

## Bonne Terre Garden Fair

### Southdown Plantation

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join the Houma area's third annual Celebration of garden enthusiasts!

Gates open at 8:30 a.m.

1208 Museum Dr., Houma, La.

Admission-\$3; Children under 12-Free

Advance Tickets only \$2

Call 985-446-1316 • bonne.terre@yahoo.com

## Across the Board

January 10, 2008

Present were directors Alexander Doyle, president; David Luke, vice-president; Brian Rivet, secretary; Terry Trahan, treasurer; Tracy Duval, J. D. Boudreaux, Eroy Acosta, Roger Dale DeHart, Larry J. Daigle and Lloyd Gibson, advisor. Also attending were Michael Guidry, general manager; James Funderburk, attorney; and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved 151 new members, the minutes of the December 10th regular board meeting, the Annual/District Meeting Planning Committee Meeting and the special meeting of December 27, 2007 (Acct. No. 1404342003).

The financial report, approved by the board, highlighted interest earnings, cash on hand, rate comparison showing SLECA having the lowest rates compared to other area utilities, line loss, kilowatt hour sales for the month, cumulative sales to date, cost of service, equity, TIER, electric and total revenue versus cost per kilowatt hour.

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Guidry reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) The recently passed Energy Bill includes vehicle fuel efficiency standards, renewable fuel and continued tax breaks for oil and gas companies; (3) The phasing out of the incandescent light bulb, that is also included in the Energy Bill, will begin in 2012; (4) Several key officials of Pedernales Electric Co-op recently retired; (5) The PSC voted to allow Entergy to proceed with re-powering the Little Gypsy Power Plant from natural gas to a coke-burning plant but did not approve Entergy's request to begin collecting increased rates "before" the plant is operational; (6) NRG and Powerspan have announced a project that will demonstrate the ability to capture and sequester CO<sub>2</sub> at its Sugarland, TX power plant by 2012; (7) On December 18th there was a security alert at Port Fourchon; (8) Beauregard Electric, Claiborne Electric and WST sent crews to Oklahoma to help with power restoration following a recent ice storm; (9) The Courier printed the winners of the 2007 Christmas Lighting Contest but incorrectly listed SLECA's number of customers and the amount awarded to each winner; (10) The Chet Morrison bulkhead situation is still unresolved; (11) Governor Jindal will call for the elimination of a penny of the sales tax that businesses pay on natural gas, utilities and food and water at a special session; (12) SLECA paid \$931,009 in 2007 property taxes; (13) A tornado hit the Dularg area on December 26th causing damage to two of SLECA's transformers; (14) A new member survey will be conducted sometime during the week of January 14th; and (15) SLECA's members saved nearly \$3,890,222 million year-to-date by the board going with actual fuel costs rather than the fixed fuel offer.

The manager's report and expenses, the safety report, and the attorney's report and fees were then approved by the board.

Mr. DeHart then announced his candidacy for the District 51 Representative District Seat B on the Democratic Central Committee and said he would appreciate any support from the board.

The meeting was then adjourned.

You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (504) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

## SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, four lucky SLECA consumers have their account numbers randomly selected by computer. The numbers are then hidden in the articles in the SLECA News section of LOUISIANA COUNTRY. Then it's up to you. If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25.00 in cash or have your winnings applied to your bill. It's that simple. So, if you are not reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY you're missing out on great local articles and the possibility of winning extra money.

## SLECA News



Mike Guidry, Manager  
Alexander Doyle, President  
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.  
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



## SLECA District Meetings scheduled during March

**SLECA's Board of Directors and Employees cordially invite you to join your friends & neighbors at the following District Meetings in preparation for your 70th Annual Membership Meeting.**

### SLECA District Meetings Scheduled

SLECA has announced those members who have qualified as candidates for board of director positions in districts 7, 8 and 9 (Acct. No. 8201087901).

Qualifying in District 7 is Terry Trahan, 313 Lake Decade Ct., Houma. Trahan returns unopposed.

In District 8 incumbent director Eroy Acosta, 1018 Tower Tank Rd., Morgan City, returns unopposed.

Also returning unopposed in District 9 is incumbent director Tracy B. Duval of P.O. Box 629, Amelia.

The district meetings are scheduled as follows:

### DISTRICT 7

Tuesday, March 11

Bayou Black Fire Station  
2820 Savanne Road, Houma, La.

### DISTRICT 8

Wednesday, March 12

Stephensville Fire Station  
1227 Stephensville Road, Morgan City, La.

### DISTRICT 9

Thursday, March 13

Amelia Civic Center  
Lake Palourde By-pass Road, Amelia, La.

Registration for all meetings begins at 6:00 p.m. and closes sharply at 7:00 p.m. The meetings begin immediately after registration. Refreshments will be served and

## Check account names now to speed District and Annual Meeting registration

To help speed your registration at SLECA's 2007 District and Annual Meetings, please take a couple of minutes and check something for us now.

Check the name (or names) listed on the mailing label on the front of this newspaper. This is how your account is listed on our records. If any changes have occurred, you need to contact us to find out what needs to be done to make the proper corrections. Your registration is important in the event of voting and also for the prize drawing at the end of the business session.

Only members of record (those listed on the bill cards and newspaper labels) may register at the meetings. A joint membership of husband and wife counts as one registration. A tenant may not register if the account is in the landlord's name, nor may a landlord register if the account is in the tenant's name. A qualified representative of a church, business or organization may register if proper documentation is presented.

We urge you to contact us as soon as possible if any changes or corrections need to be made on your records.



Eroy Acosta



Tracy B. Duval



Terry Trahan

prizes will be awarded.

Directors elected at the district meetings are sworn in at SLECA's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 18, 2008, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

### EROY ACOSTA

Stephensville native Eroy Acosta, who was elected to the SLECA board in 1987, served his community as a restaurant owner for many years. Acosta is a member of the St. Martin Parish Sewage District Board and a member of the St. Martin Parish Water District Board. The Stephensville Volunteer Fire Department was established through his fundraising efforts and he served 21 years as president of the department.

Acosta serves District 8, which includes the areas of Stephensville, Bayou L'Orse and part of Gibson. Acosta is also one of two SLECA representatives on the board of directors of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives where he serves on the statewide Legislative

Committee. Acosta says he enjoys serving the community at both the state and local level.

### TRACY DUVAL

Amelia resident Tracy V. Duval has served on SLECA's Board of Directors since 1993. Duval is Justice of the Peace for Ward 9 in St. Mary Parish. She is also secretary to the St. Mary Community Action Agency. Duval represents SLECA District 9, which covers areas of Amelia, Siracusaville and part of Bayou L'Orse.

### TERRY TRAHAN

Director Terry Trahan, elected to SLECA's Board in 1987, serves as board treasurer. He has worked with Trahan's Heating and Air Conditioning for 34 years and is part owner of the company. Trahan is a native of Bayou Black who enjoys hunting at his deer lease in Mississippi in his spare time. He serves District 7, which includes areas of Bayou Black, Gibson, Southdown West, Ouiski Bayou and The Lakes.

## SLECA offers four academic scholarships to local students

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2008-2009 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L. E. Fletcher Community College. (Acct. No. 7052384100) Four scholarships valued at \$1000.00 each are being offered to graduating high school seniors to help with the costs of tuition, room and board, or books.

Qualifying students must live on SLECA electric lines or have a parent who is a manager or owner of a company that is a SLECA member.

Financial need is considered as well as scholastic performance.

See your Guidance Counselor for an application or call SLECA at 876-6880 in Houma or 631-3605 in Amelia.

The deadline for applying for this scholarship is March 31. Send in your application now!

## Notice of holiday office closing

The offices of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association will be closed on Good Friday, March 21. A standby crew will be on call at all times to handle emergencies during the holiday.



## Gibson student visits China and 10 European countries

2003 Youth Tour trip got Rogers 'addicted to travel'

Marc J. Rogers, Jr. recalls that when he won South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's (SLECA) Youth Tour trip to Washington, D. C. in 2003 as a 10th grader from Vanderbilt Catholic High, the son of Gibson residents Marc and Lydia Rogers had no idea it would be the first step on a global exploration of new sights and experiences.

This February, 21-year-old Marc Rogers, Jr. took time from his studies as a history major at Tulane University with minors in business and philosophy after spending a fall semester at John Cabot University in Rome studying art history to urge south Louisiana students to take advantage of the contest that "gave me a global appetite."

Marc, the son of a civil engineer and a retired schoolteacher who reside in Gibson who also has an older brother, recalls his Youth Tour experience and tours of Washington, D.C. were his first "hands-on" experience with history and architecture.

"It was my first large scale, non-school or educationally related travel experience into a new culture, and it made me hungry for more," he notes. After graduating from Vanderbilt in 2005, Marc enrolled at Tulane barely six hours before having to evacuate as Hurricane Katrina bore down on the Crescent City. He ended up spending his first freshman semester at Nicholas State, sharpening six years of Spanish he already had and working on sophomore level studies before getting back to temporary quarters at Tulane while recovery work was underway in New Orleans.

Then as a junior, Marc joined a group of fellow Tulane students studying abroad at John Cabot University in Rome. While living off-campus and taking four classes a week with his Mondays, Fridays and weekends free, Marc joined classmates on trips to Paris, Nice, Madrid, Edinburgh, Budapest, Dublin, Prague, Monaco, Venice and various other destinations across western and eastern Europe from August through December, 2007 (Acct. No. 2354175200).

"My Spanish helped because it is similar to Italian, but Rome is a pedestrian city and you can walk three to four miles a day just to get to a bus stop because as an ancient, historic city many of its streets are too narrow for buses or cars. And in Rome someone's usually on strike. Tulane stresses study abroad, but there are big differences in American and Italian universities. The government pays for a college education in Rome, but students have to get to class two hours early to get a spot and then the professor might not even show up," Marc explains.

"Eastern Europe was a big surprise to me. Almost everyone spoke English, they were friendly and there was remarkable growth and development. Rome was a beautiful city and I hope to go back some day," he adds, but now he's trying to enter the Tulane Law School in the fall of 2009, a career inspired by working at a New Orleans law firm.

He also recently joined a friend on a 10-day trip to China and intends to visit Argentina and Chili during spring break. Marc believes travel and experiencing different cultures and people is the best educational opportunity possible.

So what of Marc's future plans and will he remain in Louisiana?

"I'm planning to study out of state and I certainly want to see more of the world, but my roots will always be in the rural community of Gibson no matter where I roam. I found that Louisiana is much like Europe in how it stresses cultural awareness and community. It's a slower, more elegant pace where family matters most," Marc comments. "Since Katrina, the eyes of the world have been focused on Louisiana and our state could be at the forefront of demonstrating what can be rather than what should be. John Edwards kicked off his Presidential campaign here because of the Katrina recovery work and what we're doing with the wetlands, cultural enrichment and by electing young people with new ideas has gotten the world's attention and that means something to younger generations."

With luck, when Marc satisfies his wanderlust, he'll stake his claim to part of Louisiana's future as well. Until then, he urges other south Louisiana students to take a shot at SLECA's annual Youth Tour contest, even though their summers are packed with 4-H or sporting events, family vacations and school-related activities, such as band camps.

"It can be a life-changing experience," he proclaims.

March 2008 • LOUISIANA COUNTRY • Page 9

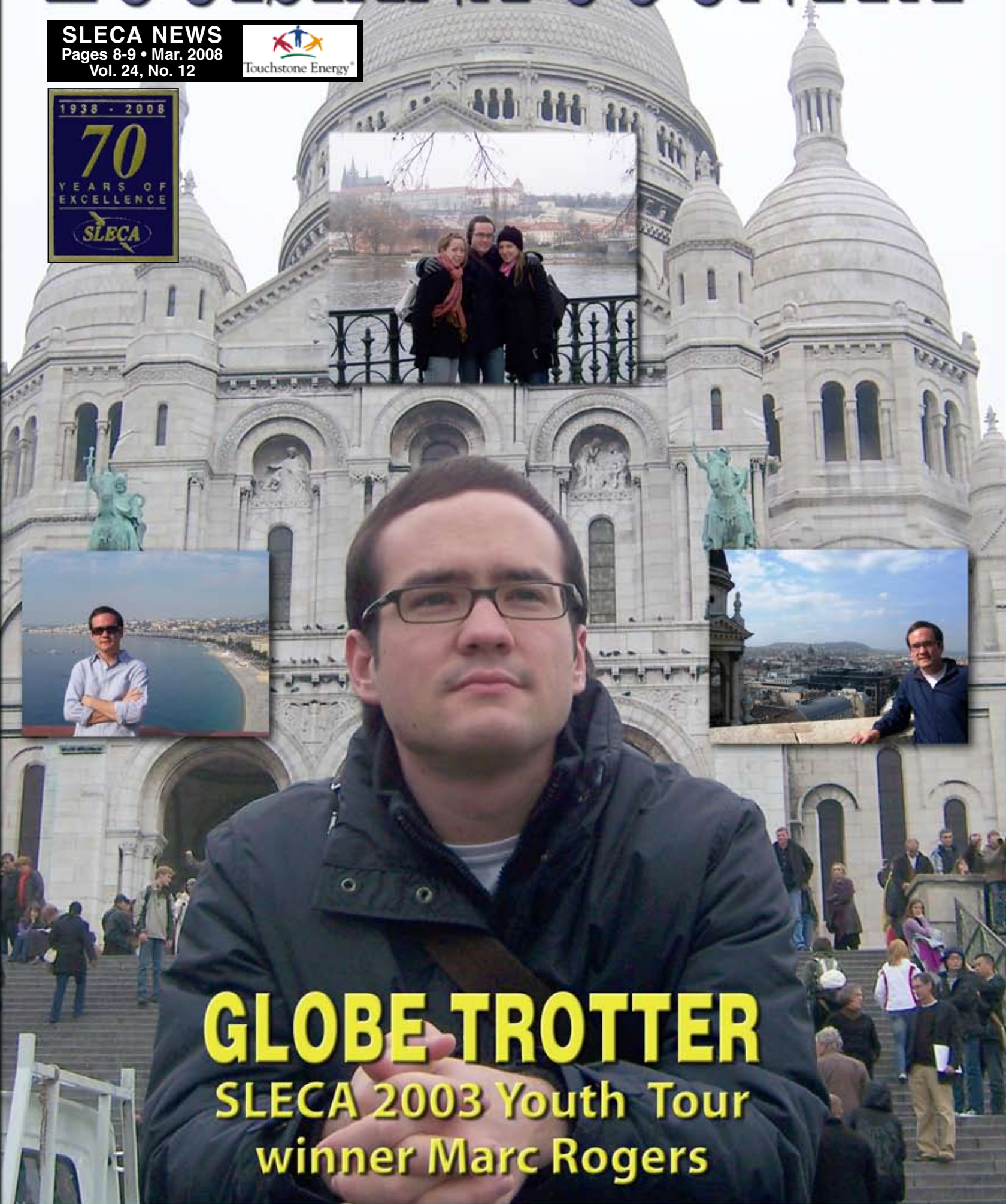


Rogers and his friends visit the Vatican.

Your Cooperative Connection

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**GLOBE TROTTER**  
SLECA 2003 Youth Tour  
winner Marc Rogers