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Simone Theriot Maloz
Executive Director



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New ROR President Is a Familiar Face



Coastal advocacy group remains focused on long-term, large-scale restoration efforts for sustainability of Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, with additional support for near-term projects.

Former Restore or Retreat (ROR) Executive Director and two-year Executive Committee Member Lori LeBlanc was voted 2007 President of the organization during a March meeting of the group's Executive Committee. LeBlanc succeeds Alex J. Plaisance, Jr., who has served as President since ROR's organization in 2000. Hoping to now spend more time with family and friends during his retirement, Plaisance will continue to serve ROR as Member Emeritus of ROR's Executive Committee.

"I am honored to take the helm from Alex and I look forward to aggressively pursuing large-scale restoration projects for the Barataria & Terrebonne basins along with our entire Board of Directors and Executive Director Simone Maloz," LeBlanc says.

Charlotte Bollinger, Robert Naquin and Henri Boulet have been re-elected to the posts of Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Rounding out the Executive Committee are Berwick Duval, Loulan Pitre, Jr., Jerome Zeringue and newly-appointed members Ted Falgout, Dr. John Jones, and Mike Plaisance.

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ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES "FATHER OF THE THIRD DELTA," WOODY GAGLIANO

For decades, Dr. Sherwood Gagliano, known to folks in south Louisiana as "Woody," sounded the alarm for coastal restoration. Long before the one-two punch of Katrina and Rita, the geologist warned of the devastation that would take place along sinking coastal Louisiana in the wake of a direct hit by a storm measuring Category 3 or higher.

It was in those days that he developed a large-scale restoration plan for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins that would return natural land-building hydrology to the system, utilizing the Mississippi River, and reverse the cycle of land loss. The plan was called the "Third Delta," and in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season, Gagliano is still convinced that large-scale efforts are crucial to the future of this region.

"It is challenging to build a sustainable coast, but we must look at nature's dynamic way of building land as our guide," Gagliano told a crowd of Restore or Retreat (ROR) supporters at the group's annual meeting on February 28. "We are at a critical juncture in the history of Louisiana... the storms did not break the spirit of Louisiana."

Also during the meeting, one of ROR's founding fathers was applauded for his hard work forming the organization and then leading it for the past seven years.

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ROR supporters enjoyed good food and interesting presentations during the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Several Coastal Restoration Bills Filed by Bayou Region Legislators in 2007 Legislative Session

As representatives of communities suffering from the highest land-loss rates in the world, members of the Bayou Region delegation of the Louisiana Legislature have made coastal restoration and hurricane protection a top priority in this summer's legislative session. Senators Reggie Dupre and Butch Gautreaux, and Representatives Damon Baldone, Gordon Dove and Loulan Pitre, Jr., filed at least 12 coast-related bills and resolutions before the session opened on April 30.

Following is a sample of proposed legislation:

- SCR 11 & 12 by Sen. Dupre - Approves the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority's (CPRA) Comprehensive Master Plan for Coastal Protection and the associated 2008 Annual Plan.
- SB 53 by Sen. Dupre - Creates the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation to securitize the anticipated annual revenue stream from federal OCS royalty-sharing revenue for coastal purposes.
- SCR 34 by Sen. Gautreaux - Requests the CPRA to consider the feasibility of certain activities in implementing coastal restoration projects, including an amendment by Sen. Dupre regarding a Third Delta Conveyance Channel Federal Feasibility Study.
- SB 156 by Sen. Gautreaux - Creates and provides for a levee district for a portion of St. Mary Parish.
- HB 378 by Rep. Baldone - Establishes the "Adopt a Bayou" program to help reduce litter along state water bodies.
- HB 812 & 813 by Rep. Dove - Funds projects to stabilize and restore coastal passes, barrier islands and shorelines.
- HB 298 by Rep. Pitre - Resets boundaries of certain waters and water bottoms used by the Grand Isle Port Commission for seafood research, primarily oysters.

Annual Meeting

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"Since its inception in 2000, Restore or Retreat has been fortunate to have many dedicated and passionate members. Tonight, I have the privilege of honoring one of these individuals," said 2007 ROR President Lori LeBlanc, who recognized ROR's President from 2000-2006, Alex J. Plaisance, Jr., "While we may not all share his opinions at all times, we can all agree that his leadership, his dedication and his passion have helped to make this organization what it is today."

ROR will be establishing a scholarship in Plaisance's name for a student attending Nicholls State University (NSU) as a way of honoring his leadership over the years. Plaisance was a member of NSU's first graduating class in 1960.

"It is through education that we will get our jobs done," he told annual meeting attendees.



Lori LeBlanc thanks 2006 President Alex Plaisance for his commitment to the organization.

**Will WRDA be signed by the President this year?
Cast your vote at www.restoreorretreat.org**



ROR Executive Director Simone Maloz helped children and adults alike recognize the devastating impacts of coastal erosion on the Barataria and Terrebonne basins during the Lafourche Parish Bicentennial Celebration March 31 at the Raceland Recreation Center.

St. Bernadette School 4-th grader Elise Armand won first place at the Terrebonne Parish 4-H Achievement Day on April 21 for her speech entitled "Restore or Retreat." Her matching display, pictured here, earned her a second-place prize. Elise is the daughter of Matthew and Jennifer Armand, communication consultants for ROR.



ROR in the Community



Women of the Storm, including ROR Executive Director Simone Maloz and ROR supporters, met in January at the Audubon Tea Room. Pictured here (left to right) are bayou area "Women of the Storm" Jane Arnette, Sharon Bergeron, Stephanie Hebert, Jennifer Armand, Maloz, and Carol LeBlanc. Since January 2006, the Women of the Storm organization has brought together women from coastal Louisiana to inform others in the state and nation about our coastal restoration and hurricane protection needs, and invite members of Congress to tour our coastal area.

www.restoreorretreat.org

ROR Leadership

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Falgout is one of the founding members of ROR, the Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and Chairman of the LA 1 Coalition. He has been a member of ROR's Board of Directors since its inception and has actively championed the call for large-scale restoration of our region, most recently pushing for improved implementation of the Davis Pond Diversion Project.

Jones is a board-certified dermatologist and founder of Jones-Mora Dermatology with offices in Thibodaux and Raceland. Having served on the ROR Board of Directors, Dr. Jones says, "As a longtime supporter, I am eager to join the other dedicated and committed Executive Committee members to further extend the great and noble mission of ROR to another level within the state and community."

Plaisance, of Plaisance Dragline and Dredging in Golden Meadow, says he is honored to be a part of a dedicated and talented group of people whose collective voice calls for effective coastal restoration. "ROR has always been about long-term restoration like the Third Delta, which I believe is the ultimate answer," he explains. "Katrina and Rita opened everyone's eyes to the vulnerability of our coastline, so I feel ROR has the opportunity to extend its reach on a larger scale."

The entire ROR Executive Committee has renewed its focus on the organization's mission: to identify and expedite the implementation of aggressive, large-scale restoration projects, such as the Third Delta Conveyance Channel, for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins. ROR also supports near-term restoration proposals such as pipeline delivery of sediment to the sediment-starved regions of these basins, now experiencing the highest rate of coastal land loss in the world.

To this end, ROR has recommended that the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority include a federal feasibility study of the Third Delta, coupled with the near-term strategy of pipeline slurry, in their Master Plan and FY 2008 Annual Plan currently being considered by the Louisiana Legislature.

DAVIS POND UPDATE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suspended construction on the west guide levee in February when contractors were unable to drive sheet piling due to large amounts of debris in the fill material. The suspension is expected to last up to four months as the Corps and contractors modify the contract to address this problem, delaying project completion until after the Mississippi River's high water season.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, however, ensures that freshwater flow through Davis Pond will continue at its current average of 3,200 cfs, and possibly increase as conditions allow.

Overtopping of the west guide levee has long hindered the structure's ability to operate at an increased capacity of 10,650 cfs, which the levee improvements are intended to correct.

RESTORE OR RETREAT SUPPORTS:

- **Restoration:** The Third Delta Conveyance Channel, a long-term, large-scale restoration plan for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary and the necessary means to sustain near-term measures such as pipeline slurry.
- **Protection:** Federal authorization of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Protection System to protect Terrebonne and northern Lafourche parishes, and complete funding for Morganza and Larose-to-Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection System improvements for South Lafourche.
- **Critical infrastructure** such as:
 - > The LA 1 elevated highway project, a critical link to America's Energy Coast and the only evacuation route for 30,000 residents, vacationers, and offshore workers.
 - > The Houma Navigational Canal lock complex, which will protect Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes from storm surge and reduce saltwater intrusion.
- **Execution** of an effective, strategically targeted state plan for directing OCS royalty-sharing revenue to critical restoration and hurricane protection projects in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.



From the Executive Director....

Simone Maloz

Spring is a time for hope and rebirth. This spring, the hope of coastal Louisiana will once again be hinged on the rebirth of two important issues not unfamiliar to south Louisiana residents—the passage of

WRDA and the approval and continued development of plans to protect and restore our coast.

At the end of April, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the long-overdue Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This year's WRDA contains authorization of the LCA near-term plan, as well as authorization for the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection project. Good news for both, considering early objections from the Bush Administration threatened to cut restoration funding by 75 percent, with the state footing 50 percent of the bill, and questioned the science behind Morganza. These hurdles have been overcome, and at press time, the U.S. Senate was expected to approve WRDA before Memorial Day. WRDA proponents are hopeful the President will sign the bill into law this fall.

The State's Comprehensive Master Plan will make its way through the Louisiana Legislature this spring and summer as well. While largely conceptual in nature for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins in particular, there are several worthy projects included in the plan and still plenty of time to make future improvements. Intended to parallel the state's effort, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also forging ahead with their own plan known as the "LaCPR," but the results of this study will not be known until much later in the year.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr. once said, "Never deprive someone of hope; it might be all they have." This spring, let's continue hoping for all that can be done to preserve our coast, and beef up our own efforts so that hope is not all we will have when we are done.

If you have any
comments or questions,
please contact our office at:

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www.restoreorretreat.org

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From the President... Lori LeBlanc

When I started my work as Executive Director of ROR over seven years ago, there were many people who made me feel at home and tutored me on the unique coastal issues in our region. But one guiding light stands out— “Mr. Alex.”

As ROR President, Alex Plaisance gave me the opportunity, the support and the encouragement to expand my own abilities and to do the things I never thought I could do; and for that I am truly grateful. He taught me and Simone about perseverance and commitment; and he demonstrated to us all that there is a time and a place for being tough.

I am honored to succeed him as President, and look forward to his continued support and encouragement as Member Emeritus of the ROR Executive Committee. Our supporters can be sure that ROR will remain committed to long-term restoration of the Barataria and Terrebonne basins in the months and years to come, not just for our future but for our children's. And the successful organization that Mr. Alex help build will only get stronger. Thank you, Mr. Alex!



MAKING YOUR
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DONATION IS JUST A
CLICK AWAY!

VISIT US ON-LINE AT
www.restoreorretreat.org

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Mission Statement

Realizing that the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are the two most rapidly eroding estuaries on the earth, and understanding that an economic and ecological travesty is occurring, the concerned members of Restore or Retreat seek to identify, expedite and aggressively engage in solutions to urgently achieve comprehensive coastal restoration.

BECOME A MEMBER/VOLUNTEER

Contributions to this organization are **tax deductible**. Restore or Retreat is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax identification number is 72-1474850. Please make checks payable to Restore or Retreat, Inc.

Levels of Support:

Platinum	\$10,000 or greater	Bronze	\$1,000 to \$2,499
Gold	\$5,000 to \$9,999	Associate	\$100 to \$999
Silver	\$2,500 to \$4,999	Friend	\$10 to \$99

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I would like to be an active volunteer, please contact me.

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