

# SLECA's Farmers' Market and Craft Festival seeks vendors

SLECA's annual Farmers' Market and Craft Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at SLECA's Houma headquarters, 2028 Coteau Rd. (Hwy. 660). The popular and well-attended event established in 1988 has attracted thousands of visitors (Acct. No. 1451615529).

Festival Coordinator Elaine Robertson reports over 200 craft booths, along with produce of every kind as well as music, educational exhibits and much more, will be offered at the annual event. Vendor space remains available. For more information, call Robertson at 876-6880 or 800-256-8826.

## Labor Day Notice



SLECA's offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. All outages or service emergencies will be handled by the 24-hour co-op dispatch service.

## Across the Board

June 1, 2009

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, Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor, Roy Landry, manager of accounting and finance, Steve Giroir, manager of engineering, Travis Breaux, lead map draftsman and Mark Felger of Lanoux & Felger.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved a motion that all SLECA officers, advisor and ALEC representatives and alternates remain the same for the next year.

Mike Guidry then introduced Mr. Felger who presented the results of SLECA's 2008 audit showing that SLECA continues to be in a fairly strong financial condition.

After the board approved the audit report, Mr. Guidry introduced Mr. Giroir and Mr. Breaux for a presentation of maps and detailed information in the areas being considered for redistricting.

The minutes of the May 11th regular board meeting, 193 new members and the ALEC report was then approved by the board.

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 Waxman-Markey Bill that was passed by the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 21st had some changes that were favored by the cooperatives; (3) Entergy CEO Wayne Leonard expressed skepticism over the viability of wind and other renewables ability to replace coal and other fossil fuels for the generation of electricity; (4) Entergy Louisiana is asking the PSC to approve increases to help recover costs due to Gustav and Ike and to restore the depleted storm fund reserves; (5) The Louisiana Senate passed a resolution declaring May 18th as Louisiana Electric Co-op Day in conjunction with the Legislative Cookout that was well attended by legislators; (6) Family Fun Day was a huge success with very good employee participation; (7) SLECA's Emergency Work Plan was reviewed on May 12th in preparation for hurricane season; (8) There have been no violations for this period for NERC/SERC; and (9) The steel pole line to Chabert Medical Center was energized and work continues on the lake DeCade lines. (Acct. No. 2600509100)

Next, the board approved the renewal of SLECA's property and casualty insurance, the manager's report and expenses, the safety report and the attorney's report and fees.

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 News



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## The Club at LaTour brings links-style golf and new residential development to Lafourche Parish

This year's British Open held at Scotland's Turnberry golf course captured the attention of millions across the globe as legendary player Tom Watson vied for his ninth major championship at the age of 59.

Though Watson lost in a playoff to a much younger Stewart Cink, his performance on the true links course had many amateur golfers wondering what it would be like to play in the birthplace of golf with its steady crosswinds and undulating, treeless terrain.

Now folks in SLECA's service area, along with those visiting the region, will get a taste of links-style golf when The Club at LaTour opens this month.

Drawing comparisons to famous links courses such as Turnberry, Carnoustie, and Royal Troon, LaTour is located in Mathews off Hwy. 90. The course was constructed on a 600-acre tract of land that was once a sugar cane field, but more than 1.5 million cubic yards of dirt was moved to provide the topography reminiscent of a true links-style course.

The course was designed by PGA Tour Pro and former LSU star David Toms, a native of Shreveport. Toms, who also designed Carter Plantation in Livingston Parish, collaborated with Ken Morgan of Morgan Golf Design on the project.

According to LaTour Pro Rick Miller, the result is exactly what the late John Brady Jr. and his family envisioned when they began the development several years ago.

"I would put this course right up there with some of the premier courses in Louisiana," said Miller, who spent four years at English Turn, a championship course south of New Orleans that has played host to the PGA Tour. "It's on par with courses like the Country Club of Louisiana in Baton Rouge and La Triomphe in Broussard."

Under construction for nearly two years, LaTour is set to open this month as a semi-private facility. The course itself has actually been open to members for several months, although the finishing touches are being applied to the 4,000-sq. ft. temporary club house and other facilities needed to accommodate visitors such as restrooms, a pro shop and refreshments.

Miller said players will find a sporting challenge that's tough, but fair.

"People will like this course because of the generous

fairways, which is one of the many attractions," Miller said. "We have four well-placed sets of tee boxes so that it's fair for just about anybody, and it holds your interest because the topography from the lowest to highest point is about 10 feet."

Though several species of trees such as oak, cypress and wax myrtle have been planted, the predominant hazards are the native grasses that appear along the fairways. The calf-high Indian grass and switch grass will trigger British Open flashbacks for those who fail to find the fairway.

The greens are Mini-Verde and the facility is



168,000 square feet of sand bunkers on the course.

Miller said LaTour will become the first semi-private golf club to be developed in the New Orleans area since Hurricane Katrina. He expects the facility to appeal to both locals and visitors alike as it's situated just 40 miles from the New Orleans airport and just over an hour from Baton Rouge.

The development also includes a first-filing of some 45 residential lots served by SLECA. The locally-owned cooperative has completed installation of underground electrical service and street lighting and will offer rates that over the past 10 years have ranged as much as 40

percent lower than competing utilities.

Rickie Pitre, Director of Commercial and Industrial Development, has worked with Miller and the Brady family on the project. He said real estate sales should do well at LaTour as many families are moving to higher ground northward along Bayou LaFourche.

"People are moving farther from the Gulf and looking for a safer location," Pitre said. "There are also a lot of people in the oil and gas industry looking for a place to build a home and a lot of Baby Boomers looking for a nice place to retire where they can still be close to a metropolitan area."

The Brady family also plans to develop 47 acres commercially for hotels and shopping centers to give Lafourche



Clockwise from top, left: SLECA lineman Ethan Russell completes final installation on an electrical pedestal to energize a street light in the residential section of LaTour; SLECA Director of Residential and Commercial Development Rickie Pitre inspects one of the pumps used to draw water from Bayou LaFourche; LaTour Pro Rick Miller and Pitre discuss the unique links-style topography of the new course.



Parish its first golfing community. SLECA Board Director Brian Rivet, a resident of Gheens who represents SLECA members in District 1, said LaTour is a gem that is sure to spark economic development in Mathews and the surrounding area.

"We appreciate all the work the Brady family has done on this project and the considerable investment they have made in our community," Rivet said. "This development is a real boon to people in this part of south Louisiana. We're also very happy that SLECA has been able to get involved from the ground floor and have the opportunity to provide the quality service and low rates that members have come to expect from us."

For more information on LaTour, log onto www.latourgolfclub.com or call (985) 532-0494.

# SLECA employees honored for working 2 million safe hours

SLECA was recognized for logging 2,058,553 employee hours without a lost-time accident since December 1996 at a banquet held July 27 in Baton Rouge during the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC).

SLECA's 84 employees working out of offices in Houma and Amelia were recognized for their professional performance. (Acct. No. 7650281506).

Representatives of SLECA's insurance carrier, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, were also on hand to present a special plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.

Member Services Manager and Safety Coordinator Joe Ticheli said all SLECA employees should be very proud of this achievement.

"Working safely is something our employees do not take for granted," Ticheli said. "We are determined to provide our consumers with the most reliable service possible and we are committed to do it in the safest possible manner."

Ticheli also announced that SLECA

has been invited to participate in a pilot program for the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program, which serves as the top accrediting agency for electric cooperatives across the country.



Shown from left to right are SLECA employees Joe Ticheli, Calvin Savoy, Buck Theriot and Steve Giroir, board member Tracy Duval, Kenny Marvin of Federated, Gabe Duplantis of SLECA, Skipper Wirth of Federated, SLECA General Manager Mike Guidry and Federated CEO Phil Erwin.



Reggie Pontiff, left, represented the Outside Employee Safety Committee, while Julia Trujillo represented the Inside Employee Committee.

"It's an honor to be a part of this pilot program and the fact that we were asked to participate in this project is a reflection of SLECA as a national leader in safety."

## SLECA General Manager Michael Guidry re-elected as Louisiana's NRECA director

Michael J. Guidry, general manager of SLECA, was re-elected as the Louisiana director to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C., at the annual membership meeting of Louisiana's electric cooperatives at the Baton Rouge Hilton, July 26-28.

Formed in 1942, NRECA represents the national interests of rural electric co-ops. NRECA provides legislative services, management training, insurance programs, public relations and other services to local electric cooperatives. Guidry was selected to serve as the NRECA board vice president at the group's annual meeting last February. He is the first Louisiana director to serve as an NRECA officer in three decades.

As an NRECA director, Guidry helps carry out national policies and direct the business of an organization that represents nearly 1,000 co-ops serving 12 million homes, farms, schools, churches and businesses and 40 million people in 47 states.

Guidry looks forward to another term as an NRECA board officer. "Electric cooperatives like SLECA have greatly contributed to the quality of life for millions of electric consumers across the country," Guidry said. "I remain committed to the cooperative way of doing business."

In 1978, he was hired by SLECA as a member services representative. He served as general manager of Washington-St. Tammany for a brief period and became SLECA's general manager in 1989. Prior to becoming manager he held various positions at the cooperative, including manager of member services, district manager and assistant manager.

He is a member of the Houma-Terrebonne Rotary Club and serves as a board member of the South Louisiana Economic Council. Since 1999, Guidry has been a member of the NRECA board. He has served as former chairman of the International Committee, Administrative Committee and the Wood Quality Control Committee. He has also served on the Education and Training Committee and several ad hoc committees. In 2007, Guidry served as NRECA secretary-treasurer before being elected vice president.



Your Cooperative Connection

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## LaTOUR

brings championship golf  
to SLECA's service area

