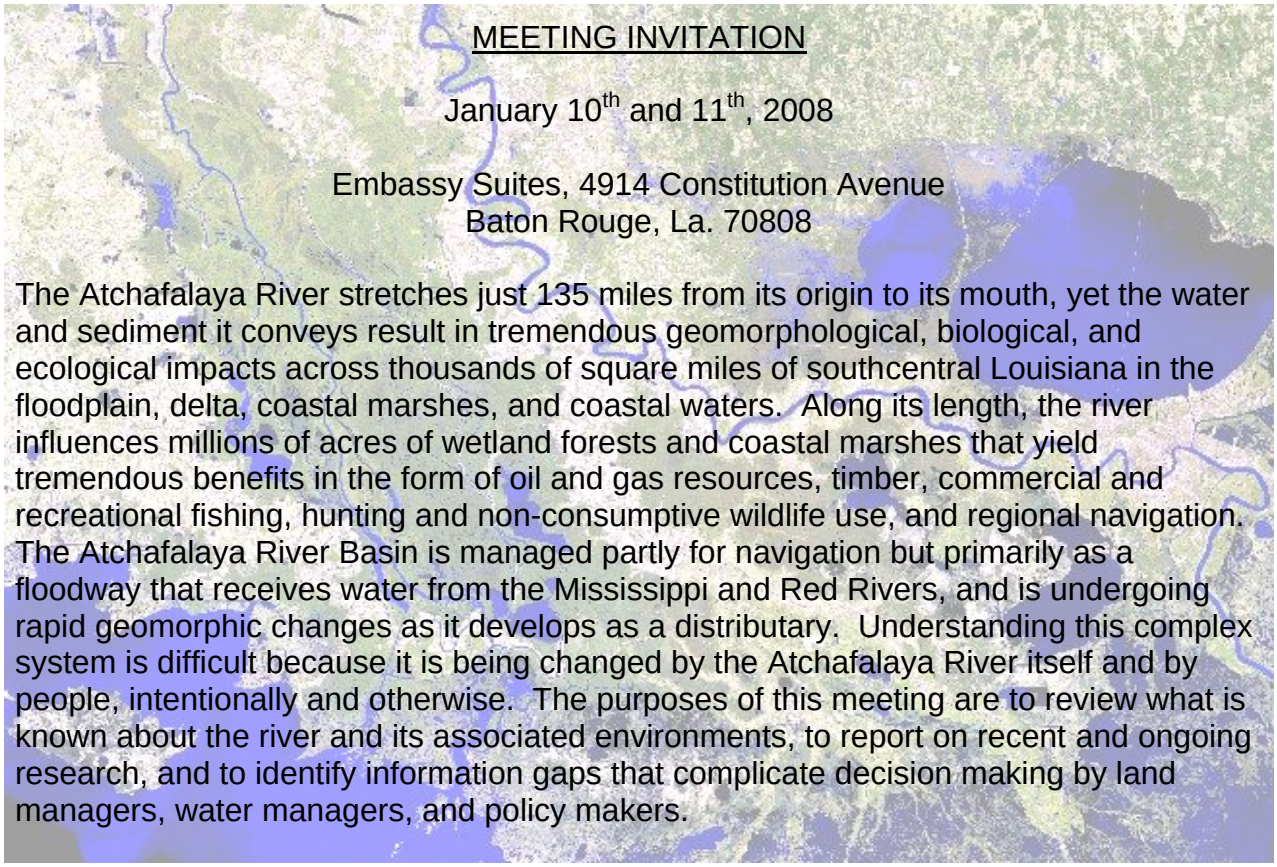
Ecosystem Functions and the Dynamic Atchafalaya River
from the Old River Control Structure to the Continental Shelf



MEETING INVITATION

January 10th and 11th, 2008

Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

The Atchafalaya River stretches just 135 miles from its origin to its mouth, yet the water and sediment it conveys result in tremendous geomorphological, biological, and ecological impacts across thousands of square miles of southcentral Louisiana in the floodplain, delta, coastal marshes, and coastal waters. Along its length, the river influences millions of acres of wetland forests and coastal marshes that yield tremendous benefits in the form of oil and gas resources, timber, commercial and recreational fishing, hunting and non-consumptive wildlife use, and regional navigation. The Atchafalaya River Basin is managed partly for navigation but primarily as a floodway that receives water from the Mississippi and Red Rivers, and is undergoing rapid geomorphic changes as it develops as a distributary. Understanding this complex system is difficult because it is being changed by the Atchafalaya River itself and by people, intentionally and otherwise. The purposes of this meeting are to review what is known about the river and its associated environments, to report on recent and ongoing research, and to identify information gaps that complicate decision making by land managers, water managers, and policy makers.

Registration: $35/day, or $50 to attend both days. The registration form is attached and on the Conference Website: http://www.crcl.org/atchafalaya.html

Lodging: Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Avenue, BR 70808. A block of hotel rooms will be held until December 19th for Wed and Thurs night (January 9th and 10th) at the rate of $109/night. Contact the reservation department at (225) 924-6566 or 1-800-EMBASSY, and mention the "Atchafalaya River Symposium."

Meals: A mid-morning coffee break, lunch, and a mid-afternoon coffee break will be provided both days. Breakfast and dinner are "on-your-own."

Conference Website: http://www.crcl.org/atchafalaya.html

Meeting Organizers:
The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU AgCenter

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PRELIMINARY MEETING AGENDA

1) Dendrochronological analysis of wetland forest productivity and hydrology (Amos, PEEG)
2) Oyster Production In The Atchafalaya/Vermilion Estuarine Complex: An Overview (Banks, LDWF)
3) Trends in Wildlife Use of Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, Louisiana With Emphasis on Dredged Material Islands (Carloss, LDWF)
4) Wildlife Management In The Atchafalaya Basin (Davidson, BBCC)
5) The Influence Of The Atchafalaya River On Wetland And Estuarine Functioning: Management Implications (Day, LSU)
6) Hydrology of forested wetlands in the Atchafalaya River Basin (Day, USGS)
7) Flooding and hurricane effects on tree growth in the Atchafalaya Basin (Doyle, USGS)
8) Bird Survey Of The Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana (Fontenot, Acadiana Park Nature Center)
9) TBA: A Historical View of Events Surrounding the Controversy of the Old River Control Structures (Hale, USACOE)
10) How does flooding in the Atchafalaya River basin shape young-of-the-year fishes? (Halloran, LSU AgCenter
11) The Emergence and Land Growth of the Wax Lake Delta: A Template for Natural Wetland Creation (Holm, LSU)
12) Development of a Management Plan for Wild-Caught Crawfish in Louisiana (Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse)
13) Sedimentation Patterns Within the Central Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana (Hupp, USGS)
14) Effects of Spatial Scale on Assessment of Dissolved Oxygen Dynamics in the Atchafalaya River Basin, Louisiana (Kaller, LSU AgCenter)
15) Plant Response to Microhabitat Changes Following Hurricane Disturbance. I: The Vegetative Cover (Keeland, USGS)
16) Plant Response to Microhabitat Changes Following Hurricane Disturbance. II: The Soil Seed Bank (Keeland, USGS)
17) Rethinking the Atchafalaya Basin as a Reservoir of Ecological Diversity during Trying Times (Kemp, Audubon)
18) Observation of Saltwater Intrusion into the Atchatfalaya Bay (Li, LSU)
19) Isotopic Signature Of Nitrogen Along the Atchafalaya River (Mason, LSU AgCenter)
20) A Study of Hydrodynamics, Salinity, and Waves in the Acadiana Bay System (Miller, Taylor Engineering)
21) Marsh loss mechanisms where river inflow is high and subsidence is slow: how estuarine marshes can erode even in the virtual absence of wave and tidal energy (Nyman, LSU AgCenter)
22) Hypoxia Offshore the Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers (Rabalais, LUMCON)
23) Comparisons of Harmful Algae from the Barataria and Atchafalaya Estuaries and Nearshore Waters (Rabalais, LUMCON)
24) Fish Research In The Atchafalaya And Wax Lake Deltas: A Review (Peterson, LSU)
25) Population Abundance, Movements And Size Characteristics Of Pallid Sturgeon From The Old River Control Complex, Louisiana (Reed, LDWF)
26) Wax Lake Delta: Depositional Architecture Delta Evolution, and Impacts Beyond Atchafalaya Bay (Roberts, LSU)
27) Studying Denitrification and Dendrochronology to Identify Controls on Nutrient Removal by the Atchafalayla River Basin Louisiana, USA (Scaroni, LSU AgCenter)
28) A Walk Through Coastal Restoration and Protection Planning in the Atchafalaya Basin Since the 2005 Hurricane Season (Snider, CRCL)
29) The GIWW as a distributary of river water to coastal Louisiana (Swarzenski, USGS)
30) Aquatic, Invasive Species in the Atchafalaya Basin (Thomas, LSU AgCenter)
31) The Use of Science in Natural Resource Planning and Management in the Atchafalaya Basin (Watson, MIT)
32) Hydrologic Influences on Carbon, Nutrient and Sediment Transport in the Atchafalaya (Xu, LSU)

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Meeting Registration Form *Please type or print legibly.*

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Organization _____

Phone_____ Email _____

Vegetarian lunch? (circle one) yes no

Meeting Registration Fee: $35.00/day or $50 for both days

Make Check or Money Order payable to "The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana" "
If paying by Credit Card please provide the following information and your signature below.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Name on Credit Card: _____
Billing Address: _____
Billing Zip Code: _____
Signature: _____

Mail this form and payment by January 4, 2008 to:

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
P.O. Box 1827
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

For additional information, contact:

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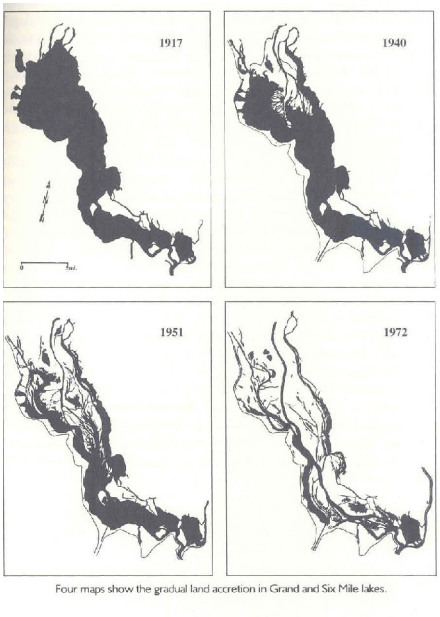

Four maps show the gradual land accretion in Grand and Six Mile lakes.

Land accretion in Grand and Six Mile Lakes from 1917 to 1972, from the book "Designing the bayous: The control of water in the Atchafalaya Basin 1900-1995" by M. Reuss (2004)