



DELTA SIERRAN

2019 MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAPTER

Next year is our golden anniversary, fifty years as the Louisiana chapter of the Sierra Club! Vance Levesque, Chair of the New Orleans Group, has made it his quest to gather as much information and artifacts as possible on the history of those fifty years.

Delta Chapter was started April 1968 by William "Bill" and Iva Futrell, who were soon joined by Donald and Anne Bradburn, Mike Osborne, Garrison and Susan Wilkes, Hans Johansen, Charles Fryling, and others. When Donald Bradburn was invited to join the fledgling Delta Chapter Sierra Club in 1968, he became an activist to save Horn & Petit Bois Islands on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Horn Island, with its dark forests, high dunes, and deserted beaches needed preservation. Don supported legislation that would keep both islands as part of the National Wilderness System, instead of the unlimited opportunities for camping, picnicking, water skiing, boating, bicycling, hiking, and bird watching which was proposed and might attract up to 10 million annual visits! In 1978, the islands were added as designated wilderness to the National Park System.

Levesque is gathering up a "History of Accomplishments" of the Chapter's past fifty years, and needs your help! Stories, pictures, mementos - all will be appreciated. They can be donated to the Chapter which is preparing them for inclusion in a library collection, or you can allow us to make copies or take photographs of the items.

If you have memories of some significant environmental achievement that the Delta Chapter has been involved in, please call him at 504-416-8710 or email: mrkahuna1@gmail.com.



Artwork by Peggy Usner: See story on page 7; Nature All Around Us

SCENIC RIVERS ACT: Saving Treasures

[Editor's Note: This is an abbreviated version; the full article, including all questions and answers is published on our website: www.sierraclub.org/louisiana]

Nearly twenty years ago, I attended the Sierra Club-sponsored "Rivers of the Florida Parishes Water Quality" program at Southeastern Louisiana University. At that time, retired from law practice in New Orleans, I was writing a regular column for Country Roads Magazine, titled "Visions of the New Millennium," which explored what our civilization might look like in the next millennium regarding economics, the environment, historic preservation, urban planning, and other issues.

The 1970 Legislature passed the State Scenic Rivers Act (first state scenic river legislation in the U.S.!) the same year that I bought the acreage where I often camped on the Tchefuncte, one of the original twelve rivers to be protected.

Reports were presented on the Bogue Chitto, which had excessive sediment pollution, and the Amite was "non-or-only-partially-supporting" (meaning mostly useless) due to habitat alteration due to development and clearing, turning woods to lawns then pesticides and pathogens to follow, together with suspended solids (septic) and pasture runoff. It was similar or worse for most of the Florida Parishes. Clearcutting, especially of Longleaf Pines, was a threat to all rivers, as well as all the abundant flora and fauna that depended on them.

Frankly, it was all rather depressing. One issue that seemed to cut across all others was that although the rivers were protected, there was insufficient dedicated funding to support a permanent enforcement staff of more than one!

Fast forward twenty years: I'm a Board member of the Land Trust for Louisiana and a member of the Executive Committee of the Honey Island Group. Time to update the status of the Scenic Rivers program. After interviewing agent Chris Davis, our solitary Scenic Rivers Act enforcer for LA-Wildlife & Fisheries

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These Groups currently have regular monthly meetings; see the calendar on our website for details:

Acadian Group (Lafayette)

Meets the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the First Methodist Church, 701 Lee Ave

Baton Rouge Group

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at The Backpacker, 7656 Jefferson Hwy.

Honey Island Group (Northshore)

Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2:30 pm at various locations

New Orleans Group

Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Audubon Zoo's Dominion Auditorium (main entrance) 6500 Magazine

AROUND THE CAPITAL: A Message from the Baton Rouge Group Chair



Nancy Grush, Baton Rouge Chair on one of her exciting outings!

The Executive Committee of the Baton Rouge Group has open seats! Interested members should contact Group Chair Nancy Grush for further information. Volunteers are needed as well for outdoor trips and other activities.

To join the Sierra Club BR Group, or to get more information about events in the Baton Rouge area and how you can get involved, write us at: Baton Rouge Group of the Sierra Club, 11533 Robin Hood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, or go to our FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BatonRougeSierraClub/> or contact Nancy Grush, chair of the BR Group, at nancygrush@gmail.com.

Upcoming Speakers and Events:

The Baton Rouge Group holds public meetings on the 4th Thursday of most months at The Backpacker, Baton Rouge's premier outdoors store, located at 7656 Jefferson Hwy.

The following is a list of upcoming speakers.
August 23 – Vernon Wright, “The Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker”

September 27 – Eric White, “Drainage, Groundwater, and other local water concerns”

October 25 – Lionel Johnson, Mayor of St. Gabriel, La., “Fighting climate change at the local level”

November & December – No Meeting, but great Christmas Party in December!

Keep up with local environmental issues on the radio: The Baton Rouge Group's weekly program, “Environmental Update”, has been running on WHYR (96.9 FM), a local community radio station, for almost 10 years. The program airs on Sunday mornings (10:30 AM, and Wednesday mornings (6:30 AM) and afternoons (5:30 PM).

Please also check our Face Book page at <https://www.facebook.com/BatonRougeSierraClub/> and the Delta Chapter website calendar at www.sierraclub.org/louisiana (Most Louisiana Group meetings, activities and outings are posted on the calendar on the Delta Chapter website) Check it often!

Continued from Page 1: Scenic Rivers: Saving Treasures

(LDWF), I asked him to respond to ten questions. There is one common thread throughout his answers: again, insufficient funding and that more private citizen “watch dog” groups are needed to support and defend these rivers.

Q: How many people work in Scenic Streams?

A: *One full time position, the Scenic Rivers Coordinator (Chris), is dedicated to the Scenic Rivers Program which is administered by the Department's Habitat Section. There are a total of 4 biologists responsible for a number of programs.*

Q: What is the budget?

A: *Other than the Scenic Rivers' Fund which typically accrues a relatively small amount of funding, there is no dedicated funding for the program. Scenic Rivers' Fund dollars typically cover a small portion of equipment costs and other expenses, while the vast majority of the program's expenses (e.g. staff salaries) are paid from the Department's general Conservation Fund.*

Q: What are the limitations of the Scenic River Program?

A: *Our biggest limitation is the lack of dedicated funding. The program now consists of over 80 streams equating to approximately 3,000 miles of creeks, rivers, and bayous and 72,000 acres of protected streamside habitat. Much of this habitat is remote and difficult to survey, yet it is not safe from disturbance.*

Q: What legislation could the public push for to strengthen the Scenic River Act?

A: *Considering our limitations, a mechanism for funding the program would provide immense benefits.*

Q: What are the most problematic permit requests the program deals with?

A: *As you are aware, there are many issues facing our streams. From*

urbanization to the extraction of minerals (sand, gravel, oil and gas); from process water discharges, to large-volume water withdrawals, each stream has its own challenges. For the Little Tchefuncte and many of its tributaries, it has been largescale residential development and the water quality issues associated with resulting discharges - both storm water and sanitary. Despite the known impacts associated with continuing to develop riparian wetlands and floodplains, due to increasing developmental pressures, poor planning, etc., we have continued to see a strong push to convert these valuable natural resources to high density housing developments.

Q: How important is citizen involvement with the scenic streams?

A: *Very. Since we don't have the time to survey many of our streams at sufficient intervals, we often benefit from receiving information from concerned citizens. Tips regarding compliance issues improve our ability to identify and respond to impacts in a timely manner and help ensure that associated issues are addressed. Citizen involvement at the Legislature lets our elected officials know that Scenic Rivers are important and cared for.*

Q: What areas of the state have the most permit applications and the most violations?

A: *Regarding permit applications, without a doubt, it's the Florida Parishes and more specifically, St. Tammany Parish. In addition to having, by far, the most Scenic Streams per parish, St. Tammany Parish is home to both valuable, unique habitats and a growing human population. LDWF has noted that violations occur more often in urban areas; especially those which are expanding.*

With a thank you to Chris, that's where we are now. Now is the perfect time for some innovative thinking and strategizing on how we can somehow, some day, get the Scenic Rivers program adequately funded so it can fully do its job. It's up to all of us.

David Lee Campbell

IN MEMORIAM:

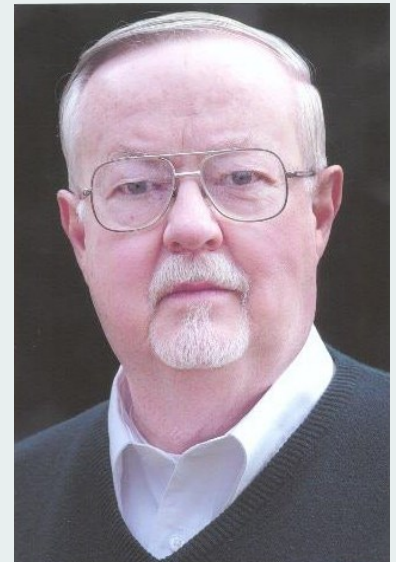
The environment lost two champions recently.

999 The Baton Rouge Group of the Sierra Club joins the city and parish of East Baton Rouge in mourning the loss of Metro Councilman **Buddy Amoroso**, who was killed in an accident on June 30, 2018, while bike riding. Councilman Amoroso was a strong proponent of bike infrastructure, and one of the few members of the Metro Council willing to openly push for responsible development and flood control in the parish.

999 **Ross Vincent**, strove for many years to bring environmental wins to Louisiana; his move to Colorado in 1988, was reported as a loss to Louisiana in a Times-Picayune editorial.

Ross, a soft-spoken genial man, was determined to protect the public from environmental hazards -- whether it meant smoke-stack pollution or old mustard-agent weapons. He was a highly respected fixture of the environmental community in Pueblo.

Ross a well-known voice of the Sangre de Cristo Group of the Sierra Club, held a similar place of regard in the Delta Chapter before he moved to Pueblo in 1988 with his wife, Dr. Velma Campbell. A chemist by training, Vincent spent two decades in New Orleans fighting battles over pollution in Louisiana and helping to found its environmental movement. Ross, 75, died July 7th from cancer.



Councilman Buddy Amoroso (left); Ross Vincent (right).

HONEY ISLAND GROUP: Heading the Northshore in a Better Direction!

First, thank you for everything that you do to protect this wonderful planet upon which we are so lucky to live and for the kind things that you do for the animals, plants and our fellow human beings with whom we share it. As Chair of the HIG I am proud to work with so many dedicated individuals to make a sustainable future for all. We welcome prospective members: our events are free and open to the public.

For all you athletes (and wanna be athletes like me), Team Sierra is a great way to have fun and support the Sierra Club. There are several foot races and Tough Mudders to choose from on the national website under fundraising. I just signed up to do the half marathon at night on November 3 in Joshua Tree National Park under the team name "Swamp Rats". Please join me if you are willing and able!

We have an open position on the Executive Committee (ExCom) for a secretary and also a member-at-large position; both will be up for election at the end of this year. We also need a nominating committee. Please contact me (Michele Johnson) if you are interested in participating or would like information on anything pertaining to the HIG.



Barbara Jackson

Our push for clean energy in Covington is underway. If you live there and would like to add your voice, we want to hear from you. We plan to approach the elected officials and ask them to sign on to the Ready For 100 (100% clean energy) Sierra Club initiative. The Abita Springs Ready For 100 program continues to win accolades! Mayor Lemons was recently interviewed on NPR's *Here & Now* and LeAnn Pinnering Magee (both HIG members!) by *Mother Jones* magazine! Just Google Abita Springs and Ready For 100 to see some of the awesome coverage and then help us make Covington (or YOUR city) the next RF100 city!

Speaking of Abita: We're happy to report that our own frack-fighter, Ready For 100-ACES committee member, and HIG Ex-Com member is now officially working to keep the town of Abita Springs beautiful! The Abita Town Council unanimously appointed

Barbara Jackson to the town's Planning and Zoning Commission at its July 24th meeting. She said, "There's a collective vision out there of what we want. If we have that, when development comes, if we know what it is we want, we have a better chance of getting it."

In other news, the HIG's adoption of Fontainebleau State Park is making a difference! Our monthly work days are improving the look of the park and helping the staff catch up on much needed maintenance. The volunteers have done trail maintenance, garden weeding and replanting, pressure washing and painting pavilions, and even parking lot striping!

HIG posts our events on Meet Up: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Delta-Chapter/Please> contact me (Michele Johnson, HIG Chair) at our mailing address: Honey Island Group-Sierra Club, P. O. Box 1785, Slidell LA 70459 or by email: Sierra.HoneyIsland@gmail.com





Ready For 100 volunteer in Abita Springs 2017 Push Mow Parade.

WALKING THE WALK: DAVE STETS

Did you know that buildings use nearly half of the energy produced in the United States? So what has my family been doing to help reduce climate change? We have been working on reducing our house energy consumption, with the goal of being “Net Zero” after we added our solar panels. (Net Zero means the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created on the site.) We’re very close; last month’s electric bill was \$19. What we did, you could do too, no rocket science. Email me and I’ll send you back what we did: Attention: Dave at chapter-info@louisiana.sierraclub.org

If enough homes in the parish did this there would be NO REASON TO ADD A GAS POWER PLANT and we would help to reduce climate change.

Our current Federal Government’s Execu-

tive Branch denies climate change is caused by the extraction and burning of fossil fuels. And, I believe that most of the energy industry is lobbying our government to deny climate change. We can’t depend on our government to help us. Stephen Hawking’s, Cosmologist, 2017 quote on global warming: “We are close to the tipping point, where global warming becomes irreversible. Trump’s action could push the Earth over the brink...”

Only “We the people” Can Stop Climate Change. Don’t wait, start now.

History Lesson: Just think where solar would be if Reagan hadn’t beaten Carter in ’81, we might have already beaten climate change.

Can we ask you for your help? We have many members and a few volunteer that help our Groups and Chapter. We could use a few more. Maybe you could spare an hour a week to help your local group? Drop us an email!

“We are close to the tipping point, where global warming becomes irreversible. Trump’s action could push the Earth over the brink...” -- STEPHEN HAWKING

Louisiana Case to Decide U.S. Supreme Court Case on Endangered Species Habitats

St. Tammany Parish Government (STP) has sided with Weyerhaeuser Company in an amicus brief that petitions the Federal Supreme Court to end US Fish & Wildlife’s Critical Habitat designation.

STP claims to have “exclusive zoning jurisdiction over the subject property,” which is exactly the opposite of what they told anti-fracking interests in the battle with Helis Energy a few years ago. The Parish President and Council were petitioned by citizens to stop fracking operations because the property where Helis planned to drill was not zoned for industrial use and is adjacent to a high school. They were told that this was totally out of the Parish’s hands. Now the same officials argue that the “Critical Habitat” zoning that they had no power to manage with fracking interests “...if permitted to remain, will economically damage St Tammany Parish Government and jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.” It would seem that Dusky Gopher Frogs are safer neighbors than fracked gas fields.

Call and write your Council and STP President to let them know that you disagree! Case# 14-31008 is scheduled for hearing on October 1st.

YOUR VOICE: On Making a Good Comment

Things to consider when writing or calling your representatives in government about wetlands destruction; first, don’t be intimidated! The calls for comments are there so that citizens can raise questions about developments that affect their lifestyle or life in general. You do not need to be an “expert” to comment. Make your comment count by addressing the things that you see as a problem, or that may affect you if it is a project close to home, or one that causes irreparable damage to the environment. Most importantly - DO IT. Politicians hear from lobbyists daily; how often do they hear from you? Make your voice heard:

- Do feasible and practical alternatives to this project exist? If you know of any alternatives that may avoid wetland destruction, submit them as alternatives to the proposed project and explain why they are less damaging to wetlands.
- Is the project really water dependent or right for the area? Does it need to be located in or near water, or in a floodplain, or is this just expedient for the developers?
- Is the project being proposed with the public’s interest in mind? In other words, would the project benefit the surrounding community? Will it be likely to cause flooding in existing neighborhoods? Have studies been done to determine effects on drainage and water retention?
- Will the development bring increased traffic? Sewerage issues? How will they be addressed?
- Are there public and private commons/resources that may be disturbed? For example, are there local commercial fisheries or recreational fishermen who would be affected by this project? Is the area a nursery or major feeding ground for fish, shellfish, birds, mammals? How are they going to be impacted?
- Are there threatened, endangered, or other important plant and animal species nearby? Does the development affect a protected area, such as a Scenic River or Bayou?

Anyone can write a comment; the trick is to address areas of concern that are possibly being skipped or too lightly addressed. Let them know that you are watching and expect a response.

EARL'S PEARLS: *Whither Science (Or Wither Science)*

We haven't heard much lately from what was once Louisiana's most respected independent scientific institution, the Florida Parishes Institute of Phrenology and Cuisinart Maintenance. Lack of grants and a drought of government funding left the famed site of great learning with little remaining in its headquarters in the old strawberry packing warehouse in downtown Tickfaw, Tangipahoa Parish. Renowned scientists such as Dr. Momus A. Morgus were let go. Dr. Morgus returned to his laboratory above the old ice house in New Orleans's French Quarter.

But there is new life in the Institute. Grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, the American Coal Council, the American Petroleum Institute, and the Charles Manson Memorial Trust have fueled new activity and research. The new director of the revived center for the advancement of science is a medical doctor, Paul Broun, former congressman from Georgia, who has proclaimed publicly that evolution, the Big Bang theory, and embryology are "lies straight from the pit of hell."

Working under the Institute's new slogan, "Fossil Fuel Friendly," the learned mavens will use the EPA grant to do research to back the theory that carbon dioxide is not a greenhouse gas at all and, incidentally, that there is no such atmospheric phenomenon as a "greenhouse." Another grant will develop data to support late President Ronald Reagan's declaration that trees cause air pollution.

EPA administrator Scott Pruitt was on hand for the reopening of the F.P.I.P.C.M., along with a retinue of a dozen security people and a chauffeured, bullet-proof limousine, having arrived by chartered flight. Mr. Pruitt praised the work of the Institute and thoughtfully explained how its findings will help the agency protect the public from environmental extremists and even from the environment itself.

Although the credentials of members of the media on hand for the opening were screened to exclude environmental extremists such as the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association, one reporter asked what the Institute's response would be when the next oil spill like the BP-Deepwater disaster occurs.

"There will be no such disaster again," said Dr. Noah Flood, one of the in-house scientists. "On retainer is the public-relations firm of Barrow, Wether & Steere who will ensure that The Liberal Media do not use terms like 'disaster' or 'catastrophic' or 'damage to the environment' should an offshore platform explode and release a tiny amount of crude oil into the ocean and maybe kill a couple of people." He elaborated: "Oil is a natural part of the environment that gets released from its underground storage through natural seepage. When it is released through drilling and extraction, that shows that humans are part of the natural world too. Besides, a spill is just an accident and, you know, accidents happen."

The Florida Parishes Institute is working to obtain another grant from the Flat Earth Society to disprove those photographs supposedly taken from space and satellites that show a round Earth and the loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. "We know these pictures have all been staged, are fake," said Dr. Broun. As for sea-level rise that threatens to engulf Louisiana's coastal wetlands, the Institute has retained Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks. Mr. Brooks dismisses the opinion of over 95% of the world's climate scientists that human activity and global warming are causing the rise. "It's the rocks," said the learned legislator. "Rocks fall into the ocean from erosion, and that makes the water rise."

Led by Dr. Broun, Congressman Brooks, researchers from the Flat Earth Society, and creation scientists from the Creation Museum in Kentucky, the Institute is embarking on an exciting project to show that, when the sea levels rise, inundation of the land will be prevented by a combination of God's promise in Genesis of no more floods and the fact that the excess water will fall off the edge of the earth.

Stay alert for more exciting science news from the Florida Parishes Institute of Phrenology and Cuisinart Maintenance.



KOCH AT WORK

Wiki Definition: "Orwellian - Resembling the totalitarian political methods decried in the works of writer George Orwell, particularly in the dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*; characterized by use of misleading terminology, propaganda, censorship, totalitarianism, surveillance and repression."

Daniel Turner is founder and Executive Director (a salaried position), of "Power the Future," a dark money AstroTurf group formed up by this unabashedly ultra-right-wing mouthpiece of the Koch brothers empire. His LinkedIn profile showed that his last job was with the Charles Koch Institute.

Since Turner formed "Power" up as a 501 (c)(4), he is allowed to work at influencing elections directly with up to half of his funding, but because of the (c)(4) status, he doesn't have to disclose his funding sources. But he surely has them!

Turner is a avid Letter to the Editor writer; one of his misleading editorials recently turned up in the *Advocate*, decrying the Bayou Bridge protesters, *L'eau Est La Vie*, as a "professional" group of outside protesters. Interesting "newspeak" when most of them are volunteering Louisianians and he's the outside paid professional!



Lawsuit to Restore Louisiana Black Bear's Federal Protections

Survival of the Louisiana black bear requires that it regain protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, according to a lawsuit filed by a coalition of conservation groups including the Sierra Club Delta Chapter, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper and the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West.

The lawsuit cites mounting threats to the remaining small population for which existing safeguards are inadequate.

The Louisiana black bear is one of 16 subspecies of the American black bear. Often referred to as "Teddy's Bear," because President Theodore Roosevelt once famously refused to shoot a captured cub because it "would not be sporting."

Today, the Louisiana black bear has lost 99% of its historic population and more than 97% of its historic range.

The bear was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act back in 1992, but the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service declared it recovered in 2016 and removed its designation of critical habitat made only six years prior. The suit contends this decision was based on false assumptions and shoddy science.

Not only is the Louisiana black bear an iconic figure in Louisiana culture, but the bear plays an important role in the diverse ecosystems across Louisiana, including the Atchafalaya Basin. The delisting decision puts remaining subpopulations and the habitat they depend on in greater peril. The population densities are well below normal for a sustainable black bear population.

"Unlike the one granted a Presidential reprieve, today's Louisiana black bear is in imminent and deepening peril. We fear that it will not survive its so-called recovery."

WOOD PELLETS: All Renewables Are Not Equal

There are two Drax BioEnergy facilities, located in Louisiana: Morehouse (in Union Parish) and Urania (in LaSalle Parish). Morehouse is one of the largest wood pellet manufacturing facilities in the nation, devouring more than a million tons of trees per year to produce *wood pellets for export*.

The wood pellet industry exploded across the southern US since 2009, when the EU began subsidizing wood biomass at the same rates it subsidizes wind and solar under the false premise that burning wood for electricity is carbon neutral. Additionally, wood pellet factories themselves emit harmful amounts of air pollution.

Drax Morehouse is one of the worst actors in the industry, and has almost certainly been emitting two to three times more volatile organic compounds (VOCs) than permitted, and at least seven times, and potentially up to 23 times, more VOCs than Louisiana DEQ and Drax have stated. VOCs are a potent precursor to smog and ground level ozone. We have every reason to believe that the

Morehouse facility (and probably both facilities) will exceed permit limits for VOCs if emissions are tested. Bafflingly, Louisiana DEQ has never required emissions testing of key units known as pellet coolers, which are substantial sources of VOC emissions. Wood pellet facilities in other parts of the U.S. have tested their pellet cooler processes for VOC emissions - Drax facilities in Louisiana have not.

Based on the tests in other states, it is clear that Drax has been exceeding its permitted limits since it was built in 2014, and continues to operate without obtaining a major source "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" permit, in violation of the Clean Air Act.

The Delta Chapter has signed onto a call for Louisiana DEQ to require emissions testing of all processes, and to require the facility to restrict its VOC emissions by reducing production rates and/or installing additional pollution controls.

Call your State Reps & Senator!

The only wood pellet production facilities in the U.S. have NOT tested their processes for VOC emissions: Drax facilities in LA & MS

FILM SCREENING: Rodents of Unusual Size

They've taken over the swamps, and now they could be after your neighborhood. Once more than 20 million strong, the invasive, giant buck-toothed swamp rats known as nutria take center stage in a new documentary from Tilapia Films and the Independent Television Service: *Rodents of Unusual Size*.

In conjunction with local Sierra Club Groups, the co-directors are traveling through Louisiana, beginning with screenings August 24th through 30th at the Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center in New Orleans (6PM & 8PM nightly). On Sunday, August 26th, there will be showings in Baton Rouge and Shreveport (Details to be announced - watch your Group announcements!) Groups interested in screenings later this year, please contact margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org.



PEARL RIVER CLEAN UP: Two Weekends in 2018!

Sign up for a cleanup on the Pearl River (there are many starting locations throughout Mississippi and Louisiana!) Last year this event engaged more than 1,000 volunteers and removed over 34,000 pounds of trash from the Pearl River watershed!

The Honey Island Group of the Sierra Club will be working out of the West Pearl River site in Pearl River, LA on Saturday, September 22nd. Other parts of the Pearl are going to be cleaned up on the previous Saturday, September 15th.

Thanks to Jessica Gauley and the Honey Island Fish House for making this event happen for several years now, and to Abby Braham, Pearl Riverkeeper, for putting the entire package together!

Pearl River LA Meeting place is 9:00 AM, behind the Honey Island Fish House, 65583 Pump Slough Rd, Pearl River, LA 70452. Register for this and other clean-ups on the Pearl for both weekends: <http://www.pearlriverkeeper.com/pearl-river-clean-sweep-2018.html>

LEGACY CYPRESS: *Finding Giants*

The Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy has discovered (thanks to a tip from Wesley Martin!) another cypress treasure hiding in plain sight-- this one in City Park in New Orleans, behind the Grow-Dat Farm. This is an impressive old cypress with thick limbs, a full canopy and a circumference measured at 11 feet 11 inches, the largest known cypress we have found in Orleans Parish. Its impressive girth, along with its location along one of the City Park bayous in a grove of other large old cypress, suggest that it could be "alive in 1803" and eligible for addition to the LPCL registry. We are awaiting permission to take a boring of the tree to determine its age. In the meantime, if you are aware of any similarly/larger sized cypress in Orleans Parish (circumference measured above the buttress where the trunk becomes uniform in size), please let us know!

Parishes Franklin, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, still awaiting discovery of a 215 + year old cypress ("Alive in 1803") include Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Claiborne, East Feliciana, Ouachita Parish, Pointe Coupe, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. James (Blind River Boring pending), St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermillion, Vernon, and West Baton Rouge. Please contact Harvey Stern at LaPurchaseCypressLegacy@gmail.com with any tips.

[Harvey is a long-time New Orleans group member.] For those Parishes already having registered cypress listed, we are always happy to hear of trees that may be older than those listed in the inventory and on maps found at LaPurchaseCypressLegacy.blogspot.com



Story and Photo by Harvey Stern



Making Your Voices Heard: We ARE the Sierra Club; our time enjoying nature, whether it's birdwatching in the backyard or paddling a bayou, is spent because we appreciate the outdoors. It is OUR VOICES that can make the difference for the future of Louisiana, and for the world. Our legislators - in Baton Rouge and D.C. - as well as our local government representatives, will continue to act on the voices they hear from daily - Lobbyists. Calling or writing your elected officials once a year is **not** enough! They need to hear from us *every time* there is a crucial decision to be made, from permitting a new development in a wetlands/floodplain area to removing Scenic Rivers protections and undoing the Endangered Species Act (all of which are in process now!).

Learn who your elected and appointed officials are; make noise! Let them know that you are watching and don't appreciate their cavalier attitude towards our Earth and its denizens (including our future generations!). ***If not us, who?***

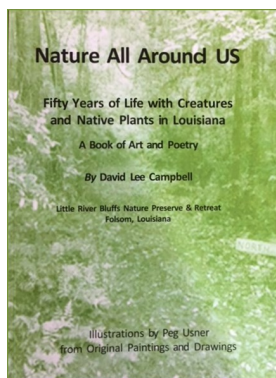
NATURE ALL AROUND US: *Exploring 50 Years of Riverside Life*

Author David Campbell, Tulane Law grad, Oxford scholar and retired attorney, and Honey Island Group Sierra Club ExCom member, transformed twenty-five real life experiences on the upper reaches of the Tchefuncte River, which is navigable only by tube or kayak, into poetry and eventually this book: "Nature All Around Us: Fifty Years of Life with Creatures and Native Plants in Louisiana."

His friend, and Artist in Residence at Longue Vue House & Gardens, Peg Usner, another St. Tammany resident, illustrated Campbell's book of art and poetry.

He camped in a tent for six years in the 1970s on the property he acquired in St Tammany, where these shared observations occurred, and on which land he ultimately developed, over years of careful planning and environmentally responsible development, the Little River Bluffs Nature Preserve. Although he recently sold the property to others who continue his sustainable style, he continues as Innkeeper Emeritus, with his daughter Cali's assistance.

Educational or scientific information is included after each poem-story, edited by The Nature Conservancy's Nelwyn McInnis and Lati-more Smith. The subjects of Campbell's studies range from Nearctic River Otters to Pileated Woodpeckers, Bachman Fox Squirrels to indigenous Turkeys, Hummingbird Moths to Pitcher Plants, and Longleaf Pines to Foxfire and Cardinal flowers.



Campbell practiced law in New Orleans for 35 years, even while camping on his land in St. Tammany Parish! He is the only person to have served as president of both the Preservation Resource Center and the Louisiana Landmarks Society, where he was recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The book is available through Cali Campbell at toohard-box.cs@gmail.com or David at davidcampnola@gmail.com. All sales via this ad will be donated to the Sierra Club Delta Chapter and Honey Island Group!

Note: illustrations on page one of this newsletter are by Peg Usner for "Nature All Around Us."

National EV Celebrations Coming!

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR OTHER EVENTS NEAR YOU!
<https://driveelectricweek.org/>
New Orleans at Delgado College on September 15th
Abita Springs at the Trailhead Park on September 9th

Both
events
run
Noon
to 4PM



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DELTA CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

The Delta Chapter encompasses all of Louisiana. Groups exist throughout the state: Baton Rouge, New Orleans, the Northshore (Honey Island), Lafayette (Acadian), and two northern groups which we are working to grow: Kisatchie in NW LA and Ouachita in NE LA.

Please get in touch by writing us at chapter-info@louisiana.sierraclub.org or by visiting our website at www.sierraclub.org/louisiana.

Our website has a [calendar](#) of upcoming events, outings and meetings!

We are also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubDeltaChapter>

Several groups have active FB pages

Many of our outings are also advertised in MeetUp: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Delta-Chapter/

Questions about the Club or Conservation issues? Contact Chapter staff:

Julie: julie.rosenzweig@sierraclub.org

Margie: margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub.org

DELTA CHAPTER: *IN THE NEWS*

The Delta Chapter and some of our many efforts to educate and protect have made news, both local, state and national. Here's a sampling of stories for those with Internet access.

- "The Village at Pass Manchac" - Billed as "Eco-Tourism development," the Village worries residents and those who value the health of Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas. The Weather Channel heard of our protests and made a concise video: <https://weather.com/science/environment/video/louisiana-land-proposal-baffles-some>. The DeSmogBlog also addressed it: <https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/07/05/development-ecotourism-greenwashing-port-manchac-louisiana-wetlands>
- St. James Parish Council, Planning Commission is to hold hearings on a proposed \$9.4 billion Formosa chemical complex; Delta Chapter vows to fight for the residents, who are already living in one of the most highly toxic areas of the US: https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/communities/ascension/article_75d9213c-9042-11e8-80ec-d356deaebccd.html?
- The Bayou Bridge Pipeline persists onward across the unique Atchafalaya river basin. Our Sierra Club legal team continues the battle in court, but as agencies stall, the pipeline relentlessly devastates the Basin and its inhabitants - human and other. Keep up at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/louisiana/bayou-bridge-pipeline-lawsuit>
- Harold Schoeffler (Acadian Group) is a plaintiff in our SC lawsuit to bring the Louisiana black bear back under Federal protection. <http://www.katc.com/story/38604147/suit-louisiana-black-bear-needs-renewed-federal-protection>
- The success of Abita Springs Ready For 100 campaign has not gone unnoticed! Mayor Greg Lemons is interviewed here on NPR's *Here & Now*: <http://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2018/06/19/renewable-energy-abita-springs>

Delta Chapter Sierra Club

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E-mail: chapter-info@sierraclub.org

Website:

www.sierraclub.org/louisiana

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