

SWAMP WARS:

THE FIGHT FOR THE
ATCHAFALAYA BASIN



Atchafalaya
BASINKEEPER®

Annual Report
2015-2016

A Word from Your Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Each year Atchafalaya Basinkeeper (ABK) is stronger as an organization than it was the year before. Today we have over 1,000 members and business sponsors, a 19% increase from the year before. Thank you! It is the support of our members, sponsors, volunteers, and partner organizations that allows us to keep up the fight to protect Atchafalaya wetlands and other cypress forests throughout Louisiana.

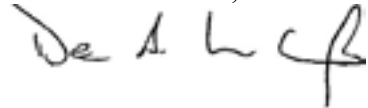
This has been a year of great victories, great losses, and new challenges in our efforts to preserve our beloved Atchafalaya Basin. We are fighting to protect the Atchafalaya Basin against incredible odds and the people determined to destroy it are not going anywhere—their political muscle stronger than ever.

After nine years of serving ABK, Cara Leverett, our staff scientist, will be leaving the organization, a great loss for the Atchafalaya Basin and a great win for the children she will be teaching in Arkansas. When Cara started working for ABK we had only about 100 members and we were about to face the biggest financial crisis since ABK's beginning. Cara helped to found our board of trustees, created and implemented our first fundraising plan, and quickly became the heart of the organization. Working tirelessly day after day, she increased our membership to over 1,000 members and secured the grants that are keeping us in business to this day. It will be extremely difficult to replace Cara. **I will always be grateful for everything she has done for me personally and for the organization.**

Please consider supporting ABK by becoming a sustaining member by signing up for automatic recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual donations. For more information, please go to our website or call Cara (or her replacement) at: (225)685-9439.

Thank you, everyone, for taking a stand in this epic battle to protect our very special corner of this planet.

For Our Children,



Dean A. Wilson

In Memoriam

~Terry Backer~

Terry Backer was a founding member of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper's board of directors and helped to found the Waterkeeper Alliance. He was the Vice President of the Waterkeeper Alliance as well as a Connecticut state legislator. As Waterkeeper Alliance's Executive Director, Marc Yaggi, put it, "Terry had a warm heart and a kind soul. He was a fearless fighter who inspired advocates around the world." After battling brain cancer for five years Terry passed away on December 14th, 2015. Terry was our friend, our hero and will be forever missed.



Terry Backer as we remember him!

In Memoriam

~David Mauritson~

David Mauritson, our dear friend, hero, and volunteer Southwings pilot, died during an angel flight when the plane he was flying crashed in Mobile, AL on Monday, February 1st, 2016. David took on most of ABK's monitoring flights after Dan Luke injured his back and could no longer fly. David, a cardiologist and an attorney, was one of the most beautiful people we have ever met, volunteering much of his time to help his fellow humans and to protect our planet for future generations. What a loss for humanity and the planet! He is a beautiful angel that will live forever in our hearts.



David Mauritson, Woody Martin (Sierra Club), and Dean Wilson prepare for a monitoring flight.

2015 Atchafalaya Basin Awards

On January 31st, 2016 David Brown and David Mauritson earned honors for years of work protecting Louisiana's wetlands including the Atchafalaya Basin.

David Brown received the Super Swamper Award from Atchafalaya Basinkeeper engraved with the following: "Super Swamper Award. To David Brown, with tremendous gratitude for your commitment to save what is left of Louisiana's wetlands and the Atchafalaya Basin. You are a Super Swamper and you are our hero!"

David Brown, an attorney, has represented Atchafalaya Basinkeeper free of charge from the very beginning. David Brown also serves on ABK's Board of Directors.

David Mauritson, a SouthWings volunteer pilot, took on most of ABK's flights in recent years. This award was presented to his wife after his passing earlier this year: "Atchafalaya Angel Award. In Memory of David Mauritson, with eternal gratitude for years of selfless devotion to protect Louisiana's wetlands and the Atchafalaya Basin. He will forever be our hero and one of God's most beautiful Angels!"

Atchafalaya Basin: Overall Status

The major threats to the long-term integrity of the Atchafalaya Basin's ecosystems are excessive sediment, unsustainable cypress logging, widespread illegal development of wetlands, oil and gas industry activities, and poor water quality. Much of this is a result of the lack of enforcement of environmental easements and environmental laws designed to protect our wetlands and waterways.

Despite the federal government granting the first-ever permit for the roads used for unsustainable cypress logging in the Atchafalaya Basin, we managed to stop the logging for now, thanks to a foreign company that cares for our children's future more than our own government does.

The biggest new threat to the Atchafalaya's swamps comes with the reviving of the East Grand Lake project by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). ABK's challenges to illegal development and the Corps' practice of granting after-the-fact permits continue. Along with sedimentation and cypress logging, illegal development of wetlands is one of the biggest threats to the future of the Atchafalaya Basin. In 2016, the Louisiana Black Bear was removed from the Endangered Species List (delisted), having a major negative impact on our legal actions in the Basin. There is a major, new initiative to privatize our public waters and waterways, which ABK is working to stop.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN 2015-2016

In 2015, with help from our Board of Directors, our Board of Trustees, and many of our members, ABK managed to increase its membership to over 1,000 members (up from 840 members in 2014), and about 42% of our annual budget came from memberships, business sponsorships, and other direct donations. The other 58% of our budget came from the generous support of foundations and corporate grants. We are very thankful for the support of our foundations, members, and sponsors, which makes ABK's work possible!

Louisiana Black Bear Delisting

Despite strong opposition from most environmental groups, including the Louisiana Black Bear Conservation Coalition, the Louisiana Black Bear was removed from the Endangered Species List. With as few as 500 bears (from a maximum of 400 bears before the listing) in the entire state, the massive development of what were supposed to be permanently protected black bear corridors, and a bear population that is not expanding, the delisting was a political decision, which we hope to challenge in court as soon as possible. Not surprisingly, the only environmental group that commented in favor of the delisting was TNC.

ABK sent comments on behalf of the following groups: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper (ABK), Delta Chapter Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), Louisiana Bayoukeeper, Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West (LCPA-West), Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper, Restore Explicit Symmetry To Our Ravaged Earth (Restore) and Waterkeeper Alliance. Many other groups and scientists sent their own comments against the delisting.

Oil Industry Issues in the Basin

The Corps of Engineers approved a permit for Enterprise (an oil company operating in the Basin) to lay a pipeline along an illegally built pipeline canal, which is the same right-of-way where Shell already has a pipeline that is completely out-of-compliance with the original permit. We are very disappointed with the Corps for issuing this permit. Permits should never be issued on right-of-ways that are already out-of-compliance with existing permits, especially when the Corps cannot enforce the terms of the permits because the Enforcement Department does not even own a boat. We do admit that Enterprise was very professional and did a great job of minimizing impacts during construction. Enterprise also allowed us to inspect their work without any restrictions, demonstrating the professionalism of a company with

On another note, Enterprise recently applied for a permit for a different pipeline using the same right-of-way as the first one. ABK is opposing the permit after multiple failed attempts to meet with the company to find ways to minimize impacts during construction.

Oil Spills

This is truly a success story: ORB Exploration will pay \$715,000 in fines and expenses for spilling crude oil in the Atchafalaya Basin. ORB will pay \$615,000 to the U.S. Justice Department and \$100,000 to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in civil penalties and response costs.

The company already paid more than \$1.5 million in cleanup for the January 2013 oil spill reported by ABK. The Coast Guard's federal oil spill fund reimbursed a cleanup company for another \$227,224 in expenses related to that spill. ORB's manager of the Frog Lake Oil Field in the Basin threatened ABK's director after Dean reported the huge oil spill to the Coast Guard in 2013.

The consent agreement states that ORB was allowed to pay a smaller amount than it might have otherwise because of its financial troubles. The agreement also requires that ORB keep the Justice Department informed of any actions that might affect the future of the company over the next couple of months. ORB entered into a similar consent agreement in 2013, about two months after the spill, for violating federal safety rules. It paid a \$32,100 fine to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"This settlement holds ORB accountable for the harms to the environment caused by its oil spills into threatened, sensitive natural areas and requires the company to take important corrective measures including improving its environmental compliance and preventing future spills from its oil production facilities," said Assistant Attorney General John Cruden for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "I am grateful for the close relationship with our federal and state partners that brought such a successful resolution to this case."

“This joint action shows that LDEQ is committed to pursuing anyone who does something to harm our state’s environment,” said Secretary Chuck Carr Brown of LDEQ. “Our mission is to protect human health and the environment, and those two things are too precious to risk by allowing unscrupulous operators to flout environmental laws in the name of profit.”

A federal complaint filed with the court also charged that the company failed to comply with Coast Guard orders involving the cleanup. It outlined safety violations found during a 2015 EPA inspection of the company’s Frog Lake oil production barge. LDEQ charged the company with failing to report the January 2013 spill in a timely manner to the agency, including a violation of a requirement to notify the state’s emergency hotline. ORB must establish a secondary level of containment at the Frog Lake facility as part of the settlement. Also, it must provide advance notice to the Coast Guard before future oil transfer operations take place.

Monitoring and Enforcement Program

In 2015, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper (ABK) and Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club conducted four monitoring flights and reviewed most permits and permit applications for work in wetlands in the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers (Corps). ABK persists with legal actions challenging illegal wetland development and the Corps of Engineers’ policy of rewarding environmental criminals with after-the-fact permits.

Swamp Shield Campaign. Our coastal cypress-tupelo swamps saved again.

The Swamp Shield Campaign is a coordinated effort by ABK and our allies to stop any threats to our cypress forests as early as possible. This proactive program to shield cypress-tupelo swamps from further destruction worked very well in 2015, and no illegal cypress logging operations were found in coastal Louisiana. In addition to cypress logging, we monitor for illegal pollution and illegal development of wetlands. Thank you to SouthWings and all of our volunteer pilots for making our monitoring flights possible!

Wood Pellet Industry and Cypress Logging. Another victory!

In March of 2015, we thought that our efforts to protect our coastal cypress forests would fail. The Corps granted the first permit for creating logging roads through wetlands, making the practice of unsustainable cypress logging legal for the first time. Meanwhile, Point Bio Energy LLC had pledged to source wood for its wood pellet operation from the Atchafalaya Basin, the Red River Basin, and coastal Louisiana. Around the same time, the British company Drax Biomass built two huge domes next to the Mississippi River Bridge in Baton Rouge to hold wood pellets for export; it also constructed one wood pellet plant in Louisiana and another one in Mississippi. **In response to the threat of the wood pellet industry to our swamps, we met with a coalition of environmental groups and created the Save Our Native Forests Coalition.**

Drax Biomass and ABK

In 2015, Dean took the Vice President of Sustainability and the Sustainability Manager of Drax Biomass into the Atchafalaya Basin. In August 2015 Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), ABK, SouthWings, and Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club met with Drax Biomass’ CEO, the Vice President of Danish company Dong Energy, and members of the Sustainable Biomass Partnership, for a swamp tour and had a long conversation about issues related to the biomass industry.

Drax Biomass has voluntarily decided that it will not source wood from cypress-tupelo forests. Drax Biomass has also committed to the following:

- Drax Biomass will use southern yellow pine as the source material for pellets made at their facilities.
- Drax Biomass will not source from natural hardwood forests if they are being converted to pine plantations, or if the material is from such plantations converted since 2008.
- Drax Biomass cannot and will not source any material from wetlands that are being drained or otherwise being converted into no wetland uses, even if impacted wetlands are mitigated.

While the State of Louisiana is determined to contribute to the utter destruction of our magical cypress-tupelo forests, a foreign company (Drax Biomass) recognized the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin and our cypress-tupelo forests and is voluntarily moving away from sourcing wood from cypress-tupelo swamps. ABK and Drax Biomass do not agree

on every issue, but so far it has been a pleasure working with the company.

German Pellets

Early this year German Pellets went bankrupt. If the State of Louisiana would invest all the money it currently wastes on useless and destructive industries, instead in the ecotourism industry and in protecting our unique natural resources, Louisiana would be a paradise for generations to come. What a shame! The economic output of birdwatching (a small fraction of the ecotourism industry's output) in the U.S. is \$107 billion per year and Louisiana has the best ecosystems for birdwatching in North America, assuming that they can be protected from wholesale destruction.

Legal Actions

The Tulane Environmental Law Clinic (New Orleans) regularly provides a tremendous amount of support—Thank you! We are also very grateful for all the hard work and assistance provided by attorney Buzzy Joy of Joseph Joy and Associates and ABK Board Member and attorney David Brown of Baton Rouge.

It is only after exhausting all other possibilities that ABK takes legal action. It is an act of last resort and always a sign of failure by our State and Federal agencies to uphold their obligations to enforce our environmental laws and to protect the best interests of the public and the nation. Before any legal action is taken, ABK goes to great lengths to investigate the situation, to report the violations, and to do whatever is in our power to help our agencies do their jobs. **The way the laws are now enforced, the penalty is greater for keeping an undersized bass than for illegally damming a bayou or damaging hundreds of acres of wetlands without a permit.**

Bayou Postillion. Another victory!

A jury ruled in favor of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Trustee Dan Collins' whistleblower lawsuit against the State of Louisiana. Instead of investigating all of the corruption related to this case, the State is appealing the decision. This comes as no surprise!

Illegal Roads and Dams Along I-10

ABK and LCPA-West sued the Corps for unlawfully issuing a permit to legitimize the illegally built roads and dams in wetlands protected by environmental easements. The judge ruled against us; ABK is in the process of appealing this decision.

Challenge to General Permit NOD-13

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Gulf Restoration Network and LCPA-West are challenging in court this general permit used to legitimize massive destruction of wetlands, while avoiding comments by the public and other agencies.

Fisher Lake Lawsuits

Background: Together with LCPA-West, ABK took legal action against another illegal developer in the Basin after multiple failed attempts to get the Corps to take action. The Corps responded by giving an after-the-fact permit to the developer and conducted an evaluation based on the developer's own false data to justify the permit. ABK complained to the head of the Corps' permitting department, without results. In the next step, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, LCPA-West, and LEAN—represented by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic—filed suit against the Corps, challenging the Corps' issuance of the after-the-fact permits for development of Atchafalaya wetlands. By issuing after-the-fact permits, the Corps encourages destructive behavior, sending the message that it is easier to seek forgiveness than permission. Such permits encourage the degradation of wetlands, precious and endangered natural resources that are critical to the livelihood and culture of many Louisianans.

The challenged permits purport to validate prior unpermitted activity. Seeking to replace natural wetlands with a private duck pond, developers dug a ditch more than two miles long through wetlands, drained the water out of a lake, and installed a dam and metal water-control devices to artificially control the flow and level of water—all without obtaining permits required under the Clean Water Act. These actions alter the hydrology of over 700 acres of lake and forested hardwood swamp in the Atchafalaya Basin in an area designated as critical habitat for the Louisiana black bear. The project also blocked access to the area by sport and commercial fishermen. By granting after-the-fact permits, the Corps dismisses the Clean Water Act and rationalizes the unpermitted actions of the developer.

The landowners filled Bayou Cane with dirt and the Corps, again, refused to take action against them. The Corps also approved another permit, this time a General Permit, for the illegal developers to expand the dam. The illegal developers also made an elevated road without a permit and the Corps completely ignored it.

The Fisher Lake lawsuit against the Corps for granting after-the-fact permits to environmental offenders is ongoing. The lawsuit against the landowner for damming and dredging Bayou Cane and draining Fisher Lake without a permit is still pending the outcome of our lawsuit against the Corps.

Privatizing Louisiana Waterways

There is a major, new initiative to privatize public waterways all over coastal Louisiana. Gates, plugs and dams are being built all over coastal Louisiana, blocking access to public waters. In Belle River, the Corps granted a permit to block access through a canal despite the canal cutting through wetlands considered Navigable Waters of the U.S. The landowners who claim to own those water bottoms clearly do not own the water in the canal.

A gate was built across Beaver Slough (in the eastern Atchafalaya Basin) and the Corps took no action. Some companies are trying to obtain permits to build gates and plugs/dams to block public access. ABK commented on a permit application to put a gate across Horse Bayou (in Vermillion Bay); we managed to stop that permit. We are now fighting to prevent S.M. Energy from obtaining a permit to build plugs/dams on four natural streams, to block public access in the Wax Lake Outlet area of the Basin.

DNR, The Nature Conservancy: An unholy alliance?

For years, major landowners in the Atchafalaya Basin have successfully pushed for the diversion of public funds to finance projects that improve oil and gas access, to block access to public waterways, and to divert river sediment to transform our Basin's wetlands into uplands. Excessive sedimentation is the biggest threat to the Atchafalaya Basin's swamps. The Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP), the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) previous dredging projects at Bayou Postillion, Bayou Fourche, and East Grand Lake are prime examples. Those projects were designed behind the scenes by ABP officials, Basin landowners and oil and gas companies and were then billed by LDNR officials as so-called "water quality" projects. In reality, the Bayou Postillion and Bayou Fourche projects were designed

to enhance oil access along with blocking public access and the East Grand Lake project was designed to divert sediments to create uplands.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) along with the ABP-LDNR, with funds from Shell Oil and major landowners in the Basin, is now working to revive the East Grand Lake project. TNC is financing research on increased crawfish production linked to river water introduction, which could create the perception that their efforts are science-driven, thereby justifying the massive project that could eventually destroy thousands of acres of our Basin's swamps, lakes, and bayous. ABK has diligently attempted to work with TNC and ABP, an effort which has produced few results. In fact, ABK sent a letter to ABP-LDNR asking to be part of a Memorandum of Understanding between TNC and ABP and to be a partner in the development of those projects. ABP-LDNR has denied the request of ABK to be part of the MOU, inviting ABK to participate only during the comment period (as required by law). ABP-LDNR has indicated that they plan to put landowner vision at the forefront in designing those projects, a practice which ABK strongly believes is against the best interests of the Atchafalaya Basin and the public. Landowner vision in the past has primarily focused on improving oil industry access, blocking public access, and creating uplands to avoid restrictions on development activities, while increasing property values and eliminating traditional Cajun fishing. In this era when parishes and levee boards are suing oil and gas companies for dredging access canals that have caused such severe environmental damage to our wetlands it is time to stop the efforts to utilize public funds and resources for the personal benefit and private gain of select landowners and their oil and gas interests.

Corps of Engineers Versus the Environment. Update (with good news)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the main federal agency enforcing the two federal laws (Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean water Act) that protect streams, lakes, and wetlands. But for whom does the Corps of Engineers really work—the public, future generations, or a privileged few?

Here are some updated facts:

For the first time ever, the Corps is sending us the developers' responses to our comments, allowing us to respond to them instead of automatically believing everything the developer states in the permit application and granting the permit. Thank you, Colonel Hansen!

To enforce the law regarding illegal wetland development and permit compliance, the New Orleans District of the Corps (encompassing all of coastal Louisiana including the Atchafalaya Basin) now employs one enforcer (up from zero). The Regulatory Department still does not own a boat. They still use the violator's or permit applicant's boat or vehicle to inspect sites and they still refuse to ride with fishermen or Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to inspect sites. In other words, it is unethical to inspect the crime scene with the victim, but not with the criminal. As far as we know, the New Orleans District does not have a single person reviewing permit compliance. In addition, the Corps still refuses to take action against certain gross violations of federal law. However, as soon as the fishermen and ABK take legal action to confront the illegal developers, the Corps protects the violators by issuing a cease-and-desist order, followed by an after-the-fact permit.

Tulane's letter complaining about the Corps' boat policy remains unanswered. ABK and other groups, represented by Tulane, requested that the Corps send final decisions to all entities that comment on permits; the Corps denied the request.

The Corps wants to increase the amount of the Mississippi River sediment load that goes into the Atchafalaya Basin. Since they realigned all of the main rivers and bayous that feed our swamps to capture Atchafalaya River water from the curves of the river maximizing sediment loads moving into wetlands, they are effectively silting up thousands of acres of swamps, lakes, and bayous. This process will greatly accelerate if the TNC-sponsored East Grand Lake Project moves forward.

ABK is committed to doing whatever is in our power to hold our government (and others) accountable and put an end to the Corps' pattern of unethical decisions regarding violations of our environmental laws. Our future, our children, and our Basin are counting on us.

Education & Outreach Program

In 2015, ABK directly connected with over 2100 people through PowerPoint presentations, paddling trips, swamp tours, workshops, and meetings, educating them about the Atchafalaya Basin, wetland ecology, the importance of and threats to Louisiana's forested wetlands, and applying the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act to protect wetlands.

ABK Hiring Development Director!

We are looking for a very special person to replace Cara. If you want to join the frontlines, working with one of the most efficient groups protecting wetlands in the country, give us a call at 225-685-9439 or email us at basinkeeper@gmail.com.

“We had the thing like nobody else has”— Wilmer Blanchard, Cajun fisherman.

The above quote refers to the majesty of Atchafalaya Basin before sedimentation began to fill in wetlands and waterways. The Corps' policy is to divert up to 65% of the Mississippi River sediment load into the Atchafalaya Basin. Over time, the Corps has realigned all of the main rivers and bayous that feed the Basin's swamps, maximizing the sediment load moving into our wetlands, effectively silting up thousands of acres of swamps, lakes and bayous.

Although the Atchafalaya Basin has been much degraded, we still have something that no one else has and we believe that it is worth protecting and restoring for our children's natural heritage. ABK is committed to doing whatever is in our power to hold our government accountable and put an end to its pattern of unethical decisions relating to violations of our environment. Our future, our children, and our Basin are counting on us to succeed.

Thank You, Basinkeeper Business Sponsors!

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P.O. Box 410

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Thank you for your support!

ABK would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their time and/or resources: the folks at SouthWings, especially Meredith Dowling and pilots David Mauritson, Lance Rydberg, and Jerry Kirby; John and Becky Williams of Pack and Paddle; Greg Guirard; David Brown; Machel Hall, Adam Babich, Lisa Jordan, Liza Calderon, Corinne Van Dalen, and the student attorneys at the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic; Gordon Schoeffler; Buzzy Joy; Robert Wiygul; Stacey Scarce; Jody Meche; Dan Collins; Judith Z. Gardner and John Guillory; Milton Daigle; Anik Boudreau and Faren Serrette; the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Board of Directors and Board of Trustees; Senator Fred Mills, Jr.; Henderson Mayor Sherbin Collette; St. Martin Parish President Guy Cormier; Stacy Sauce, Sandra Crochet, Linda Cooke, and all of the volunteers that have helped with mailouts; and all of the members and business sponsors whose generosity makes our work possible. We also thank the musicians that volunteered at the second-annual Save the Basin Event: Yvette Landry, Drew Landry, Faren Serrette, Michael Doucet, Touche Pas, Farouche, Randy Vidrine, Blake Miller & Jimmy Breaux, Philip Allemond, & Zachary Richard. Thank you to the artists that donated to the Save the Basin Event: Bob Coon, David Chauvin, Greg Guirard, Kerry Griechen, Marilyn Vice, Andrea Rubinstein, Rhyanne Bayham, Lori Henderson, Rex Berard, Quapaw Canoe Company, Blake Drinkwater, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Gwen Roland, Derra Leonard, Dana Manly, Roslyn Bernard, Bill Tally, Stacey Scarce, Lue Svendsen, Liz Gerard, Linda Meaux, Margaret Melancon, Lyn Fontenot, Theresa De 'Perrodil, Bob Adams, Beth Stark, Casey Hitty, Braden Gary, Tim Smith, Charlene Robin, Susanna Craig, Val McClanahan, Jennifer Cart, Fleur De Lis Potterie, Jimmy Jones, Laura Doucet Westbrook, and Georg Popp. The Save the Basin event would not have been possible without the generosity and support of Beryl Kemp of Artmosphere, Anik Boudreau, Stacey Scarce, Tricia Hunt, Marilyn Vice, Betty Bass, Carol Antosiak, Howard Darlington, Natalie McElyea, Jeremy Chittenden, Mark Stoltz, and Tara Harvey-Gros. Tremendous gratitude goes to Greg Guirard for his ongoing, herculean efforts to increase members, sponsors, and donors.

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper could not continue to operate without the generous support that we receive from several environmentally conscious and responsible foundations and corporations. Thank you!

How Can You Help?

- Don't buy cypress mulch!
- Renew your membership, donate, and attend events.
- Become a Business Sponsor.
- The way you spend your money makes a big difference. Do business with Basinkeeper Sponsors.
- Spread the word. Talk about the issues.
- Encourage others to join ABK in the fight to save the Basin.
- Invite Basinkeeper to do a presentation for your civic or school group.
- Don't support businesses that use or sell cypress mulch.
- Volunteer.
- Report possible violations in Atchafalaya wetlands and waterways by calling: 225-685-9439.

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Staff

- Dean A. Wilson, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper & Executive Director
- Cara Leverett, Staff Scientist/ Executive Assistant

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