

The **BARRED OWL**

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society

Volume XXXIV, Number 1

1st Quarter, 2007

Dr. Paul Kemp joins National Audubon Society in Baton Rouge



National Audubon Society's efforts to advance the restoration of coastal Louisiana and the overall health of the Mississippi River will get a major boost from the addition of coastal authority Dr. G. Paul Kemp as vice president and director of Audubon's Gulf Coast Initiative based in Baton Rouge, beginning January 26.

In his new position, Dr. Kemp will work to broaden public support for the restoration of coastal marshes and other threatened habitats in Louisiana. Building such support is critical to the long-term sustainability of the coast for both people and wildlife as the region rebuilds from the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In partnership with other organizations, Dr. Kemp will also use Audubon's Paul J. Rainey

Sanctuary in southwestern Louisiana to demonstrate environmental restoration techniques. Rainey Sanctuary, created in 1926, is Audubon's oldest sanctuary and one of its most ecologically significant, covering more than 20,000 acres of coastal brackish and intermediate marsh habitats along Vermilion Bay.

(Continued on page 4)

DIFFERENT VIEWS OF CYPRESS

Mark Ford,
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

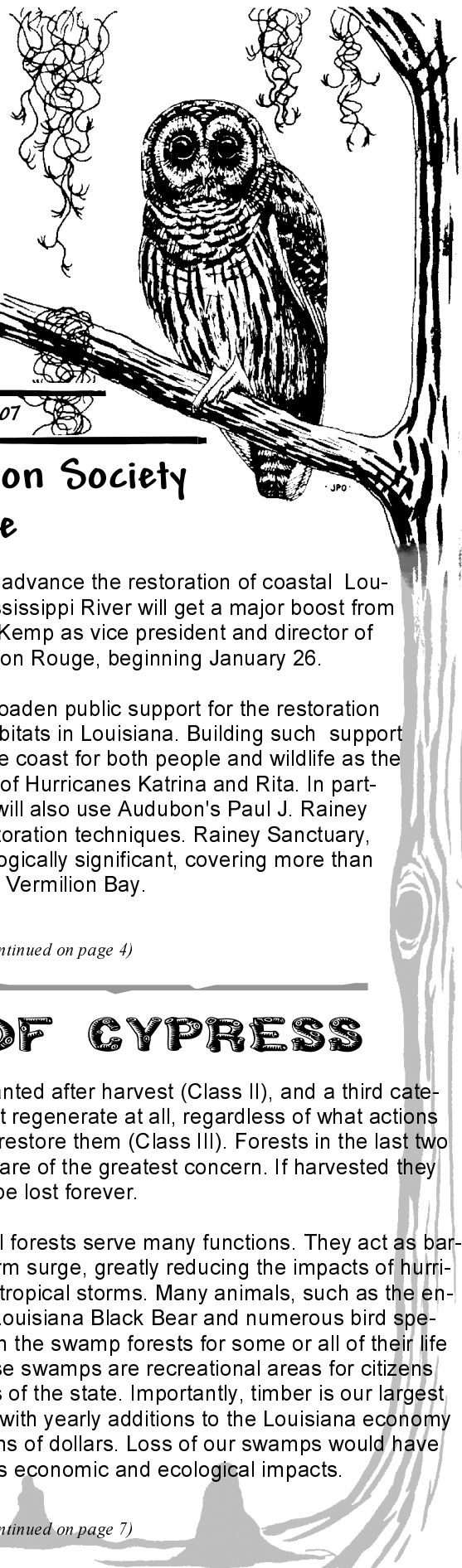
Cypress forests, their survivability, their vulnerability and their importance to the State of Louisiana, have been a source of contention for many in recent years. The spectrum of stakeholders runs from those who feel that no baldcypress should ever be cut, to those who feel that every tree is fair game. Louisiana must find a common ground that preserves our state tree while also recognizing the rights of landowners in the multi-billion dollar timber industry.

Several years ago, a Science Working Group (SWG) was commissioned by Governor Blanco to make an assessment of our coastal forests. They determined that some baldcypress forests are healthy and regenerating on their own (Class I), some are not as healthy and can only sur-

vive if replanted after harvest (Class II), and a third category cannot regenerate at all, regardless of what actions we take to restore them (Class III). Forests in the last two categories are of the greatest concern. If harvested they could well be lost forever.

Our coastal forests serve many functions. They act as barriers to storm surge, greatly reducing the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms. Many animals, such as the endangered Louisiana Black Bear and numerous bird species, rely on the swamp forests for some or all of their life cycle. These swamps are recreational areas for citizens and visitors of the state. Importantly, timber is our largest cash crop, with yearly additions to the Louisiana economy in the billions of dollars. Loss of our swamps would have tremendous economic and ecological impacts.

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HIGH ON HOG ISLAND

By Harriett Pooler

Board member Helaine Moyse and I set out for National Audubon's Leadership Camp on Hog Island, Maine August 13-19, 2006. Located in the Muscongus Bay off the coast of southern Maine, Hog Island is a 330 acre nature preserve that was donated to The National Audubon Society (NAS) by the Todd Family in 1936. It is managed by the Maine Audubon Society and offers various camps and workshops throughout the summer. You can even create your own workshop or week long stay if you'd like. Such famous environmentalists as Roger Tory Peterson and

Rachael Carson have stayed at Hog Island. The islands were once used to graze animals, hence the name Hog Island. Another island is called Sheep Island. The accommodations, including the original dormitory style building (thankfully updated with indoor dorm bathrooms) and the fish lodge, make you take a step back in time.

MAINE 
AUDUBON

Aside from the beautiful surroundings and life birds we wanted to see, Helaine and I were really there to learn more about other Audubon chapters and NAS sponsored programs. It was an eye-opener to see and hear what other folks were doing in their respective chapters. One assignment I had from BRAS was to gather information about the Master Naturalist Program (also called Master Birder Program) that a few chapters such as Seattle Audubon have. It is set up similar to the Master Gardener's Program in which people take classes (for a fee) taught by pro-

(Continued on page 6)

Sanctuary Report January 2007

Victoria Bayless, Sanctuary Chair

On Dec 1st a group of volunteers met at Peveto Woods for a work weekend to clear debris left from Hurricane Rita, and to cut and clear trails. Volunteers included members of the LSU Bird Club, Baton Rouge Audubon, Louisiana State Arthropod Museum and a few Sanctuary neighbors: Justin Bosler, Devin Bosler, Jessica Kilgore, Richard Gibbons, Kimberly Vetter, Sara Simmonds, Dorothy Prowell,

Chris Carlton, Melanie Driscoll, Philip Chandler, Whitney Jackson, Ron and Victoria Bayless, and Julia and Igor Sokolov. Hope and Tom Norman, long time supporters of Peveto Woods, invited us to stay at their nearby camp and supplied us with hot coffee and snacks.

We thank them!

The entire area around the old entrance where the kiosk previously

stood was very overgrown with giant ragweed and other invasive plants. We mowed, cut, trimmed, and made the parking lot and entrance areas recognizable again. Some of the trails we cleared are still usable. Plans to rebuild the pond have been moving slowly. The trail that will be necessary for the landscape company to travel was cleared and readied for their arrival.

The weather was good. Everyone enjoyed the hard work and companionship. We ate, laughed, saw some birds, took some photographs and generally had a great weekend. If this sounds good to you, we are planning another work weekend on the 10th of March. Please contact Victoria Bayless, vmosele@lsu.edu to participate.

Our goal is for Peveto Woods to be a birder friendly sanctuary by this April when the American Birding Association will be holding its annual meeting in Lafayette. Our site is included on one of the scheduled field trips. We want to be proud of our Sanctuary and ready to receive birders from across the country. Thanks to one and all who are working so hard to make our wish come true.

Peveto Woods Workday Volunteers!



From left to right: Devin Bosler, Justin Bosler, Dorothy Prowell, Julia Sokolova, Igor Sokolov, Chris Carlton, Victoria Bayless, Ron Bayless, Angeldog Bayless, Sara Simmonds, Melanie Driscoll, Whitney Jackson, Philip Chandler.

~ Welcome to Jane Patterson ~

Meeet Jane Patterson, the new Education Chairman for Baton Rouge Audubon. Jane is a beginning birder, but an enthusiastic one, and is eager to share her experiences with others, especially young people. She has already begun doing presentations on hummingbirds for school groups, hoping to create interest in birds and raise awareness of conser-

vation. She's developed materials for other programs as well, including a bird-watching class for families, designed for a parent and child to take together. Ambitiously, Jane plans to approach teachers in the area about participating in the Audubon Adventures program, which is a classroom wildlife awareness and conservation program targeted at 3rd thru 5th graders.

safety department at Placid Refining Co. in Port Allen. Jane and Ned have raised three wonderful children here in Baton Rouge. Her eldest, Daniel, works as a web designer at a local successful online business. Her daughters Adrienne and Nora are in college at LSU and ULL, respectively.



Jane is the Assistant Director for network services at the State Office of Telecommunications Management. She is a long-time resident of Baton Rouge. Her husband Ned works in the

Welcome Jane,
and thank you for your great ideas!

CAMERON OBSERVATION TOWER TO BE REBUILT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded more than \$4M to Cameron Parish, \$3.3M of which will go for jetty and RV park reconstruction. Of particular interest to birders is a 16-foot observation tower. The tower was originally built in 2003 with money from a joint LOS/Cameron Police Jury project. It is in the town of Cameron where the Calcasieu ship channel comes in from the Gulf. The tower is a favorite for birders because it is high enough to see the marsh and nearby coast with all the pelicans, skimmers, gulls, terns and other shorebirds which frequent the area. It is 18 miles east of Peveto Woods and was regularly included on any area birding tour. Storm surge and flooding from Hurricane Rita destroyed all structures. The money will pay for a walkway and pedestrian bridge; 9,000 square feet of paved sidewalks, parking area and driveway; 6,400 linear feet of perimeter fencing; a 160-square-foot playground; and the handicap-accessible observation tower.

Thanks to Our Members and Donors!

Baton Rouge Audubon is appreciative of one and all who make it possible for us to send you this publication, maintain our sanctuaries, and the other projects we undertake on behalf of conservation and birds. We can't do it without you!

October 1, 2006 - January 31, 2007

Cerulean Warbler (\$1000)

Paul Dickson, *Shreveport, La*
Lionel H. Head, *River Ridge, La*

Painted Bunting (\$500)

Doris Falkenheiner, *Baton Rouge, La*
Cornell & Janice Tramontana, *River Ridge, La*

Louisiana Waterthrush (\$250)

Carol Foil, *Baton Rouge, La*

Rosebreasted Grosbeak (\$100)

Linda Auld, *Jefferson, La*
Mary Benson, *Baton Rouge, La*
Crystal & Michael B. Chatelain, *Baton Rouge, La*
Keith Gibson, *Baton Rouge, La*
Mary Guthrie, *New Orleans, La*
Steve & Chris Hightower, *New Orleans, La*
Jay Huner, *Boyce, La*
Barry & Gail Kohl, *New Orleans, La*
Peter Monroe, *New Orleans, La*
Judith O'Neale, *Lafayette, La*

Wood Thrush (\$50)

Dave & Tracy Banowetz, *Weyanoke, La*
Peter Craig, *Blanchester, Oh*
Ann & Dan Forster, *Pensacola, Fl*
W. E. Godfrey II, *Natchez, Ms*
Louise M. Hanchey, *Lake Charles, La*
Robert Helm, *Sunshine, La*
Sybil McDonald, *Baton Rouge, La*
John W. Miller, *Lafayette, La*
Nancy & Don Pearson, *Sulphur, La*
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Lawrence P. Rozas, *Sunset, La*
Joseph G. Simmons, *Baton Rouge, La*
Anton Szabados, *Barrington, Il*
William & Jean Wilcox, *Baton Rouge, La*

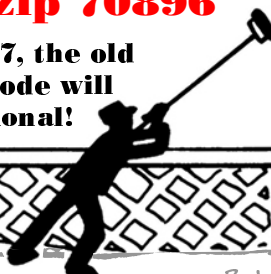


ATTENTION!

**Baton Rouge Audubon has a new
PO Box number and zip code!
Make a note of it!**

PO Box 67016 - zip 70896

**NOTE! As of March 2007, the old
box number and zip code will
no longer be functional!**



Dr. Paul Kemp joins National Audubon Society in Baton Rouge

(Continued from page 1)

Since 1994, Dr. Kemp has been an associate research professor in Louisiana State University's School of the Coast and Environment. He has also been affiliated with the school's Center for the Study of Public Health Impacts of Hurricanes. In the early 1990s, he served as the first executive director of the Coalition to Restore

Coastal Louisiana, a nonprofit organization dedicated to returning Louisiana's Mississippi River delta to environmental and economic sustainability. Among other activities, Dr. Kemp led a multi-disciplinary effort to characterize Louisiana's Barataria and Terrebonne estuaries; worked with the Louisiana Governor's Office to help shape coastal restoration policy; and served as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fellow in Washington, DC.

Dr. Kemp will lead a team that includes two Audubon staff members based in Louisiana - Timmy Vincent, manager of Rainey Sanctuary and Melanie Driscoll, Important Bird Areas (IBA) coordinator. In

addition, Dr. Kemp will collaborate closely with the Baton Rouge Audubon Society in Baton Rouge and the Orleans Audubon Society in New Orleans, Audubon Chapters that are already playing an integral role in Louisiana conservation, as well as the Louisiana Audubon Council.

Dr. Kemp's work will be instrumental in Audubon's ten-state Mississippi River initiative, which is aggressively addressing conservation challenges from the headwaters of the Mississippi in Minnesota to the river's mouth at the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana. These include the loss of wild-life habitat, decline of critical bird populations, and degradation of water quality.

BRAS 4-1-1

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The Barred Owl

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Desk top publishing by:
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BRAS ACTIVITIES

Mar. 10: Join Victoria Bayless and others for a work weekend at our Peveto Woods Sanctuary. Contact Victoria (vmosele@lsu.edu) and see the Sanctuary Report in this issue for more information.

Mar. 24: Richard Gibbons and the Bosler's, of the LSU Bird Club will lead a field trip to various birding sites in the St. Francisville area. Our first site will be the Mary Ann Brown Preserve, a 110 acre site near the eastern boundary of the Tunica Hills. Next up will be the Audubon State Historic Site, a 100 acre forest near St. Francisville (\$2 entrance). If there is time we will bird the Locust Grove State Historic Site. Meet at Coffee Call on College Dr. at 6am. We plan to be back in Baton Rouge by noon. Please pre-register by calling Robert during business hours at 926.2223 or by e-mail at 20legend@cox.net.

Help save Louisiana cypress! To find out more about this campaign, go to saveourcypress.com. The issue is explained in detail. Links are provided so you can make your voice heard. This is an important issue. We appreciate your help!

Hilltop is for the birds!

If you need a quick birding fix and don't have time to drive, come on over to Hilltop. The property has everything birds love. There is a pond, a ravine, and a range of vegetation from herbs and grasses to shrubs and trees. With 14 acres, Hilltop has a higher plant species diversity than most suburban areas and larger stands of plants. Many have been specifically included on the site because they are food for wildlife, such as red buckeye, trumpet and cross vines, coral honeysuckle, hollies, magnolias, and cherry laurels. The best birding time is nearly here when songbirds pass through during their spring migration.

If you happen to be looking for the perfect gift for your favorite birder, check out the gift shop. You'll find feeders, nesting boxes, hanging hardware and books (Kenn Kaufman, David Sibley, Bill Fontenot and others). The shop also has garden gifts and tools, and the best collection of plant books in Baton Rouge. The shop is open Tues.-Fri., 9am-4:30pm. Hilltop: 11855 Highland Rd. between Bluebonnet and Siegen.

Dear Baton Rouge Audubon Members

The spring bird migration is soon approaching. Busy preparing for the remarkable diversity of birds arriving on the shores of Louisiana in a few months is an enthusiastic team of young "ornithologists-in-training" from the LSU Museum of Natural Science. This group, composed of graduate students striving to become part of the rich tradition of avian research at LSU, is frantically brushing up on calls and plumages to both (1) crush the state's Big Day record (most bird species observed within a 24-hour period inside the state boundaries of Louisiana) currently set at 211 species and (2) raise money to help finance graduate-level research projects and training in ornithology. This annual fundraising event began in 1986 and has been instrumental in maintaining LSU's status as one of the nation's top universities in ornithology.

Last year was record setting for this event. Unfortunately, it proved to be the lowest count (164 species) ever for the Museum's Big Day. The 2006 team scouted the birding route, scratched their heads repeatedly, reworked the route, and pondered more, there was no way around the destruction left by two massive hurricanes and a record-setting drought. The group hopes to turn things around this year and docu-

ment a healthy recovery for Louisiana birds following 2006. Four students are honing their bird watching skills and tuning up the birding wagon for this year's 24-hour birding marathon.

In the competitive spirit of the Big Day, we encourage all to get the binoculars out, experience the joy of Louisiana birding in springtime, and, if you are really motivated, create your own team and post a score. The students are up for any and all challenges.

Supporters of the Museum's Big Day can make a per-species pledge or a flat donation prior to the Big Day. All donations are tax deductible. After the event, sometime in the latter part of April, we will send you an annotated summary of all the antics, points of interest, and most importantly, the tally of birds observed. Then, we will request that you send in your pledge of support by either credit card or personal check. Thank you for helping to foster the careers of America's future leading ornithologists and improve our understanding of the birds we all love!

*Sincerely, Krewe Poule d'eau
(LSU ornithology students)*

I pledge my support to the LSU Ornithology Birdathon!

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to pledge: 10¢ ___ 25¢ ___ 50¢ ___ \$1.00 ___ other _____ per species (historical range: 164-211 species)

I wish to make a general donation of \$ _____. To make a general donation, **make checks payable to "LSU Foundation" with "Birdathon" on the memo line.** Or, to use a credit card, provide the following info:

Credit card: type (circle) VISA MC Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on card: _____

Billing address: _____

LSU Ornithology T-shirts. ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Shirts (short-sleeves) are \$15.

Return to: **LSU Birdathon, 119 Foster Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803**; or email your pledge to rgibbo3@lsu.edu. All proceeds support graduate student ornithology research projects at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

**I predict that the species total for the 2007 LSU Ornithology Birdathon will be _____
GET IT RIGHT, GET A T-SHIRT!**

T-Shirt Front



T-Shirt Sleeve



Many of our friends and supporters responded to the May 2006 fundraiser sent jointly by Baton Rouge Audubon and Orleans Audubon to support the Important Bird Area Program in Louisiana. We raised a total of \$10,261 and received 118 donations, including 32 anonymous. Our IBA director, Melanie Driscoll, has been working hard in her first year here. She has established a technical advisory committee and is soon to designate the first round of IBAs. This is an exciting project. We are proud to have it in Louisiana and thank all of you who have contributed to make it possible.

Donations of \$500

Chris Carlton, *Baton Rouge, LA*; J. D. Guillory, *Baton Rouge, LA*

Donations of \$250

Johnny & Karen Armstrong, *Ruston, LA*; Paul M. Davis, Jr., *Alexandria, LA*; Lane & Carol Foil, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Liz Hampton, *Baton Rouge, LA*

Donations of \$200

Peter Monrose, *New Orleans, LA*; Dorothy Prowell, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Fred Sheldon & Jody Kennard, *Baton Rouge, LA*

Donations of \$100

John M. "Frosty" Anderson, *Vincennes, IN*; Byron & Evelyn Alquist, *Metairie, LA*; Elizabeth Baldridge, *Prairieville, LA*; Dewey Carpenter, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Beverly Coates, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Julian & Doris Darden, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Rex & Miriam Davey, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Fred & Sherry DeFrancesch, *LaPlace, LA*;

Margaret P. Fontaine, *Shreveport, LA*; Charlie & JoAnn Fryling, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Sandra L. Guthans, *Baton Rouge, LA*; G. M. Jimmie Guynn, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Dominique G. Homberger, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Jack K. Hopkins III, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Horace H. Jeter, *Shreveport, LA*; David L'Hoste, *New Orleans, LA*; Joy Loudon, *St. Francisville, LA*; Sybil McDonald, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Marie & Warren Mendenhall, *Bourg, LA*; Virginia Mouw, *Tumwater, WA*; Helaine Moyses, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Stephen L. Pagans, *W. Monroe, LA*; Chad & Annette Phillips, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Marianna Tanner Primeaux, *Lafayette, LA*; Judy V. Quinilty, *Houma, LA*; Edward M. Simmons, *Avery Island, LA*; Arthur L. Welden, *New Orleans, LA*



Donations up to \$50

Bonnie J. Adelsberg, *Metairie, LA*; Leif Anderson, *Hector, AR*; Aline Arceneaux, *Lafayette, LA*; Mary Blakene, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Donald Bradburn, *New Orleans, LA*; Gary Braedt, *New Orleans, LA*; Roger & Barbara Breedlove, *Alexandria, LA*; Murrell Butler, *St. Francisville, LA*; Linda Carroll, *New Orleans, LA*; Michael & Crystal Chatelain, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Flora Cherry, *New Orleans, LA*; Cathy Coates, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Michael & Kathleen Crago, *Metairie, LA*; Glen Daigre, *Prairieville, LA*; Sandra D. Davis, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Dorothea F. Dell, *Metairie, LA*; Robert C. Dunnell, *Natchez, MS*; Ruth M. Estorge, *Lafayette, LA*; Cheryl Fischer, *Metairie, LA*; Henry/Joan Folse, *New Orleans, LA*; Ellen H. Franklin, *Covington, LA*; Myles Gaupp, Jr., *Baton Rouge, LA*; Anne L. Gregory, *Prairieville, LA*; Jim Grice, *New Orleans, LA*; April H. Gromnicki, *Wash-*

ington, D. C.; Louise M. Hanchey, *Lake Charles, LA*; Seth & Julia Harris, *New Orleans, LA*; Richard & Holly Haymaker, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Al & Chris Heath, *Bridge City, TX*; John L. Hillman, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Ann Ingram, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Richard Keller, *Hahnville, LA*; Joseph & Joanne Kleiman, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Don Durkin & Lorraine Dawson, *Slidell, LA*; Ron Martin, *Shreveport, LA*; A. Bradley McPherson, *Shreveport, LA*; E. V. Tiny Moore, *Alexandria, LA*; Harry Moran, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Tom & Hope Norman, *Alexandria, LA*; Joe Parker, *Baton Rouge, LA*; Dave Patton, *Lafayette, LA*; Gail Randall, *Pineville, LA*; John P. Reilly, *Metairie, LA*; Jim & Anita Roche, *Kenner, LA*; Lawrence P. Rozas, *Sunset, LA*; Annie Scivicque, *Denham Springs, LA*; E. J. Searcy, *Port Allen, LA*; Clifford Tillman, *Natchez, MS*; Joseph G. Vallee, *Abbeville, LA*; Jean Westbrook, *Metairie, LA*

HIGH ON HOG ISLAND

(Continued from page 2)

professionals on birds and birding, native plants and other fauna. The new Master Birders are required to give a certain amount of service hours to the community to stay current with their certification. This would be a great program to have in Baton Rouge, and a good way for BRAS to keep the fieldtrip program staffed with different leaders.

Another program that we heard about and want to implement is Audubon At Home (AAH). The program is based on citizen science with the message that with increased awareness, each one of us can help with our environment. AAH asks each participant to take the Healthy Yard Pledge for a Healthy Yard, Healthy Country Home, Healthy Schoolyard, and/or Healthy Neighborhood. AAH is a colorful handout outlining the steps needed to fulfill the pledge. While these handouts will be sent from NAS at no charge, it is up to each chapter to find the avenues for distribution.

Advocacy also played an important role in the program. One of the NAS personnel from in Washington, D.C.

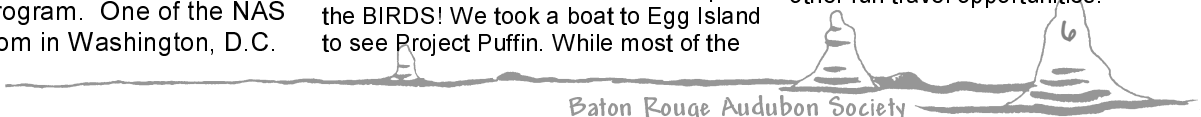
was on hand to explain "How to be an Effective Advocate". We were taken through several steps in a process that will help impact your cause. Depending on the issue, NAS will fly you up to DC (at their expense) and help you lobby with the appropriate legislators on the hill. Or they will send a representative to your area to train you and your committee with that particular issue. Wow! Is that support or what?! We should be able to take on the world now or at least the state!

There is so much more that we learned: significance of the IBA programs, Endangered Species Act, fundraising, education through Audubon Adventures (you can send in articles to tailor make an Adventure for your area), chapter speakers, chapter meetings (they mentioned Ken Kaufman was affordable), newsletters, and membership recruitment, to name a few topics.

And of course an important feature every morning was a bird walk led by the island naturalist through the cool and clean Maine air. We might have been learning about ways to spread conservation but Hog Island reminds you of the reason you are an Audubon member in the first place—the BIRDS! We took a boat to Egg Island to see Project Puffin. While most of the

Puffins had dispersed post breeding, we did manage to see one up close and personal. Other lifers included the Great Cormorant, Greater Black Backed Gull, Black Guillemot (in breeding and non-breeding plumage), Red-throated Loon, Common Eider and Roseate Tern. Many gulls nest on Egg Island with the Puffins. We were able to watch several attempts of Bald Eagles and Ospreys (we saw many nests for both) trying to find a gull lunch on this island. For some reason catching the prey always seemed to be an unspoken invitation for the other eagle/osprey to take their catch. It was bird behavior at its best with the competition between the eagles and osprey pretty intense.

Did I mention the food at Hog Island? There was lobster that slept in the bay that same morning, and homemade granola and bread. It was great. Helaine and I both returned home with more calories than we started with. Hog Island was a learning experience and a pleasure trip. The place is a treasure that Audubon members should use and preserve (see http://www.maineaudubon.org/explore/camp/hi_overview.shtml). The program is one that would appeal to anyone interested in nature or conservation. See www.audubon.org, Audubon at Home, Education for information on this and other fun travel opportunities.



DIFFERENT VIEWS OF CYPRESS

(Continued from page 1)

Preservation and conservation are in everyone's best interest.

At the same time of the formation of the SWG, Governor Blanco also convened an Advisory Panel. This group has not as been as successful as the SWG, mostly due to the conflicting interests of stakeholders at the table. Comprised of environmental NGO's, foresters, state agencies, federal agencies, and private land owners, the AP has tried to develop a list of recommendations for the state. This process has stalled, with no deliverable document yet produced.

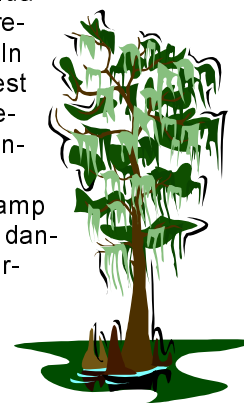
Environmental groups wish for a moratorium of harvest in the Class II & III forests, until restoration measures can be put into place. Foresters, loggers and land owners see the land degrading and realize that if they do not harvest, they might not ever get a chance to make money on the land they have invested in, often for decades. However, if harvested, the land

owners might get a one time cash deal and then lose their lands forever. One solution is to offer cash incentives, such as buying the land from willing owners, to put forests into conservation easements. Forests would then be preserved until restoration measures can be enacted. Plans such as these give land owners an option, when they have held forests in ownership for many years, only to lose them to the degradation through no fault of their own.

Still, in light of these facts, some of the forestry people are strongly urging the state not to enact additional legislation or regulations over any of our coastal forests, Classes I, II, or III. However, the rights of the people of the state, in terms of the right to the protection of value these forests provide, must also be considered. Several available options exist for the Governor, including a moratorium on harvest in Class II and III forests and declaring it state policy not to use cypress mulch for landscaping on state

properties. Use of cypress mulch, which is often produced from clear-cut forests, sends a bad message to the rest of the country when we are continually arguing that these forests are in danger.

Solutions such as moratoria of harvest, conservation easements and buyouts, stopping the use of cypress mulch, and restoration programs are all solutions that we can put into action soon. That the Advisory Panel, with its strong diversity of view, can provide recommendations to the state, remains to be seen. In the meantime, forest growth is on the decline, logging continues, and some of these majestic swamp ecosystems are in danger of being lost forever.



What Our Friends Are Doing

Hilltop Arboretum: Sat. Mar. 10, 9a-3p, Spring Plant Fling plant sale at Hilltop on Highland Rd. including "Conversation in the Garden" with Rob Trawick. For more information, call 767 6916, email hilltop@lsu.edu, or go to www.lsu.edu/hilltop.

Orleans Audubon: The High Island Experience by Bill Wayman, Tues., Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m., Tulane University's Recital Hall, New Orleans: Bill Wayman is a birder who has a special talent for filming birds. He will present his incredible video of birding in High Island, Texas., contact Jennifer at Jacoulson@aol.com.

Felician Nature Society: Audubon Country BirdFest, Mar. 30, 31, and Apr. 1, St. Francisville: Join FNS for birding trips and home tours. The Welcome Reception on Fri. Mar. 30 will feature Dr. Phil Stouffer, "Migration Patterns in Louisiana: What to Expect and When to Expect It." For more information, call 1-800-488-6502 or visit www.audubonbirdfest.com.

Hilltop Arboretum: Sat. Apr. 14, Birthday Party in the Garden at Hilltop on Highland Rd., celebrating 25 years of Hilltop, music by Red Stick Ramblers, great food and fun, tickets \$100, contact Cathy at ccbr@cox.net to volunteer or for more information.

Louisiana Birders Anonymous:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lababirder/>

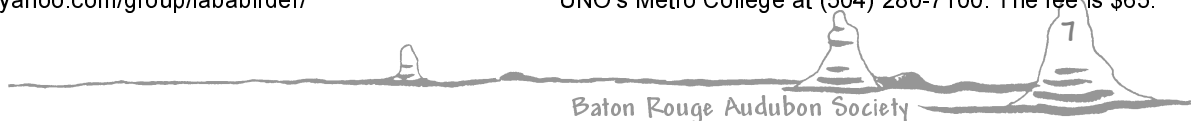
American Birding Association Convention: Apr. 23-28, Lafayette, LA: There will be noted speakers and birders from around the country, with field trips and programs for all birding interests. Audubon's Louisiana IBA program and LSU's Bird Resource Center will have booths. See americanbirding.org under Upcoming Events.

Louisiana Ornithological Society: Apr. 23-28, Lafayette, LA: spring meeting, in conjunction with the ABA Convention, www.losbird.org.

Hilltop Arboretum: Sun., Apr., 22 1-5p Garden Tour I
Sun., May 20, 1-5p Spring Garden Tour II For more information, call 767 6916, write hilltop@lsu.edu, or go to www.lsu.edu/hilltop.

Orleans Audubon Joint Banquet with the Crescent Bird Club, Tues., May 22, Five Happiness Restaurant, New Orleans, cost: \$28.00 per person, including a presentation "Bird Banding in the Honey Island Swamp" by Dr. Donata Henry; contact Jennifer at Jacoulson@aol.com.

Orleans Audubon Offers a Non-credit Birding Course at UNO Metro College: Sat. mornings Feb. 10-May 5: "Introduction to Birding" including indoor and outdoor classes. To register, call UNO's Metro College at (504) 280-7100. The fee is \$65.



Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Baton Rouge Audubon Society
P.O. Box 67016
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896

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