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comments or questions,
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SUPPORT THE SOLUTION!

From the President
Charlotte Bollinger

Evacuating your home is never easy, but when it is accompanied by dire predictions of total devastation of your community by a “monster storm,” the fear and anxiety is unmatched. Unfortunately, most of us experienced that heightened stress level this hurricane season.

For many of us in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes, the impact of Gustav was thankfully much less than feared, but then along came Ike, producing the greatest level of flooding ever in our region despite the Category 2 storm making land-fall over 250 miles away.

We said it after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and we’re saying it again. With regard to coastal restoration, “If not now, WHEN?”

Time and hurricane seasons are not on our side; the more coastal marshes we lose and barrier islands sink into the sea, the more vulnerable our critical region becomes. That is why ROR’s efforts to advance key freshwater and sediment delivery projects are so important. You can be confident that Restore or Retreat is working hard on the behalf of all of our coastal communities for real restoration NOW!



MAKING YOUR
TAX- DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION IS JUST A
CLICK AWAY!
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www.restoreorretreat.org

Restore or Retreat, Inc. (ROR)
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Thibodaux, LA 70310

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PAID
BATON ROUGE,
LA
PERMIT NO. 935

Summer/Fall 2008

THE CONVEYANCE



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Surplus Funds
• Davis Pond Moving
To Maximum Efficiency

Storms Prove Value of Nature’s “Surge Protectors”

In a one-two punch, the Barataria and Terrebonne basins were the target of destructive winds and historic storm surge levels as Hurricanes Gustav and Ike made Gulf Coast landfall in September. Coastal wetlands absorbed much of Gustav’s water wall, but were then overwhelmed during Ike’s trek to Texas.

Our call for comprehensive coastal restoration has never been more urgent.

Less than two weeks after the coastal marshes of the Barataria and Terrebonne basins weathered a beating from the fury of Hurricane Gustav’s Cocodrie landfall on September 1, these same wetlands—and the communities that rely on them for protection—were inundated by tidal surge as Hurricane Ike plowed across the Gulf of Mexico en route to Galveston. As the lessons of Gustav and Ike unfold, one thing is clearer than ever before: as coastal land loss accelerates, so does the threat of total devastation of our region. Our only hope is rapid implementation of large-scale

“The state is requesting the resources necessary to complete federally authorized coastal restoration projects designed to restore coastal lands as a result of hurricanes.”
- Governor Bobby Jindal

absorbed a hit of eight feet of water or more outside of the South Lafourche Levee System,” says Regional Levee Director Windell Curole. “The wetlands saved us during Gustav, illustrating the importance of a healthy coast to storm protection and the need for effective restoration.”

Unfortunately, the dwindling coastal wetlands of Southeast Louisiana were no match for Ike’s nine-foot storm surge that swamped thousands of homes and businesses in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, from St. Mary Parish eastward to Plaquemines. Though the Category 2 hurricane never traveled closer than 250 miles to Terrebonne

Parish, over 3,000 homes and businesses were flooded in that parish alone. Ten thousand homes and businesses flooded during Hurricane Rita in 2005, a Category 3 storm that made landfall in Cameron, Louisiana. No doubt the loss of land

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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.

I SUPPORT THE SOLUTION!

Contributions are **tax deductible**. Make checks payable to Restore or Retreat, Inc., P.O. Box 2048-NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70310. ROR is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax identification number is 72-1474850.

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

My membership donation is enclosed.

Please send me a membership invoice in the amount of \$_____.

I am interested in a membership contribution of stock, planned giving, a memorial or in-kind donation of goods and services. Please contact me.

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Total Contribution: _____

YOU ARE WANTED AT THE 7TH ANNUAL BARNSTORMING PARTY TO SAVE OUR COAST

Grab your cowboy hat, slip on your boots and head back to the Barn! It’s Barnstorming time again, and this year, we’re partying to a Western theme as we raise awareness and funds for Restore or Retreat’s coastal restoration efforts. Sponsorships, auction donations, and table/ticket orders are now being accepted. Join us at the Barn for fun music, a delicious Western buffet, drinks, and our popular silent auction, all for a great cause!

“Barnstorming To Save Our Coast”
Thursday, October 23, 2008
6 pm at Charlotte Bollinger’s
home in Lockport
Tickets: \$50/person
Call 985-448-4485 or visit
www.RestoreOrRetreat.org

EMERGENCY BAYOU DREDGING TO ALLOW FRESH WATER TO FLOW

Crews will begin dredging the first 6.2 miles of Bayou Lafourche south of Donaldsonville as an emergency measure to increase freshwater flow into the bayou and improve the drinking water supply for over 300,000 residents. Following Hurricane Gustav, vegetative debris littered the upper reaches of the bayou and pumping capacity was very limited for the first seven days, resulting in oxygen depletion and poor water quality that limited the potable water supply for four parishes that depend on the bayou for fresh water.

Debris removal quickly ensued, and pumps were activated at limited capacity. The dredging plan initiated by the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District on September 15, with technical and financial assistance from the State, will increase the footprint of the bayou to meet an increased pumping capacity of 300 cubic feet of fresh water per second.

A state- and federally approved project to reintroduce Mississippi River water into Bayou Lafourche for drinking water and coastal restoration purposes is also nearing implementation. The emergency dredging work conducted this fall will, in the long term, benefit the larger project and help expedite its progress.

Local Projects Buoyed by State Surplus Funds

At least four local coastal restoration and protection projects are among several moving forward thanks to an allocation of \$300 million in state surplus funds from Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

In August, the CPRA approved \$20 million for the project known as the Mississippi River Freshwater Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche. Construction on this diversion is slated to begin in 2009 and will be expedited by emergency dredging now underway to secure the drinking water supply post-Gustav.

Additionally, \$15 million was allocated for a long-distance pipeline conveyance of sediment project. The Morganza-to-the-Gulf Hurricane Protection System received \$40 million, which will likely be applied toward construction of the lock on the Houma Navigational Canal to provide a barrier to storm surges and saltwater intrusion, and \$15 million was allocated for improvements to the Larose-to-Golden Meadow levee system.

Falgout Appointed to Coastal Finance Board



Restore or Retreat (ROR) founder and Executive Committee member Ted Falgout will play a key role in the way Louisiana manages the investment of offshore oil revenues earmarked for coastal restoration and protection projects as Vice-Chairman of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation's Governing Board.

In July, Falgout was selected to represent the 3rd Congressional District on the panel, created by legislation authored by Senator Reggie Dupre, and was elected Vice-Chair at the panel's first meeting on July 30. He was nominated to the post by ROR, and his nomination was supported by local legislators, as well as business organizations like SCIA, Bayou Industrial Group and regional chambers of commerce.

"Considering his experience as LA 1 Coalition President arranging for the sale of bonds on Wall Street to fund the first phase of improvements on that highway, Ted was an obvious choice," explains ROR President Charlotte Bollinger. "He has spent his career in South Louisiana, and his unique position as head of Louisiana's busiest oil and gas port over the past 30 years solidified the nomination. The Bayou Region is fortunate to have such an expert as our representative."

The Financing Corporation's Governing Board will be responsible for determining the feasibility of bonding out expected offshore oil and gas royalties to build coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects over the coming decade, as well as identifying additional funding sources.

ROR Members Renamed to Governor's Advisory Commission

Governor Bobby Jindal has reappointed Restore or Retreat members and local legislators to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration, Protection and Conservation. The 29-member commission was created by Governor Mike Foster to monitor the state's coastal programs and make policy recommendations to administration officials.

ROR Executive Committee members Berwick Duval and Ted Falgout will continue to serve as commissioners, as well as State Senators Reggie Dupre and Joel Chaisson, and Representatives Damon Baldone and Gordon Dove.

Davis Pond Moving to Maximum Efficiency

This summer was a busy one for contractors working to maximize the efficiency of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion structure, and the upcoming months will provide an opportunity to see if adjustments to aid water flow will begin to impact increased salinities in the diversion area.

From June 1-August 1, the structure averaged approximately 5,000 cfs, with the highest flow coming on June 21 at over 10,650 cfs. This average includes days when the structure was closed according to the annually approved management plan, which mandates that the structure be closed when hurricanes or tropical storms enter the Gulf.

ROR continues to monitor improvements to the West Guide Levee and the Davis Pond modification study, which was approved in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2007 and is due in December 2009.



That Sinking Feeling All Over Again

From the Executive Director
Simone Maloz

déjà vu: n. 1. the illusion of having already experienced something actually being experienced for the first time, 2. something overly or unpleasantly familiar

What seemed like a *déjà vu*, the Bayou Region once again faced the devastating impacts of a one-two punch in 2008, much like it did in 2005. Local, state, and federal governments, along with the citizens of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, thought they were living life right out of a movie, and a very bad one at that.

Something that differed this time around was the impact to our region—Hurricane Ike's tidal surge alone impacted, and in some cases overwhelmed, a greater area of our coastal communities than Hurricane Rita did just three years ago. While the numbers are not out yet, this certainly seems like a direct result of the 217 square miles our coast lost after the hurricanes of 2005, 37 of those square miles in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basin (USGS) alone. This once again begs the question from our 2005 post-hurricane *Conveyance* headline—**If not NOW, WHEN?**

While much progress had been made in the past three years, we still had a long way to go, and we weren't in a position to be tested again so quickly. Significant authorizations were finally achieved, and substantial dollars dedicated by the Governor and legislature, but the federal government has been slow to come to the table, if at all. The feds have continued to stall on important planning measures such as the LACPR effort, and critical projects for our region, such as the Morganza-to-the-Gulf hurricane protection system. Trying not to be impeded by these obstacles, the state issued their master plan, local governments ramped up their efforts, and our organization strengthened our fight for the long-term needs of our area by working on projects such as Davis Pond and Bayou Lafourche, and advocated for a future long distance sediment pipeline project and a large scale, long term solution for our region. In the aftermath of Gustav and Ike, we must continue this fight.

The silver lining in this otherwise bleak situation may be this: more people now realize what is at stake if we continue to lose our fragile coast, communities and culture. As we begin another long road of recovery and restoration, now more than ever, we need your help to win the fight and support the solution.

Correction:

In the last issue of *The Conveyance*, Southern Guard Service was inadvertently omitted from our list of Silver-level donors. Southern Guard has been a loyal supporter of Restore or Retreat for many years, and we apologize for the error.

Surge Protectors

(continued from page 1)

along the southeastern Louisiana coast since that time contributed to the area's vulnerability during the 2008 hurricane season.

"We had massive structural damages from the direct hit of Gustav; however, Ike resulted in thousands of my people being homeless for a much longer period of time," wrote Sen. Reggie Dupre in an e-mail to colleagues. "Ike caused the worst amount of tidal flooding in the history of Terrebonne Parish with a 9.5-foot tidal surge that stretched from the Bayou communities into the city limits of Houma for the first time ever."

The U.S. Geological Survey is now embarking on a full assessment of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands to determine the extent of damage caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Meanwhile, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and a contingent of state and local leaders are imploring Congress to approve emergency funding to allow the state to begin construction on critical coastal restoration and protection projects that would defend our region against killer storm surges.

"These storms caused significant damage to the communities in this coastal region and miles of coastal lands and wetlands. The state is requesting the resources necessary to complete federally authorized coastal restoration projects designed to restore coastal lands as a result of hurricanes," writes Jindal in a letter to Congressional leaders on September 13. "It is critical that we provide comprehensive flood and hurricane protection, including both coastal restoration and levee protection, for Louisiana's entire coast."

Restore or Retreat strongly supports the Governor's efforts and will continue to work diligently to keep the restoration and protection needs of the Barataria and Terrebonne basins in particular at the forefront of the state's funding plea.



Hurricane Gustav made landfall in Cocodrie on September 1 (above) and also pushed a storm surge of up to eight feet into eastern coastal areas like Fourchon (below left) and Grand Isle (bottom right), causing flooding and erosion of seawalls and levees.

Photos courtesy of Tim Osborn, NOAA

