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Executive Director



In This Issue:

*New Features Added
to ROR Website (pg. 3)*

Insert:

ROR List of Members

Inauguration Brings Renewed Hope for Protecting and Restoring Louisiana's Coast

With the recent passage of the Water Resources Development Act, a steady funding stream from future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas revenues, a healthy and surplus state budget surplus, and a new state administration, the stars seem to have aligned for coastal protection in Louisiana. As a coastal advocacy group created in 2000 by concerned stakeholders in the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins, Restore or Retreat (ROR) has patiently and eagerly awaited this day in our state's history.

In January, ROR submitted a position paper to Governor Bobby Jindal, outlining the critical needs that the group believes must be addressed on the state level to ensure effective restoration and protection for the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.

The first recommendation is to conduct an extensive review of the structure and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA) to ensure that it is adequately staffed and funded to serve as the state's lead agency for planning and implementation of restoration and protection efforts.

We must aggressively implement a naturally systemic-driven restoration strategy that coexists with critical protection needs.

For the state to be successful in protecting and sustaining our region, three key issues must be addressed:

- Review of the administrative structure and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- Aggressive implementation of sustainable, naturally systemic restoration strategies
- Policy changes to eliminate jurisdictional conflicts among state agencies working within the coastal zone and to actively include landowners in the restoration and protection process.

"According to the 1989 law that established GOCA and the Executive Assistant of Coastal Activities, the office is designated as the sole leader of the state's coastal restoration program, including oversight of the coastal activities of both DNR and DOTD," explains ROR Executive Committee Member Ted Falgout. "That authority need only be exerted, and the office must receive the proper financial, logistical and administrative resources to fully execute these responsibilities."

(continued on page 3)

ROR Initiates New Restoration Review

Restore or Retreat has engaged the services of Coastal Environments, Inc. of Baton Rouge to conduct a scientific review and compile recommendations on how restoration and protection projects can most effectively work in concert throughout the Barataria-Terrebonne basins, including a detailed scientific review of the state's reconnaissance level study of the Third Delta Conveyance Channel.

The project is entitled, "A Plan for Survival for the South Lafourche-South Terrebonne Region." Funds for this project were provided by a donation from Capital Group Companies.

ROR Executive committee members eagerly await the draft technical report, expected to be delivered by CEI in March, and look forward to sharing the information with our members and the community in the near future.



Blueprint Louisiana “Gets It”

From the Executive Director
Simone Maloz

In direct response to the popular demand of south Louisiana residents like you, the citizen-driven Blueprint Louisiana effort has acknowledged coastal protection and restoration as one of the areas in need of action to fundamentally improve Louisiana. All of us here in south Louisiana are indeed pleased that the Blueprint policymakers “get it,” that without restoration and protection, the economic productivity of our region and state is at risk.

Blueprint Louisiana is a nonpartisan organization that is led and supported by business and community leaders from across the state. Local community activists and ROR members Chet Morrison of Chet Morrison Contractors and Kenny Smith of T. Baker Smith serve on the steering committee.

In the early days, ROR thoughtfully agreed to endorse the Blueprint campaign, and while doing so, asked the group to seriously consider incorporating the protection and restoration needs of south Louisiana into their agenda.

.....
*Without restoration and protection,
the economic productivity of our entire
region and state is at risk.*
.....

Before the November elections this fall, Blueprint did just that, and called a core group of coastal stakeholders to identify immediate and urgent coastal legislation needs. ROR President Lori LeBlanc, Executive Committee members Ted Falgout, and myself all participated in compiling a list of needs that included administrative changes to legislative committee oversight; incorporating the State Land Office into the Department of Natural Resources; land rights issues, including the donation of land with reserved boundaries and mineral rights; design-build contracting authority of DNR; and the use of mitigation funds. At a second meeting in January 2008, our group began to flesh out the proposed legislation a bit more in anticipation of the regular session of the Legislature this spring.

ROR applauds Blueprint Louisiana for staying true to its grass-roots nature by incorporating the needs of south Louisiana into the state agenda, and for utilizing local resources, stakeholders, and advocates to help make this agenda a reality. For more information, visit www.blueprintlouisiana.org.

**Want a ROR representative to speak to
your school, civic or business group about
coastal restoration efforts?**

Call the ROR office at (985) 448-4485.

Renewed Hope

(continued from page 1)

ROR vigorously supports one particular staff addition to the GOCA office—a Director of Implementation/Construction—who would oversee the execution of both restoration and protection projects defined in the state’s annual and comprehensive master plans.

If Louisianans seriously want to sustain our delicate coast, ROR contends that we must aggressively implement a naturally systemic-driven restoration strategy that coexists with critical protection needs. This second recommendation urges Governor Jindal to utilize multi-layer and multi-use strategies in our state’s coastal restoration efforts, including projects like barrier island and headland restoration, Davis Pond freshwater diversion, Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche, Atchafalaya delivery into western Terrebonne, Third Delta Conveyance Channel, long-distance sediment delivery from the Mississippi River and offshore, and dedicated dredging.

“Experiencing land loss rates of 10 to 13 square miles a year and serving as a home to 200,000 people and vital industry infrastructure, the Bayou Region should be a top restoration and protection priority for the state,” says ROR Executive Director Simone Maloz.

The third and final recommendation calls on the administration and legislature to implement constructive policy changes that will end jurisdictional conflicts among state agencies working in the coastal zone, and include landowners in the decision-making process for restoration and protection strategies. Setting policy to enable positive stakeholder engagement is critical for expediting projects that could be delayed for years if issues are not addressed early.

“With the will and blessing of the Jindal Administration to make coastal restoration and protection a coastwide priority, including providing the adequate financial, logistical, legislative and political support critical to its success, Louisiana is primed to maximize and utilize its designated resources to sufficiently address its coastal issues to the scale and magnitude of the problem for the long-term sustainability of our irreplaceable region,” ROR President Lori LeBlanc concludes.

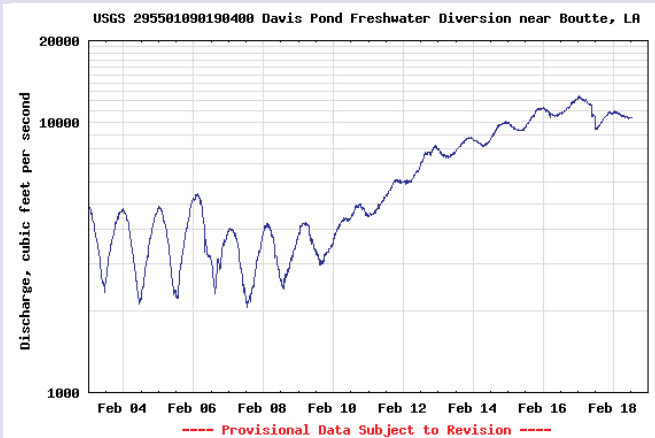
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**To read the complete ROR
Position Paper, “A Fresh Start
for Protecting and Restoring
Louisiana’s Coast,” visit
www.RestoreOrRetreat.org.**
.....

Web Site Updates Provide Greater Information for You

If you haven’t visited RestoreOrRetreat.org lately, now is a great time to give us a hit! On the home page, you can download a copy of ROR’s Position Paper submitted to Governor Bobby Jindal and click on “Support the Solution,” a direct link to our Membership and Donations page. You’ll also find expanded information on restoration projects for the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, including Davis Pond, Bayou Lafourche and Third Delta on our “Solutions” page. And if you’re interested in learning more about ROR, or would like others to get involved, download our new membership brochure on the “About Us” page.

Point and click on www.RestoreOrRetreat.org

FLOW TEST INCREASES FRESHWATER INTO DAVIS POND



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and La. Dept. of Natural Resources are conducting freshwater flow tests, increasing the amount of freshwater discharged into the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project in St. Charles Parish, to prepare the diversion for the Mississippi River's spring high water season. The chart above shows an increased flow of slightly more than 10,000 cfs on February 18. General information about Davis Pond and other regional restoration efforts can be found at www.RestoreOrRetreat.org.

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News from Baton Rouge

- Two Bayou Region lawmakers were appointed to key coastal committee posts in the Louisiana Legislature. **Sen. Reggie Dupre** of Bourg serves as Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and **Rep. Gordon Dove** of Houma serves as Chairman of the House Natural Resources & Environment Committee.
- Several ROR members were tapped by Governor Bobby Jindal's Transition Team to serve on the advisory council's **Coastal Restoration and Hurricane Protection Panel**. They include Loulan Pitre, Jr. (Chair), Charlotte Bollinger, Dave Cagnolatti, Windell Curole, Ted Falgout, Dr. Sherwood Gagliano, Frank Glaviano, Lori LeBlanc, Chet Morrison, Jr., Larry Picciola, Mark Pregeant, Clifford Smith, Kerry St. Pe', and Jerome Zeringue.

Another Successful Barnstorming Event!



Caribbean-themed food and music welcomed over

150 Restore or Retreat supporters to the 6th annual "Barnstorming Party to Save Our Coast" fundraiser on October 11, 2007, at the home of ROR Vice-President Charlotte Bollinger.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, auction donors, and all those who came out to support ROR at the event, the organization raised over \$36,000 to fund its coastal advocacy efforts for the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.

We hope to see you again this fall!

2007 Barnstorming Auction Donors

America's Wetland	Jerome Zeringue
Audrey's	John Weimer
Audubon Nature Institute	Madewood Plantation
Café Milano	Martinique Bistro
Cannata's	New Orleans Hornets and Brent Callais
Carriageway Framing	New Orleans Saints
CC Lockwood and Apache	Nikole Chiasson
Chamber of Lafourche & the Bayou Region	NSU Athletics Department
Charlotte Bollinger	NSU Bookstore
Coastal Conservation Assoc. of La.	Renovations
Cristiano's Ristorante	RikRak at Cypress Bayou Casino
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My Angel Baby	Southdown Plantation
Ellendale Golf Club	Oak Alley Plantation
Harrah's Casino	Stephanie Hebert Allstate Insurance
Houma Reprographics & Map, Inc	Stevie Smith

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

P.O. Box 2048-NSU
Thibodaux, LA 70310
Phone: (985) 448-4485
Fax: (985) 448-4486

www.restoreorretreat.org



From the President...

Lori LeBlanc

Our members are the backbone of this organization. Not only are your financial and moral support critical to the success of Restore or Retreat, but your own individual efforts advocating sustainable restoration in our region contribute to our organization's unmatched credibility in the coastal issues arena. Hats off to you!

In recognition of our members, inserted in this issue is a list of all of our donors, both individuals and companies, as of the end of 2007. On the previous pages, we also listed our 2007 Barnstorming sponsors and auction donors.

Your generosity has been tremendous, and your donations are instrumental in our advocacy for effective, sustainable restoration strategies specifically for the Bayou Region. We encourage you to continue your active involvement in the coastal restoration arena and continue being a champion for the preservation and protection of our communities.

If we don't restore, retreat will be our only option!



MAKING YOUR
TAX- DEDUCTIBLE
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.

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.

I am unable to make a donation at this time, but please include me on your mailing list.

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