four out of the five applications to be considered at that hearing have been withdrawn. Recently withdrawn permits include requests from oil and gas companies to extract water from the Tickfaw River in St. Helena Parish, and the Amite River in East Feliciana Parish. The withdrawal of these permit applications means that we have saved a total of 75 million gallons of scenic river water from being taken from our scenic rivers and turned into toxic waste.

You can go to the Delta Chapter website at <http://lasierraclub.org/taxonomy/term/28> for updates on Delta Chapter's efforts to protect our Louisiana Scenic Rivers.

In 1970, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System. The System was developed for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the wilderness qualities, scenic beauties, and ecological regimes of certain free-flowing Louisiana streams. Today, there are approximately 3000 miles of Louisiana designated Natural and Scenic Rivers. These rivers, streams and bayous, are located throughout the state and offer unique opportunities for individuals and communities to become involved in their protection. The Louisiana Scenic Rivers Program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Sierra Club Delta Chapter was active in creating the Scenic Rivers System and continues to be active in monitoring LDWF administration of the program.

# Why Louisiana Should Get On Board with the Clean Power Plan

The link between elevated levels of CO2 in the Earth's atmosphere and rising temperatures is well established (IPCC 2007). According to the US Energy Information Administration, forty percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, and one-third of greenhouse gases overall, come from electric power plants.

The U.S. needs a plan to reduce carbon emissions from electric power generation. The USEPA Clean Power Plan, currently being proposed, should be that plan.

The State of Louisiana should support implementation of the Clean Power Plan for the following reasons:

1. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 42.96 Metric tons of CO2 emissions puts Louisiana in the top twenty of dirty states.
2. Not producing a state plan is irresponsible. Louisiana can develop a plan more tailored to fit Louisiana than one developed by EPA.
3. Compliance with the Clean Power Plan is not too expensive. Renewable energy and energy efficiency brings more power for the dollar.
4. Local jobs will be created instead of dollars being sent out of state to buy coal.
5. Protect our waters and our children. Coal from power plants is the major source of mercury emissions to the air in Louisiana. 48 streams and lakes in Louisiana have mercury advisories already.

6. By holding back on making changes to stop climate change, it is already costing the average person \$300 per year to pay for federal disaster programs that are responding to disasters tied to climate change.

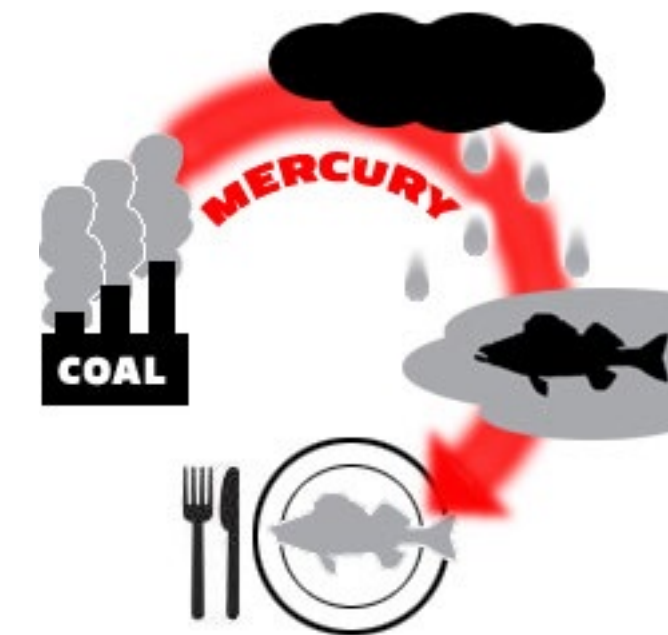
Living here on the Gulf coast, we know that we are more vulnerable to extreme weather events and sea level rise. Our State government has a responsibility to protect our health and safety. It is time for Louisiana to get on board with the Clean Power Plan.

We can be investing in our future by creating jobs and solutions instead of sending our money out of state to buy coal. This means Louisiana jobs in design, construction, retrofitting and maintaining high efficiency natural gas, wind and solar installations.

What can you do? Contact your representatives and senators and let them know that you support the Clean Power Plan.

Every phone call or letter can make a difference. For more information go to [www.lasierra.org](http://www.lasierra.org).

Haywood Martin



# Louisiana Goes to the People's Climate March

On a muggy Thursday evening this past September, 55 Louisianans huddled onto a charter bus and settled in for a 25 hour ride. We were heading to New York for the People's Climate March and our group represented Tulane, Dillard, Loyola, Xavier, and Grambling State students, along with members of the greater gulf south community. We used our time on the bus to meet each other, share stories of our work, and of course catch up on sleep after many long nights of planning the trip.

When the New York skyline finally became visible on the horizon the bus was surging with energy and excitement. Saturday was filled with encounters: we met folks from all over the country engaged in the environmental and climate justice movement. We attended seminars and trainings on how to build a movement, anti-oppression, food justice, organizing in the gulf south, and a hundred topics in between.

Early Sunday morning, September 21st 2014, we headed to Central Park West and joined the small crowd that was already forming. Signs in hand, we were ready to march. Others joined behind us and in front of us, and pretty soon we were in the middle of a 400,000 person sea of people standing for a better future. The chants were clear: we demanded real action on climate change, restoring honor to the democratic process, and protecting coastal cities. The marching bands' music was danceable (though a brass band from New Orleans wouldn't have hurt). And the air was electrifying - bringing that many people to the streets for a common cause was a profound demonstration of the climate movement's



power.

Our 55 were joined by other caravans from the Gulf South and together we brought a message to New York: the Gulf Coast is rising. We are organizing and working to defend what we love. Exhausted from the weekend, though energized and empowered by the march, we boarded the bus back towards New Orleans. With the momentum of the march we continue to organize in the form of a new alliance: Gulf Coast Rising meets every other week in New Orleans and focuses on climate and environmental justice. All are welcome - to get involved please contact Emma Collin at [eacollin@gmail.com](mailto:eacollin@gmail.com).

## Earls Pearls **BAKE SALE CANCELED**

**Big** Oil, Big, Coal, Big Pharma are all called "big" because they are fat with money. The Sierra Club eschews corpulence, and it wouldn't be big anyway because it can't raise the big funds that the "Bigs" can. The club nevertheless needs money to do what it can to counter Big Money.

Leaders of the Delta Chapter gathered one day to organize a fund-raiser. This being Louisiana, the idea of a food theme came up immediately. However, Sierrans are known to be finicky when it comes to food. There are vegans and vegetarians among us, not to mention the animal protectors. Thus the first suggestions of a pig roast (cochon de lait) or a crawfish boil were discarded. Other ideas gained no traction, and the honchos settled on having a bake sale, just like grade schools used to do before such events were deemed evil and injurious to young children.

Problems with the bake sale arose right away. There was a general opposition to the use of refined sugar and bleached white flour in the cupcakes and muffins. Here's some of the discussion:

"There's a farm in Bogalusa where you can get some whole-grain rye flour."

"But is it gluten-free? Is it organically grown?"

"If you drive to Bogalusa to get the flour, won't that leave a carbon footprint from all the gas burned?"

"That footprint will be as big as Bigfoot's."

"Can't use butter or milk. No eggs. They're just an exploitation of innocent animals."

"Hmmm. No sugar, no flour, no butter, no milk, no eggs - what can we bake without them?"

"Uhhh, blueberries, strawberries? How about quinoa?"

"Yes! Quinoa. Gluten-free and as healthy a food as you can buy."

"But it's really expensive and it comes from South America. We have to use local ingredients."

"I've got it! Rice flour from Louisiana rice. That'll work"

"Is it whole-grain and organically grown? I don't think you can find any, even in Crowley."

"Sweet potatoes. They grow here, organically and pesticide-free. We could grind them into some sort of pseudo-flour."

"We'll need to label the muffins; lots of people won't buy unless they know the ingredients."

"So true. And the label will need to say 'Gluten-free, no high-fructose corn syrup, organically grown, fair-trade certified, pesticide-free, low cholesterol, no artificial color, no refined sugar, high fiber, low fat, and no animals were harmed in the preparation of this product.'"

"Does anyone have an outdoor oven? We don't want to bake our goodies with fossil fuel."

The Great Leaders then went to work, concocted a noble and wholesome batter, baked it in a backyard oven using dead tree limbs as fuel.

They tasted the finished product, gagged, spit it out. "Hey, it's pretty good; too bad it tastes bad and is inedible." Then they canceled the bake sale.

Any other ideas?

Earl Higgins



# Candidates for the Delta Chapter Excom



Charles Frylung

As a member of the Club since 1968 I have seen the importance of the Sierra Club and Delta Chapter to Louisiana. The Club has been the lead organization shaping public opinion and working on such issues as coastal and wetlands protection, urban sprawl, clean air and water, wildlife protection, and environmental justice. We have made a difference but there is much more that needs to be accomplished.

I teach landscape architecture at LSU so my vocation and avocation fit nicely together with many of the issues that challenge the Club. Through the years the Atchafalaya Basin has been of special interest to me. At present I am the East Baton Rouge Parish representative to the Atchafalaya Trace Commission. We have recently made the area surrounding the Atchafalaya a National Heritage Area. It was Delta Chapter that got the Commission established.

The Club has always been enjoyable to me and it should be fun for all its members. Outings are an important aspect of the Club. They provide both environmental education and pleasure that leads to strong membership. Delta Chapter

Ex Com is responsible for all aspects of the Club within the State and we should be working to provide our members with as many opportunities as possible to appreciate the good qualities of Louisiana and to make environment better when needed.

Jonathan Scott

Jonathan Scott. A private-sector Environmental Engineer and lifelong urban waterway explorer, Jonathan formed a community discussion board for Bayou Manchac in 1998 that quickly organized into a successful grassroots movement challenging a Corps proposal to clearcut the bayou and set the stage for its designation as a State Historic and Scenic Waterway. After several years of providing comments on proposed projects and initiatives, he helped lead the Bayou Manchac Group to take action against the continuous flow of litter flowing into Bayou Manchac by both organizing cleanup events and seeking to list trash as a Louisiana waterway pollutant subject to TMDLs. He volunteers his time to several non-profits and government committees in order to promote development best practices to improve water quality and increased public involvement via new recreational opportunities within and along small waterways.



Harvey Stern

Greetings—I have been a member of the Delta Chapter since 1981, and have served previously on both the Delta and New Orleans Group ex-Comm. I was honored to receive the Delta Chapter's Atchafalaya award this year. In 2003 I began the Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy campaign, an independent effort to identify, landmark, and promote the stewardship of cypress over 200 years old-- alive at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Our remaining old growth cypress is a national treasure which deserves recognition and protection.

I have been active on land use and wetland issues for many years—we need to redouble our efforts to hold the Corps of Engineers accountable for its inexcusable leniency in issuing wetland development permits. .

I am concerned that the post Katrina/Rita mantra of “rebuilding smarter, safer, and greener” in coastal Louisiana is being subordinated to the unregulated repopulation of our most vulnerable floodplains. I think the Delta Chapter needs to revive its anti-sprawl/smart growth campaign and speak forcefully for truly rebuilding smarter and greener in coastal Louisiana. The Pontchartrain Basin is also a coastal ecosystem, and all

growth around the misnamed “Lake” will continue to be vulnerable to storm surge, regardless of levee improvements.

The Delta Chapter and its regional groups have always been at the forefront of protection and enjoyment of our precious natural environment in Louisiana—as Chapter delegate I will promote efforts to keep our membership engaged and active.

Nick Stracco

I am a recent graduate of Tulane University with a degree in Environmental Science. I founded Divest Tulane, lead Tulane Green Club for two years, interned with the Sierra Club in New Orleans, and co-directed SPROG, the Sierra Student Coalition's week-long crash course in grassroots organizing for and by youth. It is my belief that the Club should be working more towards involving youth and standing in solidarity with marginalized communities in our work. The Sierra Student Coalition is moving in this direction but if the Club does not also prioritize anti-oppression principles and youth outreach into our work, we stand to lose a new generation of strong, well-trained environmental organizers. I hope to work with the Delta Chapter to focus on youth outreach and standing in solidarity with impacted communities who must live with degraded environments every day.



## Sierra Club Delta Chapter Excom Election Ballot (Two year term 2015 - 2016)

Please mark one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Single membership, \_\_\_\_\_ Joint membership.

(Check your mailing label to see if two persons are listed.) Joint membership allows two people to vote so if you have joint membership please use both columns.

The following four candidates in alphabetical order have been nominated to fill three Chapter At Large Positions for a two year term 2015 to 2017 on the Executive Committee. You may vote for three candidates out of the four candidates presented. Please refer to the enclosed candidate statements. Thanks for your votes.

Please return this ballot by US Mail to Sierra Club Delta Chapter Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 52503, Lafayette, LA 70505. You may use the enclosed return envelope.

This Ballot must be received by the Delta Chapter no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, January 5, 2015. The Ballots will be counted the same day at 7:00 pm. Location of ballot counting will be 400 Glynndale Ave. Lafayette, La. 70506

|                 | Single Membership<br>Mark this column only | Joint Membership<br>Mark both columns |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Charlie Fryling | _____                                      | _____                                 |
| Jonathan Scott  | _____                                      | _____                                 |
| Harvey Stern    | _____                                      | _____                                 |
| Nick Stracco    | _____                                      | _____                                 |