# TheDeltaSierran



PUBLICATION OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S DELTA CHAPTER FALL/WINTER 2017

## Delisting the Louisiana Black Bear: A Success Story?

[Editor's Note: On May 21, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officially removed the Louisiana Black Bear (Ursus americanus luteolus) from the Lists of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to "recovery".)

Between 500 to 750 Louisiana Black Bears are estimated, by the USFWS, to currently roam three metapopulations ("breeding subpopulations" with an exchange of individuals) in the state. The Black Bear Conservation Coalition (BBCC bbcc.org), Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Delta Chapter Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network, and other groups opposed the delisting. The existence of viable populations of the Louisiana black bear is significantly threatened by hybridization, a total disregard of the future of the coastal population, habitat alteration and fragmented locations that reduce the bear's range and ability to breed.]

One of the better methods to deceive is with the truth, but, use only part of the truth. This is accomplished by omitting those truths that would lead you to a conclusion different from the desired manipulation. Such is the case in the delisting of the Louisiana Black Bear.

The numerous successes that were cited as reason to delist are factual, yet are only a portion of the whole truth. Failure to follow basic scientific principles, a complete failure to address the continued restoration of the bear in over a million acres of suitable habitat on public lands, and the discontinuation of the cooperative philosophy of the Black Bear Conservation Coalition are a few truths that USFWS failed to mention. The delisting of our official State Mammal demonstrates the political and scientific FAILURES rather than the success of the ESA.



Louisiana Black Bear and Cub

A few years ago national environmental groups decided there was a need for a "poster child" success story for the ESA, and our bear became this "marketing" product. This desire by national groups meshed perfectly with the rising tide of a States-rights movement and desire to manage "their" wildlife resources without Federal interference.

The announcement of this "great success" of the ESA occurred on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge by the Secretary of Interior during a ceremony that was closed to the public



for "security reasons", not allowing even invested parties, such as Paul Davidson, executive director of the BBCC, to attend or be part of the delisting conversation. One can infer by this action that something is being promoted, but not necessarily for the good of the black bear.

A true success story would require that the coastal population of bears is no longer at risk of extinction. The USFWS says that this is accomplished. and that the coastal population is "not a significant population" anyway, and that because of siltation of the Atchafalaya Basin, the coastal population will be able to move inland to avoid extinction. Enhanced siltation practices are being used in the Atchafalaya to turn open water and marshes into solid land, which allows for private ownership rights and limits the access for other users, including the traditional hunters and fishermen. The practice is being fought by local users and the Atchafalava Basinkeeper.

Time will tell how this David vs Goliath story ends. -- by Michael Caire (Kisatchie Group)

## The DeltaSierran Fall 2017

FrontPage PAGE 1: Delisting Louisiana Black Bear ChapterContents PAGE 2

ViewFromtheChair PAGE 3: Chapter Hires First Director. Message from Julie. Find us online

GroupInfo PAGE 4.

CommitmentforOurFuture PAGE 5: Abita is Ready for

Earl's Pearls PAGE 6: We are living an ancient Chinese curse

#### Protect&RestoreLouisiana

PAGE 7: Floods, Cyoress and Flood Plains

### ChapterElections2018

PAGE 8-9: Vote For Delta Chapter Executive Committee Member

PAGE 10: Ballot

### ChapterRetreat 2017

PAGE 11: Cypremort Point Retreat/Gear up for the 50th Anniversary

## **CreateAnEnvironmentalLegacy**

PAGE 12

## **Chapter Contacts**

#### Chapter Chair

Haywood (Woody) Martin (337)298-8380 hrmartin2sc@gmail.com

#### Vice Chair

Diana Morgan (985)640-5130 sierra.honeyisland@yahoo.com

#### **Conservation Chair**

Willie Fontenot 225-383-5673, wafontenot@gmail.com

Nancy Grush (225)381-9440 (225)938-9353 nancygrush@gmail.com

#### At-Large

Charlie Fryling (225)766-3120 atchafalaya-info@louisiana.sierraclub.org

#### At-Large, Chair of Atchafalaya Committee

Harvey Stern (504)891-7116 hstern@bellsouth.net

#### At Large

Teresa Soufas (215) 817-1635 tsoufas@temple.edu

#### At-Large

Kirk Green (318) 918-8606 prolescav@yahoo.com

#### Group Representatives to Excom

#### Acadian Group Rep.

Haywood (Woody)Martin (337)298-8380 hrmartin2sc@gmail.com

#### Baton Rouge Group Rep.

Nancy Grush (225)381-9440 (225)938-9353 nancygrush@gmail.com

#### New Orleans Group Rep.

Dave Stets (504)304-2755 dave.stets@bysolar.net

#### Honey Island Group Rep.

Diana Morgan (985)640-5130 sierra.honeyisland@yahoo.com

#### Kisatchie Group Rep.

Jeff Wellborn (318)868-5243, j.w.wellborn@gmail.com

## The Delta Sierran Sierra Club Delta Chapter P.O. Bx 52503 Lafayette, LA 70506

Editors:

Leslie March Haywood Martin Design

Penguin PLace LLC

Chapter.Annual dues for the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to the Delta Sierran.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author not necessarily those of the Sierra club or the Delta Chapter.

#### **Chapter Staff**

Julie Rosenzweig Chapter Director (337)577-8494 julie.rosenzweig@sierraclub.org

Margie Vicknair-Pray Conservation Program Coordinator (985) 373-7097 margie.vicknair-pray@sierraclub. org

#### National Sierra Club Staff

716 Adams Street, New Orleaans, LA 70118

Darryl Malek-Wiley Senior Organizing Representative:

Environmental Justice and Community Partnership (504)427-1885 darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org

Grace Morris

Organizing Representative Louisiana Coal Exports Campaign, (504)525-1528 ext. 220 grace.morris@sierraclub.org

## View From the Chair 3

## Chapter Hires First Director

We are pleased to announce that Sierra Club Delta Chapter has hired its first Chapter Director. The new Director is Julie Rosenzweig from New Iberia, Louisiana. Julie has a law degree from Tulane with a concentration in natural resources law and related courses. Julie also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Loyola University in New Orleans.

She practiced law as public defender and in private practice. Julie serves on boards of directors of numerous civic service organizations, including the Acadiana Legal Services Corporation. She has worked actively with the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic and with Loyola University Center for Environmental Communications.

As Delta Chapter Director Julie will be working to increase our visibility and effectiveness in environmental issues in Louisiana. She will be working with us in the State Legislature and on the ground with priority issues and campaigns. We welcome Julie to her full time role as a defender of the natural environment in Louisiana.



Julie Rozenzweig

Sincerely,

### Woody Martin, Chapter Chair

#### Find Us Online

htttp://sierraclub.org/Louisiana

www.facebook.com/ SierraClubDeltaChapter/

**Acadian Group** 

http://lafayettesierraclub.org/ Facebook

**Baton Rouge Group** 

http://brsierraclub.blogspot.com/

**Honey Island Group** 

http://www.sierraclub.org/ louisiana/honey-island-group

**New Orleans Group** 

http://neworleanssierran.blogspot. com/

#### Message From Julie

I am delighted to assist the Sierra Club Delta Chapter further promote its mission in Louisiana by taking on the role of Delta Chapter Director. I look forward to visiting and interacting with many of our 3,000 members in Louisiana. Through this position, I seek to care for our natural world as a good steward would: "You will not pollute the land where you live.... Do not defile the land in which you live and in the midst of which I dwell.... (Numbers 35:33-34)."

Born and raised in Abbeville, in Vermilion Parish, I graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a B.A. in Communications, specializing in Environmental Communications, before attending Tulane Law School, where I concentrated on natural resource law and related courses. now live in New Iberia, where I have worked as a prosecutor, public defender, and in private law practice before joining the Sierra Club family.

## **GroupInfo**

#### **ACADIAN**

Western Parishes centered around Lafavette

Meets: ExCom/Conservation meeting at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of every month. First United Methodist, 703 Lee

Ave., Lafayette

Contact: Chair: Harold Schoeffler, cadistyle@aol.com.

Vice Chair and Group

representative to the Delta Chapter

Excom:

Woody Martin.

hrmartin2sc@gmail.com
Treasurer: Cherlyn Hebert
cherlyn.m.hebert@lusfiber.com
Website: http://lafayettesierraclub.

<u>org</u>

Facebook: Acadian Group of the Sierra Club

#### **BATON ROUGE**

Baton Rouge and environs
Meets: third Thursdays of odd
numbered months. The location
is in the Backpacker, the store is
located at 7656 Jefferson Hwy in
Baton Rouge. On alternate months,
there's usually an outing.
Contact: Chair, Nancy Grush
(225) 938-9353
nancygrush@gmail.com
Theorem Grand Bing

Treasurer: Gwen Pine gpine48@att.net

Website: http://brsierraclub.

blogspot.com

Facebook: Baton Rouge Group of

the Sierra Club

#### HONEY ISLAND

Northshore from Gulf to Amite Meets; Third Saturday at 2:30 PM Contact: Chair: Diana Morgan, sierra.honeyisland@yahoo.com for location.

Website: <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/">http://www.sierraclub.org/</a> louisiana/honey-island-group

## THINK GLOBALLY, AND GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR LOCAL

**SIERRA CLUB GROUP!** Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, and the Delta Chapter's five regional Groups host outings and work on conservation issues. Groups have monthy informational programs. Members and supporters are invited to attend outings and meetings—

everyone is welcome!



#### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans and West Bank

Meets: At the Audubon Zoo Dominion Greater New Orleans including West Bank Auditorium near the main entrance, 6500 Magazine St. Drive to the front entrance to the Zoo, just off Magazine St. To the right of the Zoo's main public entrance, go through the gate and bear right to the Dominion Auditorium open at 6:30 pm and the program starts

at 7:00 pm. To get the latest details, call 1-504-836-3062. Contact:Chair: Vance Levesque, mrkahuna@juno.com

Website: <a href="http://neworleanssier-ran.blogspot.com/">http://neworleanssier-ran.blogspot.com/</a> and Facebook

#### **KISATCHIE**

Northern Louisiana from Miss to

Meets: No regular meetings at this

time

Contact: Chair and group rep: Jeff Wellborn, j.w.wellborn@gmail.com

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

Learn to lobby, or, if you've already enjoyed the experience, dive back into swaying our politicians! Have you ever wondered what lobbyists do and how they go about influencing our political representatives? Well, now is your chance to get involved and practice how to 'win friends and influence people'. If you want to be part of the Delta Chapter's "Lobbying & Outreach" campaign, please join us. We'll be ramping up soon for the upcoming legislative session, and we need members from across the state to be involved. The best influence on a sitting politician is a constituent, so get involved and make a difference. Contact Julie Rozensweig at (337)577-8494 julie.rosenzweig@sierraclub.org

## **CommitmentforOurFuture**

## Abita Springs is Ready for 100

Cleaner, cheaper, healthier energy is here. It's time for leaders across the U.S. to commit to 100% clean and renewable energy for all, and that's exactly what the Sierra Club's Ready For 100 program is all about. Abita Springs has made that commitment and is working towards a sustainable and clean future! The Mayor and Town Council have adopted a Resolution to give Abita residents and businesses green electricity by 2030. It is the only community in Louisiana to have signed up for the campaign, but we're hoping that more soon follow.

Poll after poll shows that a majority of Americans support clean energy. Eighty-three percent of respondents to a national online survey in 2015 supported a goal of 100% clean and renewable energy for the United States. We now need to mobilize that public support into action from our leaders, so that our cities, businesses, and institutions are powered by clean energy. We can start with our local communities!

Air and water pollution are putting our health at risk, undermining our quality of life, and jeopardizing our children's future. We are too dependent on outdated and dirty fossil fuels, much of which comes from foreign countries. The challenge of this century is to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy in the United States and across the globe. We can't sit back as the fossil fuel industry and its lobbyists stand in the way of a real energy transformation. We are #Readyfor100.

• Clean energy saves money: Stanford scientists say the transition to 100% clean energy will save the average family over \$200 dollars per year in energy costs and another \$1,500 per year in health care costs.





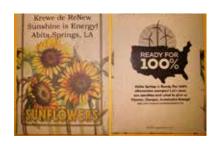
- Clean energy creates good-paying jobs: The solar industry already employs over 200,000 people, nearly twice as many people as the coal mining industry. And according to the recent Solar Jobs Census, solar jobs grew 12 times faster than the overall economy in 2015.
- Clean energy protects health & climate: No air pollution, No oil spills, No gas leaks.

This moment in history—our moment—is a critical turning point. We must accelerate the transition from dirty fuels like coal and gas to clean energy sources like solar and wind to ensure climate recovery and fully realize the benefits of economic transition.

It will require the voices of people all across the country to declare that we are #ReadyFor100. In Abita Springs, Louisiana, we've started that declaration! See our FaceBook page at Abita Springs Ready for 100%.

By: Margie Vicknair-Pray, Delta Conservation Program Coordinator

(For more information on Ready For 100 go to <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100">http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100</a>)



## **Earl's Pearls**

### We are living an ancient Chinese curse

We live in interesting times. Science that does not support a particular political idea is suspect, even rejected. The notion of fact-based, empirical "truth" has become, in some political circles, irrelevant or as malleable as silly putty.

In an attempt to understand what the Trump administration's policies may be on scientific matters, the Delta Sierran arranged a conference call with three of Washington's leading officials who influence science policy. They are Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott "Free" Prove-it; Secretary of Energy Rickshaw Perry; and Oklahoma Senator Jim On-off, Congress's leading climate-change denier and snowball-thrower. The interview was conducted via Skype, and the participants appeared on screen with one holding his hands over his ears, another with hands over his eyes, and the third with hands over his mouth. Although the simian-like attitudes of the participants made the interview challenging, some interesting dialog was achieved.

Delta Sierran: Secretary Prove-it, you were formerly opposed to the existence of the EPA and now you're the head of it. How do you handle that awkward situation?

Prove-it: Not awkward at all. I see my mission as protecting Americans and American industry from the attacks of environmental extremists. Say, you're with the Sierra Club, aren't you? That's one of the extremists' organizations.

D.S.: Uh, sir, the Sierra Club is about protecting beautiful places, making sure the air and water are safe, providing for outdoor adventure and recreation.

Prove-it: Yes! That's exactly what I'm talking about – environmental extremism.

D.S.: OK. Let's move to Secretary Perry. Mr. Secretary, now that you're the head of the Department of Energy, have you figured out what it does?

Sec. Perry: Pretty much; still trying to find some regulations to repeal so that we can

get our coal miners and oilfield drillers back to work.

D.S.: Your home state of Texas is the country's leading producer of wind energy, and the alternative-energy industries employ more people than the coal industry. Why should we be encouraging more coal production when the wind industry is booming and growing, producing clean and inexhaustible energy?

Sec. Perry: We've got to get the miners back to work to Make America Great Again. And we'll be mining "clean coal," I promise you. We've just got to get those silly regulations repealed so the miners can head back underground again.

D.S.: Are you speaking of regulations that protect miners from getting black lung disease and from mines exploding and caving in?

Sec. Perry: Too much gov'ment regulation! It stifles growth, discourages jobs. There's always a risk in mining, just like driving on the Interstate.

D.S.: Moving on to Senator On-off. Sir, why don't you accept the findings of over 90 percent of the world's climate scientists that climate change is real and that it is caused mostly by human activity?

Sen. On-off: So you say. There's a huge Liberal plot out there, probably funded by George Soros, an atheist foreigner billionaire Communist. They're out to destroy Western Civilization and install a one-world government ruled by Sharia law.

D.S.: Well, what about the fact that Dr. Richard Muller, internationally respected earth scientist and former climate-change skeptic, was funded by the Koch Brothers to disprove the data supporting climate change, and he determined that the earth is indeed warming and that human activity is largely the cause?

Sen. On-off: (Guffaws.) What you have there is just another Berkeley professor



flip-flopping, just like all those Liberals who pretend to be scientists. Let me tell you about science. I'm so annoyed with all this phony science and scare tactics about so-called global warming that I'm assembling a team of some of the finest scientific minds in the country to put this charade to rest once and for all.

D.S.: Who are the scientists on your team, Senator?

Sen. On-off: I forget their names at the moment, but I have on payroll the world's leading alchemist and the leading authority in the Free World on phrenology. I'm also assembling a team of biologists from Oral Roberts University and Liberty University to expose the lies in the so-called theory of evolution.

D.S.: Uh, Senator, alchemy and phrenology aren't real sciences, and the theory of evolution is accepted by all the world's biologists.

Prove-it: (Interjecting) Quit harassing the senator; you're just part of the lying Liberal Media. And the Sierra Club should be on the list of terrorist organizations.

Sen. On-off: I'll have you know that I have hired one of the country's most respected scientists for my team. He lives down there in your part of the woods, Noo-Orleens. Does the name Dr. Momus Alexander Morgus mean anything to you?

D.S.: Yes. I know of Dr. Morgus. He used to have a Saturday night TV program that he broadcast from his laboratory above the Old Ice House in the French Quarter.

Sen. On-off: He's the man! I gotta cut this short. My administrator is reminding me that I have an appointment to address the Flat Earth Society very shortly.

At that point the Skype screens went blank.

Earl Higgins (New Orleans)

## **Protect&RestoreLouisiana**

## Floods, Cypress and Floodplains

"...cypress wetlands provide critical habitat for the entire Eastern North American population and several species of the Western population of migratory and neo-tropical songbirds. Cypress wetlands also sustain freshwater and coastal fisheries, naturally filter pollutants and excess nutrients before they contaminate swimming and fishing areas, and alleviate global warming by acting as carbon sinks." - Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

The Basinkeeper writes specifically about cypress swamps, the same cypress, along with other native flora, are a part of our Louisiana floodplains, as the riparian cypress forests gradually rise into the lush and fertile bottomland hardwood forests. Add this to his description: the forests moderate flooding by absorbing millions of gallons of rainfall and holding together the soft deltaic earth.

Unfortunately for the wildlife that teemed in these rich habitats, humans also covet a riverside life. Early humans, including European settlers, built homes to suit these seasonally flooded zones, choosing higher ground and elevated structures, so that flood waters could rise underneath without causing damage to the living areas. Additionally, the grounds surrounding the structures were mostly undeveloped and able to absorb rainfall and flood waters.

Modern man, having an indifferent dissonance with nature, invented slab homes and non-porous ground coverings. Over the past several decades growth that flattened endless acres of floodplain forests proliferated. At first the floodplains and drainages could handle the destruction, but it has caught up with us.

Hydrologists have testified that dredging and clearing waterways will not aid in reducing flooding in most, if not all, areas. In fact, dredging often causes more serious flooding and additional downstream damage due to the speeded up water flow in a narrowed channel. The problem is not that the streambed is too shallow; it is that the waters have to go somewhere.

Thousands of acres of floodplain and waterside forests were bulldozed, filled and covered in impermeable asphalt and cement. Instead of trees that suck up

Phone:



and evaporate hundreds of thousands of gallons of water a day we get flooding, runoff and erosion. Last year's record flooding was due to this destruction - and record rainfall.

Developers, after bulldozing the forests, add dump-truck loads of clay fill, raising elevations by as much as twenty-five feet, creating a literal dam for floodwaters that would normally have spread out over a huge area and dissipated into the soil and into the earth stabilizing trees. Areas of old Covington, which had never before flooded, did so last year. Covington is just upstream of a

Continued on page 10

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER

Enclosed is my/our gift to the Sierra Club Delta Chapter:
\_\_\_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\_\$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_Other

Your donation helps provide the flexible funding Sierra Club needs to successfully advocate for Louisiana's Cypress, Clean air, and Clean energy future.

Your contribution to Sierra Club is not tax-deductible; it supports our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift to support our work, call Woody Martin at 337-298-8380

Mail your gift to Sierra Club Delta Chapter

PO Box 52503, Lafayette, LA 70506

(VISA or MC) \$	
Card # :	Exp. Date:
Name:	
Address:	

Instead of a check, please charge my credit card

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ChapterElections2018

#### VOTE FOR DELTA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Excom members set Chapter priorities and policies, ensure financial stability and solvency, and monitor and evaluate Chapter and Club activities. The Delta Chapter Sierra Club members listed on these two pages are running for 2 at-large spots on the Delta Chapter Executive Committee. Their willingness to serve illustrates the strong commitment to grassroots activism that makes Sierra Club the most effective environmental group in the country. Please note that due to space constraints, we asked the candidates to limit their statements to 100 words or less. Two lines on the ballot are provided for write-in candidates as well.

Vote for no more than two candidates. Mail in the ballot in this newsletter on p.10. Please write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of the envelope in which you return your ballot or your vote will be disqualified (your membership number is above your address on the back cover of this newsletter). ballots must be returned no later than Friday, January 5th, 2018 to: Diana Morgan, 218 Bristol Place, Slidell, LA 70461

#### MICHELLE JOHNSON



I am a sucker for wild places and furry faces and a lifelong member of the Sierra Club. I would like to help more people understand how refreshing and rejuvenating Nature can be for us human beings. My background is in Medicine, but I hope to learn more about our natural world, clean energy and land use. I follow a plant-based diet, recently bought a fully electric car; plan to install solar panels, rain barrels, rain chains and convert to native plant landscaping within the next year. I have served as secretary for the Honey Island group for the last several years and hope to continue to be of service.

#### **VANCE LEVESOUE**



(CPA Retired) SC member since 1995. Currently Chair New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club. Past Treasurer, Publicity, Fundraising and Membership Committee Chair. Volunteered to be La. Delta Chapter Historian, working on listing of Delta Chapter achievements since its founding in 1969/70 for the 50th anniversary. Passionate about fighting President Trump's dismantling of the EPA, and as a New Orleans Native, Coastal Restoration.

## ChapterElections2018

#### ANGELLE BRADFORD



RYAN TRUNDLE



WILLIAM FONTENOT



Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I have been passionate about the environment ever since Alligator Bayou was destroyed. Engaging in environmental sustainability courses in college, made me think about the daily actions and practices that so significantly affect the quality of our environment and communities. I love being outdoors, whether looking at the stars or hiking out in the country. Even more so, I love working to preserve Nature and wish for a Louisiana that lives in harmony and concert, instead of at war with her. I will work diligently to bring awareness to the public, the community, my peers, and empower them through the process.

Hello, I am a Sierra Club member living in Shreveport. I grew up in central California where my parents are also members. Favorite childhood memories include Sierra Club trail maintenance camps in Big Sur and around Yosemite. I organized my first successful campaign when I was 9 saving seagulls from strawberry farmers. That was the same year I started boycotting Nestle. Later on I worked on stream restoration and reforestation issues. Recently I was a delegate for Bernie Sanders and a water protector/revolutionary cook at Standing Rock. As a lifelong activist and outdoors-man there is nothing more important to me than protecting the earth. Thank you.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1971. My career included working on a variety of environmental, social justice and legislative challenges. I believe that we need to continue our efforts to increase membership, to support the development of Sierra Club groups across the state, to better develop our outings program, to have our members become better connected with their public officials, to increase our work with the news media, to increase the racial diversity of our membership, to learn more about our natural resources and to enjoy exploring the incredible natural, scenic and esthetic resources of our state and the rest of our country and the world.

### **Vote For 2 Candidates**

# SIERRA CLUB DELTA CHAPTER 7 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

Vote for no more than two (2) candidates.
The second column of boxes is for the second member of a joint membership only.

MICHELLE JOHNSON

VANCE LEVESQUE

ANGELLE BRADFORD

RYAN TRUNDLE

WILLIAM FONTENOT

Clip out and mail your ballot to:

DIANA MORGAN ATTN: CHAPTER ELECTIONS

218 BRISTOL PLACE, SLIDELL, LA 70461

Write your Sierra Club membership number on the outside of your envelope to validate your ballot (membership number is above address on the back cover of newsletter).

Your ballot must be received on or before January 5, 2018.

FLOOD, CYPRESS AND FLOOD PLAINS



CONT. FROM PAGE 7

newly filled and dammed floodplain.

Along I-12, areas east of Baton Rouge flooded, some of which appeared to be caused by the dam-like action of the Interstate backing waters up to the north side of the roadway. Two feet of rain in less than 24 hours has to go somewhere; disrupted floodplains and natural drainages force the waters into the surrounding low areas.

Louisiana needs to look back at the success of the raised building plan. There are many areas that should not be developed, but others, with good planning and building codes, could be successful human habitats. We need drainage and the floodplains to absorb runoff. We need housing, and with the coming of more losses in coastal Louisiana tens of thousands are expected to make a population shift to the Florida Parishes and other areas north of the I-10/I-12 corridor.

If developers are allowed to build housing and commercial centers that flout the need for intelligent design in our water-permeated state, we are doomed to more riverine flooding, and further losses and damage to our homes and businesses. It is up to us to speak up and present alternatives.

Margie Vicknair-Pray, Delta Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator

## ChapterRetreat2017

## CYPREMORT POINT RETREAT



Happy Retreat Group

Fifteen members of the Delta Chapter enjoyed a peaceful retreat at Cypremort Point State Park over the October 27-29 weekend. Members from New Orleans, Honey Island and Baton Rouge groups shared stories and meals in a beach setting, while smoke from sugarcane burnings left smudges on the far horizons of Vermillion Bay.

After a wet start on Friday night, which delayed some but also brought about the spotting of a Louisiana Black Bear, the campers settled into the elevated cabins for a perfect weekend of blue skies and wonderful temperatures. Brown pelicans and cormorants fished just offshore alongside sea gulls and terns. Although alligators frequent the waters around the cabins, none were spotted as the cool temperatures kept them snuggled in their mud beds.

A photographic treasure hunt had some of the campers scouring the park looking for items on the list. The winner, 10-year old Kaylen Gautreau, chose a selfie-stick and a ceramic coffee mug as her prizes. She spotted more than half of the listed treasures!



Treasure Hunt



Cabins at Cypremont Point

## **Delta Chapter** 50th Anniversary Coming soon

Help us gather information for SC Delta Chapter's 50th!! The La. Delta Chapter was started in September 1969. As part of the 50th Anniversary we have begun to gather "Achievements" and "old photos, news clippings, and articles" from the last 50 years

If you have know about some significant environmental achievements that the Sierra Club's Delta Chapter has been involved in, please call/email it to Vance Levesque, at 504-416-8710 or email: mrkahuna@ juno.com with your informa-

Margie Vicknair-Pray has volunteered to gather all of the hard copies of photos, articles, news clippings etc and can be reached at 985-373-7097, or email: margie.vicknair-pray@ sierraclub.org

We're working on our next Chapter Retreat, possibly at Grand Isle in early April - a great time and place for birding! If interested, watch our MeetUp site for activities postings - https:// www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Delta-Chapter/



#### Create An Environmental Legacy

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

Just imagine how much good and change could be done if each one of us remembered a favorite charity or cause in our will or estate plans. This would create an immeasurable impact
If you would like to remember the Delta Chapter in your will contact Woody Martin at

337-298-8380

