



## Chapter Protests Open Loop LNG

### Liquified Natural Gas Terminals Harm Fisheries

Sierra Club leaders in the news

You may have seen some familiar faces in the news on Tuesday, February 22<sup>ND</sup>. Delta Chapter activists joined the Gulf Restoration Network, The Louisiana Charter Boat Association and the Louisiana Shrimp Association in front of One Shell Square in downtown New Orleans to protest the approval of a permit for an open loop system Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the coast of Cameron Parish.

The Coast Guard, despite the environmental concerns of the National Marine Fisheries Services, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Louisiana

Fish and Wildlife Department granted a permit to Shell to build the plant. The permit states that Shell is responsible for monitoring the plant as it runs for environmental losses over the amount that the Coast Guard decided was acceptable. These figures deemed acceptable indicate the destruction of the equivalent of 3.8 percent of Louisiana's annual redfish catch.

An open loop system can use up to 200 million gallons of seawater a day to cool the natural gas that will be coming via tanker to the Louisiana coast. Everything in the seawater will be killed from the smallest microbiological element of the seawater to larger fish larvae. The alternative closed loop system reuses water. It is more expensive

Continued on page 6

#### *Basic Facts you need to know about LNG in Louisiana*

Shell Gas and Power's Gulf Landing Terminal will be located 38 nautical miles off the coast of Louisiana

Could destroy 3.8 percent of the annual redfish catch

Sterilize 136,000 plus gallons of seawater per day

Shell Oil Co. claims this facility is compatible with protecting the environment. The real reason is that the Closed Loop system will cost too much to operate. It will cut their profits down.

***\$1.8 million per hour is not enough....***

\*Shell Oil's income based on 2004 profit levels as reported by the Times newspaper. Timesonline.uk 2/03/2005

## LNG Activists Hold Strategy Meeting at Tulane

On April 2, a national strategy meeting on LNG was hosted by the Gumbo Alliance for Safe LNG, a group of local organizations including the Sierra Club that are against open-loop LNG Terminals. The session corresponded with the Tulane Law School's annual environmental law conference. The purpose was to bring activists from the states that are faced with the prospect of having Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals on their coastlines. Representatives were present from Maine, Massachusetts, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Texas as well as local activists.

Attendees broke out into separate sessions to discuss the issues of onshore versus off shore platforms. The ABC's of how to organize a campaign and to work with media were covered as well as a group discussion on how to keep the

Continued on page 7

**Long Valued Louisiana Environmentalist Willie Fontenot forced to retire from A.G., Office. His response on page 3**



# Editorial Page

Editor's Note, I have been disappointed again by my elected officials. The votes on the President's budget gave the Louisiana delegation an opportunity to do the right thing. We asked them to keep drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge out of this fiscal mess. Even for the every day person who balances their checkbook once a month, this was an obvious issue. When I figure out how much money I have to spend in a month, I don't inflate the amount that I know is coming in by 80%. If I did, I would be in bankruptcy court fast. That may be where we are heading. Needless to say, Senator Landrieu didn't listen.

I'd like to take this chance to thank all of the people who tried to help on this issue. The people who made phone calls and mailed letters. The people who came out and spent an evening with Lenny Kohn and Faith learning about the place that the Gwich'i in people call the cradle of life. This was a rare opportunity that we had to actually meet the people who are directly involved in ANWAR, that faraway place as described by the media. As Lenny puts it, "ANWAR is a dead Egyptian." The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a real place not just an acronym that the oil companies can throw around when they try to depersonalize it.

This is not the end of the fight. We still have a chance in the conference committee and we still have a chance to elect new leaders in four years. Would you like to have an opportunity to learn more about this issue and to meet with your fellow Sierrans? I know that many of us are feeling a little isolated from everyday society after the election. Instead of hibernating, we need to make more opportunities to meet one another and have solidarity with like minds. One way you can do this is to host an



*Maura Woods, Sierra Club staff and Aaron Viles, Delta Chapter Excom try to persuade Senator Mary Landrieu*

Oil On Ice Party at your house. If you would like to discuss other subjects check out the Sierra Club clubhouse website for ideas. . <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/> Go on an outing, get involved in your group!

I would like to applaud the efforts of our fellow sierrans to keep us informed and motivated. Thank you to Aaron Viles and Maurice Coman for their work on the LNG conference. Thank you to Sandy Parke for getting out there and revitalizing the Honey Island Outings program. Thank you to Betty Powers, Paula Cannon, Diane Casteel and Jeff Dubinsky for your help on the Arctic Refuge. Of course kudu's to the tireless work of Maura Woods and Daryl Malek-Wiley. A big thanks to Barbara Coman, chapter chair for mailing out the March Appeal Letter.

Happy Canoeing, Leslie

Deadline for next newsletter  
is May 20, 2005

**Please Don't Forget**  
Mail in your March Appeal contributions. The money goes straight to the chapter. This is the only time of the year that your gift goes 100% to the Delta Chapter.

Letters to the Editor

"The most recent entry of "Earl's Pearls" (??) ostensibly written about a Sierra outing on the Red River is convincing evidence that Delta Sierran isn't the place for his trivial discourse. The members of Delta chapter deserve an apology from "Earl" and from the staff who wasted club money disseminating this slop. More, please, about members' environmental concerns and fewer condescending comments about large women and "skinny young girls" in bikinis.  
Paula Cannon  
1327 Meadow Lea Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-8658

# Willie Fontenot Speaks

Dear Friends,

I have had many calls and letters from friends across the country asking what they can do to help me. Last week, I was asked by Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr. to either retire or run the risk of being fired. No specifics were given to me explaining this decision by the AG. I have always understood that, as an unclassified civil servant, I served at the pleasure of the AG and that I could be dismissed at any time and for no reason. Because of my age, health issues, and investment of twenty-seven years in the state system, I decided early retirement was the best option for me.

Now that I am retired, my schedule is less complicated. There was more than ample time last week, and the weather was so pleasant, for me to finally pay some attention to those weeds that have waved at me every time I took the little dogs for a walk. If nothing else, this yard work has given me time to relax and think a bit.

No, I would not want to return to my work in the Attorney General's Office.

There are probably many people, both within the agency, other agencies, and in some of the business community who celebrated upon hearing of my departure.

What they failed to consider is how this new condition has freed me from the restrictions of my former job. I have always tempered my comments about things like environmental problems and social injustices because I served in the Department of Justice. Now I will have more freedom to say what I think rather than what might be more appropriate as a representative of an elected official.

If you want to write to General Foti then please feel free to do so.

Officials should hear from the public.

Continued on page 6

## Who Is Willie And What Can We Do to Help

As many of you have seen in the news lately, Willie Fontenot was recently pushed out of his job with the Louisiana State Attorney General's office. For the last thirty five years, Willie Fontenot has worked on issues involving oil and gas waste, coastal wetlands, water and air quality, toxics, environmental justice, industrial safety, transportation, politics and community organizing.

He received a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1969. During the last 27 years, before being dismissed without warning on April 5, 2005 by the new Attorney General, Fontenot served as the Community Liaison Officer for the Louisiana Attorney General's Office. In 1978 the Attorney General hired him to help citizens solve their environmental problems by learning how to organize and find technical and legal assistance, and how to work with other groups, their public officials, and the news media. In this capacity he helped to organize more than four hundred groups throughout Louisiana and thirty other states. He also worked extensively with the news media in the development of hundreds of stories exposing corporate or government corruption. In his spare time, he is an

active with a number of groups and presently serves on the Board of Clean Water Action and is a member of the executive committee of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance. He has served on the board of directors of Louisiana Environmental Action Network and also on the board of the Louisiana Labor Neighbor Project. Before joining the Attorney General's staff, he served as the executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and as chairman of the New Orleans Group of the Sierra Club.

Willie will remain active and appreciates everyone's concern. As a response to Mr. Fontenot being forced out of his job, the Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program at Antioch New England Graduate School is working with Marylee Orr, Executive Director of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), to create a fund to help Mr. Fontenot make up his lost salary and continue to work for environmental justice in Louisiana through a nonprofit organization of his choice. The Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program, LEAN, and other Louisiana citizen groups and members of the academic

Continued on page 6

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

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

Sierra Club Member Services  
PO Box 52968

Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

or email the information to:

[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

Submissions: Article and photograph submissions

are always welcome. Please send submissions to the newsletter editor at [lesliemarch@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliemarch@hotmail.com) or mail to Leslie March, 67017 Dolan St., Mandeville, LA 70471

# Chapter Calendar of Events

**16th and 17th of April, Chapter and Conservation committee meeting.** Hosted by Honey Island Group. April 16th meeting at the Greater Covington Center at 317 N. Jefferson St. Covington LA in the Bogue Falaya Room. **From Baton Rouge** Take I-12 Exit 59 (LA21), and turn north toward Covington. After about three miles, you'll come to St. Tammany Hospital with two or three stop lights, the last of which is at 11th Avenue. The next stop light is at 21st, with a Dollar General on the left and a CVS on the right. **Turn right on 21st.** The next stop light (six or eight blocks) is **Jefferson Avenue. Turn left.** The Greater Covington Center is on the left about a block and a half down, at 317 N. Jefferson Avenue. If it looks like a church, that's because it used to be (and the local politicians felt the steeple should remain as a symbol of our local integration of church and state). **From New Orleans;** Take I-12 Exit 63 (US190) and turn north toward Covington— or US190 from Mandeville or the Causeway and Metairie. As you approach Covington (about 3.5 miles) stay in the right lane. You'll see the "bypass" (bridge) over the Bogue Falaya, and you'll want to **take the bend toward the right toward LA21 and Bogalusa.** Rouse's Supermarket will be on your right and a McDonald's on the left. Move to the left lane and **turn left at the stop light** to come into Covington. (Don't continue on the right, because that takes you to Washington Parish, and you may never escape.) Cross the bridge and continue into and through "downtown". There are stop lights at most corners. After a half-dozen or so blocks, the street (Boston Street) will bend to the right with a small supermarket and a Whitney bank on your left. **The next stop light is Jefferson. Turn right.** The Greater Covington Center is on the left about a block and a half down, at 317

**16-17 April hosted by the Honey Island Group**

**16-17 July hosted by the Acadian Group**

**15-16 October hosted by the New Orleans Group**

N. Jefferson Avenue.

**Happy Hour** from 5:30 to whenever at 67017 Dolan St. go back to 190 toward Mandeville, take Fairway exit, turn left go to light turn right, turn left on Sandy 1/2 mi. right after Enterprise Rent a Car. Passed State Farm you went too far. Right at T in road. House is in curve 2 blocks down. We had such a good time last time decided to do it again!

Excom meeting on Sunday starts at 10:00 located at 67017 Dolan St, Mandeville BR, take 1-12 to 190, Take Covington/ Mandeville Exit go toward Mandeville on Hwy 190. Exit at Fairway. Take left on Fairway. Turn right onto service road at stoplight, turn left at Sandy, go to T with Tall Timbers sign turn right, house is two blocks down in the curve. Tel 985-871-6695. Both meetings open to members and guests.

ACADIAN GROUP

## **General Meeting and Lecture Series**

Held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Acadiana Symphony Building, 412 Travis St., Lafayette, LA. The Acadian Group is always looking for speakers. Past topics include native plants, wildlife, invasive species, reforestation, environmental education, the news media and

environmental concerns of local or global nature. If you would like to volunteer or suggest a speaker, please call Paul Fontenot at 337-235-0011.

BATON ROUGE GROUP

[www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/batonrouge](http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/batonrouge)

**General Membership Meetings** TBA. **Please call Jeff Dubinsky, chair, at 225-925-8560 or check the website.**

## **Executive Committee Meetings**

Held the 4th Thursday of each month Location: Maura Wood's office at 4521 Jamestown Ct, Suite 12-13 at 7 pm. Her phone is 225-925-8560, fax is 225-925-8725

## **Transportation Committee Meeting**

Held at 6:45 pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Bluebonnet Library, 9200 Bluebonnet. For more info call David Lindenfeld at 766-1983.

## **Conservation Committee Meeting**

Held at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the "Community Room" of the Law Office of Moore, Walters, Thompson, et. al. at 6513 Perkins Rd.

## **New Committee Formed**

The group has formed a Children's Environmental Education Committee

with Molly Weise as chair. Upcoming events include the La. Children's Museum's World's Fair in New Orleans, Earth Week, an Atchafalaya outing and a summer project.

HONEY ISLAND GROUP

[www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland](http://www.louisiana.sierraclub.org/honeyisland)

**Please see our website for upcoming events. Little Black Creek**

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

Spend a day paddling with the Sierra Club in the Desota National

Forest! We'll take a four-mile ride down the Little Black Creek. This is a scenic trip for those familiar with but not necessarily expert at canoeing.

We will leave from the Truck Stop in Slidell at 8:00am. The cost will be \$50 per canoe for those needing rentals and \$25 per canoe for those bringing their own crafts. Lunch will be provided. For further information or reservations, contact Sandy at 985.643.6363 or [lobo53@bellsouth.net](mailto:lobo53@bellsouth.net). Looking forward to a great paddle!

#### Bike The Bayou Sauvage Levee!

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Bayou Sauvage NWR

This will be a child-friendly trip, so mark your calendars and bring your kids and the kid in you and come enjoy a wonderful day. We'll meet at the marked bicycle trail past the old Highway 11 fishing bridge right off the junction of Interstate-10 and Irish Bayou in New Orleans East. We'll begin at 2:00pm. A first-aid trained RN will be in attendance. Please be sure to bring water!

Contact Sandy at 985.643.6363 or [lobo53@bellsouth.net](mailto:lobo53@bellsouth.net) for information or arrive 15 minutes before departure.

#### Cajun Dance Class

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
Mandeville Community Center

The Sierra Club is sponsoring an introductory cajun dance class at the Mandeville Community Center! We are fortunate to have the services of Diane and Bruce, professional dance instructors in the intricacies of Cajun and Zydeco! Mark your calendar now and come join us. There will be a social hour following the instruction - you can visit with others or practice your new skill!

We will begin at 7:00pm. A donation of \$10 per person to cover the cost of use of the Center is requested. Contact Sandy at 985.643.6363 or at [lobo53@bellsouth.net](mailto:lobo53@bellsouth.net) for reservations. See you there!

General Meeting every other third Thursday. Next meeting April 21st. 7Pm at Mandeville Community Center

Excom Meetings every other month on Thursday. Next meeting May 19. Contact Diane Casteel at 985-626-5268

**All meetings open to anyone who has an interest. Please come and be welcome.**

#### KISATCHIE GROUP

The Kisatchie Group is the home of Sierra Club members throughout much of northwestern Louisiana, centered on Shreveport.

Our group is looking for an activist and/or volunteer to coordinate meetings. Any members who want to become more active with the group are welcome. The Kisatchie Group is currently involved in a number of local activities, including supporting efforts to form an advisory group to help develop a plan for Shreveport's Riverfront to preserve green spaces, the kickoff of the Community Foundation of Shreveport/Bossier Environmental Field of Interest (FOI) to support and promote environmental education, and responsible development of the Red River Education and Research Park at

Bickham Dickson Park. If you are interested in our group's activities contact Jeff Wellborn at 318-222-1801 or [jwellbrn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jwellbrn@bellsouth.net) or write to Kisatchie Group, PO Box 2098, Shreveport, LA 71166-2098.

#### NEW ORLEANS GROUP

Checkout our website for information <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/>

#### [neworleans](#)

**Executive Committee Meeting** Open to all members. If interested in attending call Micah Walker Parkin at 504-865-8708 or check the above website.



**Brown Bag Lunch** with Sierra Club Staff held every second Tuesday at 4521 Jamestown Ave. Suite 12-13 in Baton Rouge, All welcome. Call Maura Wood for details. 225-925-8650.

**Act Now and Save the Environment!**

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

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:  
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e-mail: [planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)

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## LNG Protest

Continued from page 1

to operate, as up to 1.6% of the imported LNG would be utilized to rewarm the seawater. Shell claims that if there is major environmental damage they will convert the plant to a closed loop system, though the permit does not require this. That is why we are urging that if the LNG plants are built that they should be built with a closed loop system. It is more economic for them to build the closed loop first. We have seen how the oil companies respect the environment and clean up their mess after drilling off the coast of Louisiana. We have a hard time believing that Shell has our fisheries best interest at heart.

LNG terminals proposed for other areas of the country would not utilize this controversial open-loop process, opting instead for closed-loop terminals. Louisiana will be the guinea pig. Once again we will be the victims of greedy big oil. What can you do about this? Please write Governor Blanco and tell her to be strong at the table with Shell. Tell her to veto any future permits for open loop systems! Tell her how concerned you are about the health of our fisheries. How we depend on them to support our families and to attract tourism dollars to our state.

If you would like more information on this issue and a map of all of the possible locations., you can go to our web page <http://louisiana.sierraclub.org/lng.asp>. Willie's letter cont.

Continued from page 3

You might also consider writing a letter to the Editor of The Advocate in Baton Rouge, the Times Picayune in New Orleans, or your local paper if you do not live in either of those cities. If your letter makes the paper, then you will help to educate many thousands of readers.

I would also be glad to hear from you.

## Who is Willie

Continued from page 3

community, and other advocates in Louisiana. The Delta chapter will be discussing what they can do to help at the chapter meeting.

\* Talk to people about this issue, forward this letter\* to your personal contact list and your listserves, post it on your websites, and push any media contacts you have to cover the story. Email me at [lesliemarch@hotmail.com](mailto:lesliemarch@hotmail.com) and I will send it to you.

\* Write to the Louisiana Attorney General's assistant Ms. Kris Wartelle

([wartellek@ag.state.la.us](mailto:wartellek@ag.state.la.us)) and express your concern about this situation to the Attorney General. Also consider writing letters to the editor about this situation.

\* Send a check for the WILLE FONTENOT SUPPORT FUND (made out to Antioch New

Hopefully, I will be able to continue my work of helping people to try and solve their environmental, political, and social justice issues. I still serve on the board of directors of some local, regional, and national organizations that deal with helping people. I will let you know whenever I find a new job.

Good luck to you, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you. My thanks to all of you for your friendship and support.


Sincerely yours,

Willie

England with "Fontenot Support" in the memo section) to Steve Chase, Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program, Antioch New England, 40 Avon Street, Keene, NH 03431.


\* Think of other creative actions that you or your organizations can take on this matter and then let Steve Chase ([Steve\\_Chase@antiochne.edu](mailto:Steve_Chase@antiochne.edu)) know what you are doing.

\* Continue to work hard on your own issues of environmental protection, corporate accountability, and social justice!



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Delta Chapter Activists Listen to Shell at Tulane conference

## LNG Conference

Continued from page 1

national momentum going against the plants.

Earlier in the day, a balanced panel of industry and scientists spoke about the prospect of placing these terminals in the Gulf of Mexico. Greg Koehler, project manager for Shell reiterated that Shell does not believe that building a closed loop system is economically viable. The Shell representative also stressed that they were proceeding based on the scientific data provided by the Coast Guard's environmental impact statement. Koehler said that their objective was to be "very transparent in process." He also stressed that Shell wants a third party to do all environmental monitoring.

Dr. Jerry Havens of the University of Arkansas stressed the degrees of danger we face with LNG terminals

offshore. He explained that LNG is normally very cold, however the compounds that are added to the LNG to process it for shipping increase the temperature. These compounds are carbon based and can include propane. The percentage of compounds to LNG can be as much as 15%. In response to a question about the possibility of an explosion caused by a spill, he told us that there were three options, one that the vapor that escapes would explode on contact with the air in the immediate site, two that the vapor cloud would drift away from the station and then explode and three that it wouldn't explode at all. His theory is that in the event of a spill, there will be a 66% chance of an explosion.

One of the questions that came up in the Tulane session was how can we trust the science? This was reiterated by another session at the Tulane

Environmental Law Clinic that focused on war stories about cases around the country. A common theme was the fact that there are scientific firms that are advertising that they will provide you with the study you need to win a case. For those of us that take comfort in scientific evidence this is disturbing. The science provided by the Coast Guard in regard to the potential impacts of Shell's terminal on Louisiana's Redfish population in the Gulf, has been contradictory; it went from an initial high-end estimate of 11% to 3.8% without a satisfactory explanation. Watch the Chapter website for breaking news on this critical issue and further events and actions of the Gumbo Alliance.

## Delta Excom Contact Information

|                    |                   |              |   |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|---|
| Chair              | Barbara Coman     | 504-885-0693 | chair@louisiana.sierraclub.org              |
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| Membership Chair   | Barbara Coman     | 504-885-0693 | barbara.coman@sierraclub.org                |

## Chapter Contacts

|  |                      |              |                                  |
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| Chair:                                   |                      |              |                                  |
| Honey Island Group                       | Caryn Schoeffler     | 985-386-7678 | caryn@kcwlaw.com                 |
| Chair:                                   |                      |              |                                  |
| Kisatchie Group                          | Jeff Welborn         | 318-868-5243 | jwelborn@seaber.com              |
| Chair:                                   |                      |              |                                  |
| New Orleans Group                        | Michan Walker Parkin | 504-894-1473 | mwalker@all4energy.org           |
| Chair:                                   |                      |              |                                  |
| Acadian Group                            | Harold Schoeffler    | 337-234-4042 | cadistyle@aol.com                |
| Chair:                                   |                      |              |                                  |
| Sierra Club Staff located in Baton Rouge |                      |              |                                  |
| Sr. Regional Rep                         | Maura Wood           | 225-925-8650 | maurawood@earthlink.net          |
| EJ Rep                                   | Daryl Malek-Wiley    | 504-865-8708 | daryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org |
| Fax                                      |                      | 225-925-8725 |                                  |

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