

# LOS NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE **Louisiana Ornithological Society**

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**Submission Deadline Date for  
Spring LOS News is March 3, 2005.**

*Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*  
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## 2005 LOS Winter Meeting

Lafayette, Louisiana

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 18-20, 2005

Where do you go in the middle of winter to see scads of geese, ducks, egrets, ibis and wintering shorebirds? Why, to the rice fields in the middle of Cajun Country, of course! And that will take us to the gateway to the rice fields: Lafayette, which is also renowned for its wintering hummers! The LOS will hold its 2005 Winter Meeting on February 18-20, 2005 in Lafayette. Our Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Best Western Hotel of Acadiana. Registration opens at 6:00 pm on Friday and the evening program will begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

Registration for the Saturday evening meeting will also begin at 6:00 pm and there will be a cash bar available. The hotel will provide a tasty dinner on Saturday night for the modest price of \$10.00. Please add that cost to your registration fee if you plan to take advantage of this great bargain. The buffet will begin at 6:30 pm. The program will begin at 7:30 pm followed by the reading of the bird sightings list and a short business meeting. Please complete the attached registration form and return it, along with your registration fee, to Judith O'Neale at the address listed on the form.

### Friday night presentation:

Two short programs will be given on Friday night. Donata Roome Henry (she has married since we last heard from her-congratulations Donata!!) will give us an update on her studies of the Swainson's Warbler. Donata was the recipient of two LOS grants which helped to fund her research on this species.

Clay Green, Post-doctoral Research Associate at ULL, will be presenting a program on the Reddish Egret. His studies of this fascinating bird were done at Laguna Atascosa in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

### Saturday night presentation:

"The Natural World of New Brunswick" by Alain Clavette of New Brunswick, Canada.

When Alain left Quebec City for New Brunswick in 1989 to pursue a degree in biology

at Universite de Moncton, he did not anticipate spending the rest of his life there. It was his passion for birds that made this Quebecer choose biology as a subject and Moncton as his home. Why Moncton? "Well my parents are Acadians so my roots must have been calling me!!" The city boy immediately fell in love with the natural history and people of this province. Through the years he became more and more interested in the culture of his Acadian ancestors and also the Micmac people.

As a passionate birdwatcher and naturalist he visited every corner of this province. He worked as a park interpreter for five years in three of the Maritime's National Parks. He then started getting more involved in tourism through the private sector by guiding hiking, birding and coach tours.

His passion for the unspoiled natural world and all of its offerings has given him the opportunity to appear in several television and radio shows both locally and nationally. Recently he has been developing his own nature documentary about the migration of birds through North America. This documentary was shot in part in Louisiana in 2004 and will air on French television next year.

Alain will give a Power Point presentation covering the natural world of New Brunswick. His presentation will include climate, endangered species, tourism infrastructure, and a bit of the Acadian culture. He also will discuss composition of habitats and species of birds, focusing on some of the northern specialties like Bicknell's Thrush. The program also will highlight the Bay of Fundy and its ecosystem.

### Field trips:

Field trips will be conducted Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. These will involve half day trips to:

1. The University of Louisiana Lafayette Farm in Cade
2. Lake Martin
3. Rice fields west of Lafayette
4. Lafayette gardens for winter hummingbirds.

*continued on page 4*

## Minutes of the LOS Fall Meeting

### Cameron - October 29, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Fay at 7:10 P.M.

Marianna Tanner, Judy Fruge, Joelle Finley and Judith O'Neale were thanked for their work at the registration and sales tables. Tommy Walker and Theresa Blappert were thanked for their donation of the hospitality table.

Karen introduced the evening's speaker, Dennis Demcheck, who presented a slide show of his best photographs titled "Natural Colors: A High Speed Survey of Birds, Insects and Reptiles", exploring color patterns found in nature and the use of those patterns in cryptic coloration and camouflage.

LOS officers and Board Members were introduced:

President Karen Fay, Secretary Joelle Finley, Treasurer Judith O'Neale, Past President Rosemary Seidler, Board Members Joan Brown and Lee Ellis. Also introduced were LOS News Editors Kay Radlauer and Dennis Demcheck and JLO Editor Jim Ingold.

Not Present: Vice President Bill Fontenot, Board Member David Booth.

White Lake Advisory Council wants two nominees from LOS to serve on the advisory board. Jay Huner has agreed and one other person is needed.

Kay Radlauer made a presentation on America's Wetlands Birding Trail which stretches from Texas to Mississippi off of I-10 and I-12. Draft booklets for the 12 loops were displayed. The final printing will be funded with an America's Wetland grant provided by Shell Oil Company. The booklets should be available to the public in January. She thanked landowners who opened their lands and Bill Fontenot for his hard work.

Victoria Bayless presented the BRAS 2005 Patch, a beautiful Blackburnian warbler.

The Cameron Restaurant will open at 5 AM on Saturday and the field trip led by Karen Fay will begin at 7 AM in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel.

The Lighthouse Road will be open unless it rains.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

*Submitted by Joelle J. Finley, LOS Secretary*

### Cameron - October 30, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Fay at 7:23 P.M.

Marianna Tanner, Judy Fruge, Joelle Finley and Judith O'Neale were thanked for their work at the registration and sales tables. Tommy Walker and Theresa Blappert were thanked for their donation of the hospitality table Friday night.

Karen introduced the evening's speaker, Ro Wauer from Victoria, Texas. Ro retired from the National Park Service after 32 years and has written 21 books and many articles for journals and magazines. He has led trips for Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours.

The title of his presentation was "Birds and Butterflies of the Texas Big Bend".

LOS officers and Board Members were introduced:

President Karen Fay, Vice President Bill Fontenot, Secretary Joelle Finley, Treasurer Judith O'Neale, Past President Rosemary Seidler, Board Members Joan Brown, and Lee Ellis. Also introduced were LOS News Editors Kay Radlauer and Dennis Demcheck and JLO Editor Jim Ingold.

Bill Fontenot called the check list. 163 species were seen on Saturday; 183 species for the week-end.

Kay Radlauer made a presentation on America's Wetlands Birding Trail which stretches from Texas to Mississippi off of I-10 and I-12. Draft booklets for the 12 loops were also displayed. The final printing will be funded with an America's Wetland grant provided by Shell Oil Company. The booklets should be available in January, 2005 at Louisiana Welcome Centers and kiosks. A biking trail is also proposed. She thanked landowners who opened their lands and Bill Fontenot for his hard work.

A motion was made by Mary Joe Krieger and seconded by Marty Guidry to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The voice vote was unanimous.

Financial Report by Treasurer Judith O'Neale:

Cash & Bank Accounts:	\$5,460.99
CD & Life Member	17,400.00
Total Assets	\$22,860.99

A motion was made by Joseph Vallee to raise the dues as published in the LOS Newsletter, seconded by Marty Guidry. The cost is necessary to help offset the printing of the journal. Discussion followed as to whether the Journal should be abolished or mailed only to those members who wanted it. The voice vote to raise the dues was unanimous. The increase will go into effect January, 2005. Dues may be paid early at the current rate.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

[www.losbird.org](http://www.losbird.org)

*Make a note . . .*

**Upcoming Meetings**

**February 18 - 20, 2005 • Lafayette**

**April 22 - 24, 2005 • Cameron**

**October 28-30, 2005 • Cameron**

### New Members as of October 2004

David L. Anderson, MNS, Baton Rouge LA

Theresa A. Blappert, Norco, LA

John Quinn, Shreveport, LA

Eric Walsh, Shreveport LA

### *In Memory*

LOS lost our long-time member Margaret "Margie" Griffith November 3rd after a lengthy illness. She was an avid birder, prize-winning orchid cultivator, explorer across three continents, fitness enthusiast and owner of a successful small business. She will be missed.

### LOS Dues Increase

The LOS Board of Directors is announcing the following dues increase for LOS Membership starting with 2005 as voted on at the October meeting:

- Regular: ..... \$20.00
- Family: ..... \$25.00
- Junior (under 14): ..... \$7.50
- Student: ..... \$10.00
- Senior (over 65): ..... \$15.00
- Senior Family: ..... \$20.00
- Library ..... \$15.00 (Please add \$2.00 for foreign subscriptions)
- Contributing: ..... \$50.00
- Sustaining: ..... \$100.00
- Life: ..... \$300.00
- Family Life: ..... \$500 (Installments may be arranged for Life memberships)

Membership Renewals are due January 1, 2005  
 LOS Membership dues are payable  
 the beginning of each year.

*Please send your check to:*  
 Judith O'Neale, LOS Treasurer  
 504 Whitebark Drive  
 Lafayette, LA 70508-6362

# Louisiana's

## Birding Calendar 2005

- Audubon Country BirdFest** April 1-3  
 St. Francisville 225.721.0476
- Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration** April 15-17  
 Grand Isle 877.693.6700
- Southwest Louisiana Migration Sensation** April 14-16  
 Lake Arthur 337.774.5923
- The Great Louisiana BirdFest** April 14-17  
 Mandeville 985.626.1238
- Neotropical Songbird Tour** May 14  
 Atchafalaya Sherburne 337.394.7508
- Wood Stork Week** mid-late July  
 Sherburne South Farm 337.948.0255
- Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration** July 29-30  
 St. Francisville 225.721.0476
- Folsom Hummingbird Festival** Sept. 10  
 Folsom 985.796.9309
- Lafayette Hummingbird Day** Sept. 17  
 Lafayette 337.993.2473
- Wings Over the Wetlands** Sept. 30-Oct. 1  
 Jean Lafitte 800.689.4797
- Experience Atchafalaya Days** Month of Oct.  
 Atchafalaya Heritage Area 225.342.2181

**For more information:  
 Visit [birdlouisiana.com](http://birdlouisiana.com).**

## BIRDING ON US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROPERTIES IN LOUISIANA: II. ATCHAFALAYA BASIN - INDIAN BAYOU

Christopher G. Brantley & Michael E. Stout

In a previous article we discussed the role of the US Army Corps of Engineers in the Atchafalaya Basin and introduced public access lands that are available for recreation. This piece highlights the 28,500-acre Indian Bayou Area in St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes. The area is located between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, north of Interstate 10 and south of US Highway 190 west of the Atchafalaya River.

There are diverse habitats intermixed at Indian Bayou. While the majority of the area is in various stages of bottomland hardwood forest, headwater and backwater lakes, bayous, non-flooded forests and open areas are also found within the flooded forest habitat. Before the area was purchased, farming and forestry operations were conducted on the property. Recently, several hundred acres have been reforested and plans are currently being developed to restore degraded forest habitat. A number of recreational opportunities are available at Indian Bayou and include hunting, fishing, crawfishing, hiking, mountain biking, paddling, boating, and birding.

Birding can be exceptional at Indian Bayou. Some of the resident species include Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Wading birds are particularly numerous and include Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, and White Ibis. Anhinga, Wood Stork and Roseate Spoonbill can be sighted during the warmer months. Several waterfowl species can be observed from late fall through early spring.

Indian Bayou supports relatively high densities of bottomland hardwood forest breeding species including White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, and Eastern Towhee. Osprey and Bald Eagle have nested on the property, and Mississippi, Swallow-tailed and White-tailed Kites also have a breeding season presence. Indian Bayou is also a great locale for wintering Eastern Bluebirds along the Atchafalaya River Levee road and has good sparrow habitat in the old field restoration areas.

A seasonal bird checklist has been developed for the Indian Bayou area and can be accessed at:  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/BRO/IndianBayou-Birding.pdf>.

It's also linked on our project recreation page at:  
[http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/Recreation\\_Sites\\_Atchafalaya.asp](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/Recreation_Sites_Atchafalaya.asp).

Printed copies are available from the Corps project office in Port Barre, the district office in New Orleans, and the Atchafalaya Welcome Center located along I-10 at the Butte La Rose Exit 121.

To access the east side of Indian Bayou from Interstate 10,

take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121) and follow the levee road north. From U.S. Highway 190, exit at Krotz Springs and take Louisiana Highway 105 south. Parking areas are located all along the west side of the levee road and are marked on the project map.

To access the west side of Indian Bayou from Interstate 10, take the Henderson exit (exit 115) and go south to first stop light, turn left and continue until you reach the levee road. Pat's Restaurant is on the left. Turn left and go north along the levee. From U.S. Highway 190, exit at the Spillway Road (look for sign), go past the Courtableau Control Structure and follow the west protection levee road south to Indian Bayou. Parking areas are located along the levee and are marked on the project map.

Be aware that roadway access to Indian Bayou can be difficult during wet weather conditions and four-wheel drive is often required. A detailed map is included with the birding brochure and can be downloaded at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/BRO/IndianBayou-Birding.pdf>.

### **Winter Meeting - continued from page 1**

There will also be a full day trip Saturday morning to the Lacassine Refuge area to see the thousands of ducks and geese, hawks, shorebirds and other winter species of the extensive rice country. Another full day trip will be offered to the Cheneyville area to search for Sandhill Cranes, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Henslow's Sparrows and other winter birds of the mixed pine woods and agricultural region.

Field trips will depart from and return to the parking lot of Best Western Hotel Acadiana. Morning trips will depart at 7:00am and afternoon trips will depart at 1:00pm. Try to arrive 15 minutes early. We will caravan using private vehicles. Carpooling to reduce vehicle numbers will be organized as we assemble.

Accommodations:

Best Western Hotel Acadiana

1801 W. Pinhook Rd. Lafayette LA 70508

337-233-8120 / 800-826-8386 / Fax 337-234-9667

We have a block of rooms reserved at \$62.00/per night. Please stay at the Hotel Acadiana, if possible, to help us with LOS overall costs.

There will be an open bar and a few snacks on Friday evening and an open bar and buffet on Saturday evening. Choice of menu is listed on registration form. Please submit your registrations by February 11, 2005 so that we have an accurate count on the number of meals needed.

Come join the fun as we learn more about our Cajun roots, discover some of the best winter avian spectacles Louisiana has to offer and come face to face with those little celebrities we all go crazy over. Now, Mr. Allen, how can I get you to come to my house?

*Submitted by Dave Patton and Karen Fay*

# Where To Eat



Second  
in a Series

By Judith O'Neale

## Lake Martin Rookery Some suggestions from local birders and Breaux Bridge natives

### Directions to Lake Martin

Lake Martin can be reached from Lafayette or from I-10 at the Breaux Bridge exit.

From I-10 Exit 109 (Breaux Bridge) travel south on Hwy. 31. Turn right onto Lake Martin Rd which will take you to the Rookery. From Lafayette's Evangeline Thruway, Pinhook Road and Hwy 94 going toward Breaux Bridge there is a light at Hwy 94 and 353. At the light you will take a right to Lake Martin. At approximately 4.9 miles, you'll see a sign on the right with an arrow pointing to Lake Martin - Bird Sanctuary. Turn left onto Rookery Road; the rookery is on the left as you drive the gravel road around Lake Martin. At the boat ramp, you can take a right on Lake Martin Road which will end at Highway 31.

### Eating Places near Lake Martin

At the intersection of Lake Martin Road and Hwy. 31, turn right and go 2/10 of a mile and turn left on Hwy 251. (1) Goulas Grocery (1014 Ruth Bridge Hwy 332-6006) is on the right just after the turn. They are reported to have very good cracklings.

Returning to Hwy 31, take a right and continue 3 miles into the Town of Breaux Bridge. At the light, turn right and (2) Chez Jacqueline (114 E. Bridge St) offers Chinese food. Café Des Ami (140 E. Bridge St) is on the right, before the bridge. This is my personal favorite place to eat in the area; they have excellent food. They also have live zydeco music on Saturday mornings. It's a great place to have lunch after a morning of birding at Lake Martin.



**Downtown Breaux Bridge**

Continuing straight ahead through the light which becomes Hwy 328, you'll make a bend to the right at the 2nd light and the (3) Champagne's Breaux Bridge Bakery is on the left at 105 S. Poydras, reported to have good bread and king cakes. Continue on and make a left at the next light. The (4) Corner Bar PoBoy's (625 Grand Point Rd.) is on the left and has good sandwiches.

Return back toward downtown and turn right (north) on Hwy 328. (5) Le Café (124 Rees St) is one block on the right, offers poboyos, good fried fish and shrimp dinners.

Continuing north on 328, (6) Rees Street Market, formerly Champagne's Supermarket (241 Rees St.) is a block further on the left. Reported to have the best sausage (chicken & pork) plus some say the best boudin.

Head north again and you'll reach Interstate 10. Just north of I-10 you'll see the Texaco station on the left. Behind the station is (7) Veron's Butcher Block which also has good boudin.

Return south on 328 back toward town and turn right on Hwy 94. You see the (8) Bayou Cabins B&B on the Bayou Teche about 1/2 mile on your right. More boudin and cracklings.

If you continue through the intersection of 94 and 31, (9) Mulate's (325 Mills Ave.) is on the left. They serve Cajun cuisine and have Cajun music and dancing nightly.

To reach a couple of more suggested spots, take a right on Hwy 31. About 3 miles on the left is (10) Glenda's Creole Kitchen, a tiny place but reported to have good plate lunches.

About 1 mile further is the (11) Poche Market, Restaurant and Smokehouse. Good but spicy marinated pork on Wednesdays - famous cracklings, plate lunches 10:30-2 M-Sa BBQ lunches on Sunday.

Returning south on Hwy 31 if you continue back toward town, you'll find (12) Charlie T's (530 Berard St.) on the left at Roy St... Good boudin, cracklings and specialty meats.

For more information on the areas food and history : [www.breauxbridgelive.com](http://www.breauxbridgelive.com) 888.565.5939



**Breaux Bridge to Lake Martin**

# -BIRD CLUB- PROFILE

Second in a Series

## Lafayette Birders Anonymous (LABA)

by Judith O'Neale

In January 1996, Acadiana Audubon was losing its president and the organization was going to be disbanded. At the LOS winter meeting in Lafayette, a group of folks decided that we needed a birding group to continue field trips in Lafayette. This was my first LOS meeting and I asked what was needed to get started. The consensus reply was that only two things were really needed: a field trip leader and some way to get the word out. Dave Patton volunteered to do the field trips and I volunteered to do a monthly newsletter.

We had our first field trip in February 1996 and nineteen hardy souls met at 9 am (yes, Dave had to take care of his hummingbird feeders first) and headed to Cheneyville. The temperature was 16 degrees and the ponds had ice on them as we headed further north. Highlights of that first trip were lots of Sandhill Cranes, a Cinnamon Teal and a River Otter. After a chilly morning of birding, we went to Lea's café in Lecompte for food and an informal first meeting. After submissions for a new name for the group, the folks voted to remain anonymous. We still have no officers and only one meeting a year—at Lea's during our January field trip. Recently, some organizational changes were in the works, and members said "do anything you want, just don't change anything." Lee Clark took over field trip duties for a few years and now Doc and Matilde Smith are our field trip coordinators.

We now have 90 members from all over Louisiana and four other states; I guess my newsletter has been the primary reason for this. I try to include some birding identification tips or help for new birders in each edition. With the help of Rose and Jack Must of Wild Birds Unlimited, we continue to recruit new birders to the group. Our field trips include two overnight trips a year: A September weekend to Smith Point Hawk Watch and High Island and a spring trip to Grand Isle. Of course, Lake Martin is one of our "special" places to go birding. We also make annual trips to Abita Springs, Sherburne, Cameron/Sabine, Lacassine, Chicot State Park

and the Louisiana State Arboretum.

Our group pays for the Lafayette CBC fees, funds the awards for the Acadiana Migratory Bird Day (AMBD) poster contest for local schools, and helps with purchases of school supplies. On AMBD we set up spotting scopes at Lake Martin so that anyone interested can see the baby spoonbills, herons, egrets and night-herons, up close and personal.

A small group of dedicated birders have had the opportunity to expand their birding areas by joining Judith on trips to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, Southeastern Arizona and Trinidad/Tobago. These trips were not LABA sponsored but all the folks that went were LABA members. Actually, Virginia Rettig, who has since left us for the prestigious Cape May, kept saying: "This was the best birding trip I've ever been on, where can we go next year?"

We invite new members to join our group by sending \$10/year to LABA, c/o Judith O'Neale, 504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette LA 70508, [jloneale@aol.com](mailto:jloneale@aol.com).



– REGISTRATION FORM –

***2005 WINTER MEETING – LAFAYETTE LA***

**Best Western Hotel Acadiana**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number registering for meeting \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending buffet \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate number of people requesting each selection:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Smothered Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Choice of Vegetable

\_\_\_\_\_ Hamburger Steak w/Gravy & Mashed Potatoes, Chef's Choice Vegetable

All meals served with Dinner rolls, Chef's choice of dessert, Iced Tea and Coffee

**To pre-register by February 11 to insure a banquet request,  
complete form and send with check, payable to LOS, to:**

Judith O'Neale  
504 Whitebark Drive  
Lafayette LA 70508  
337-981-1011  
Email: [jloneale@aol.com](mailto:jloneale@aol.com)

Judith O'Neale  
Louisiana Ornithological Society  
504 Whitebark  
Lafayette, LA 70508

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Permit No. 507

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*Dues are payable in January of each year; Please check your mailing label.*

## Membership Renewal Time

Membership Renewals are due January 2005 for the coming year. Please check your label. If it says Dec 2003 - you owe for both 2004 and 2005 (**this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew this month**). If it says Dec 2004, your 2005 membership is due. Please note renewal rates on the form. Thank you for renewing your LOS membership.

### 2005 LOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

***Please join today!***

*Dues are payable January 1st of each year;  
Please check your mailing label for expiration date.*

Renewal     New Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUES STRUCTURE:

\_\_\_ Regular: ..... \$20.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Family: ..... \$25.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Junior (under 14): ..... \$7.50/yr  
\_\_\_ Student: ..... \$10.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Senior (over 65): ..... \$15.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Senior Family: ..... \$20.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Library ..... \$15.00/yr\*  
\_\_\_ Contributing: ..... \$50.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Sustaining: ..... \$100.00/yr  
\_\_\_ Life: ..... \$300.00\*\*  
\_\_\_ Family Life: ..... \$500\*\*

\* Please add \$2.00 for foreign subscriptions

\*\* Installments may be arranged for Life memberships

Make check payable to: **LOS**  
Send to: Judith L. O'Neale, LOS Treasurer  
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508-6362