

Over 700 Chevys In Stock!  
Shop over 1,000 vehicles at ServiceChevrolet.com

Chevy Runs Deep SHOP NOW!

SERVICE CHEVROLET

## Atchafalaya Basinkeeper helped by young members of the Kennedy Clan

by Ken Grissom

1 month ago | 2526 views | 2 | 9 | | |



Conor Kennedy, Max Kennedy Jr. and frog



Kennedy cousins with David Allemond



With guide Roy Blanchard, Mabelle Lee Hall and Stacey Scarce

Henderson – Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Dean Wilson, McGee’s Landing owner David Allemond, and a couple of teenage volunteers from the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance struggled mightily Saturday to hack a path down Bayou Duquesne from Bayou Courtableau into the Indian Bayou Recreational Area.

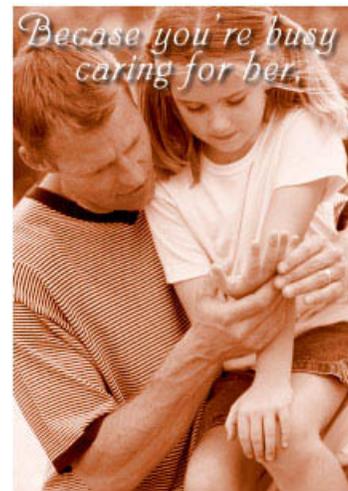
The team succeeded in cutting through some of the large trees that have fallen – or maybe were pushed – across the bayou before a sudden deluge and impending nightfall brought to mission to an end for the day.

Even with four-wheel drive, they were lucky to get back to the pavement on that slick brown ribbon the road along the levee becomes in wet weather.

But Wilson was able to document a) that the “bridge” that started this mess had not been removed, only breached by the winter’s high water, and b) that there are several large living trees blocking passage down the bayou that appear to have been purposely toppled across the winding, picturesque waterway through one of the wildest patches in the Atchafalaya Basin.

He has photos, he has GPS fixes, he has the assistance of the Tulane University Environmental Law Clinic, and he has the clout of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an organization of over 150 “keeper” movements around the globe.

Helping to shine a spotlight on the Duquesne issue are Conor Kennedy and Max Kennedy Jr., son and nephew, respectively, of Waterkeeper Alliance president Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



St. Martin Hospital is here to care for you

with the finest equipment, local doctors, an Emergency Department ready around-the-clock and the support of an acute-care facility, Lafayette General Medical Center. And we're in the neighborhood.

St. Martin Hospital focuses on your needs, so you can get back to the sweeter things in life.

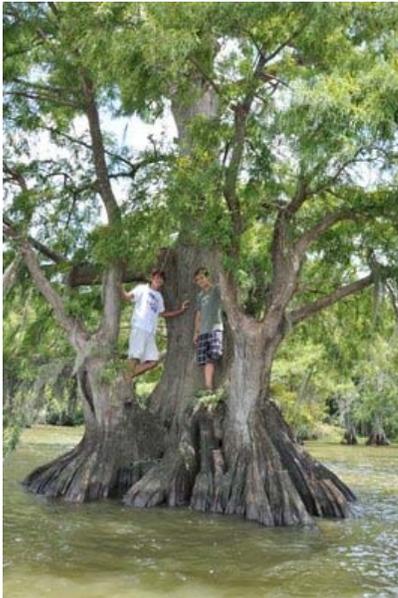


210 Champagne Blvd. • Breaux Bridge, LA • 332-2178  
Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance and Visa/ Mastercard accepted

### FEATURED BUSINESSES



*Young environmentalists encounter many critters*



*Conor and Max explore a tree*



*With Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Dean Wilson*

The two 18-year-olds are helping Wilson, an award-winning environmental activist, with the daunting task of wrenching what's left of the 800,000-acre river swamp and hardwood bottomland wilderness from the heavy-handed grasp of exploitation and development.

Bayou Duquesne, which is part of a marked paddle trail through the 28,500-acre U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property, became impassible when Bayou Jack Logging Company of Plaquemine built a solid earthen bridge across it to harvest timber on the other side. They didn't get a permit, as required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and they didn't remove the bridge, in effect a dam, when they pulled out.

When the Corps of Engineers appeared on the verge of issuing Bayou Jack an after-the-fact permit for the dam, Wilson got attorney Machel Lee Hall of Tulane involved. Under threat of a lawsuit, Bayou Jack agreed to remove the dam when the floodwaters receded. And while there is now a breach in the dam, the banks and the waterway have not been returned to their original state.

Without a sustained current, the bayou is now clogged with rafts of water hyacinths hundreds of yards long and too high to see over from the seat of a canoe. More ominously, the stream is crisscrossed with downed trees that hinder navigation – another Section 10 violation if done on purpose.

The land is privately owned but navigable waters belong to the public.

Indian Bayou is a Corps-owned and -managed property that extends from I-10 northward into St. Landry Parish between the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee and the Atchafalaya River.

In 2011, Wilson was honored as a Tom's of Maine River Hero during the annual National River Rally conference. The award by River Network celebrates those who have dedicated their lives to protecting the nation's water supply.

To find out more about the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper and to help support its objectives, go to [www.basinkeeper.org](http://www.basinkeeper.org).

[+](#) [Share This Article](#) | [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [v](#) [p](#)

similar stories

[Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Dean Wilson receives national honor for his work](#) |

15 months ago

[Atchafalaya activists meet next Tuesday](#) | 6 months ago

[The Basinkeeper calls for backup](#) | 2 months ago

[Basinkeeper and others suing School Board over sale of native cypress forest](#) |

3 months ago

[Fishermen object to loss of swamps](#) | 2 years ago

## Comments (2)

[Post a Comment](#)

ETEE | August 07, 2012

Ah, Yes!!! Bubba Basinkeeper and his band of Leftist-Socialist Yankees down here to tell us Cajuns how to act..... on our own land.

[Reply](#)

Crawfishman | August 08, 2012

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper has no political agenda. These young boys, one of whom is the son of the national Waterkeepers Alliance Director, came here to volunteer their help and to learn from us, not "to tell us how to act..." It is ignorant and mean-spirited to accuse them of any

political or other ulterior motives. We'll welcome help from the likes of Max and Conor Kennedy any time we can get it. What have you

done to help restore the Basin?



[about us](#)   [contact us](#)

software copyright © 2012 [Radiate Media](#) content copyright © 2012 Teche Today. business listing data provided in part by Localizee.

this software is in a public beta test phase [read our privacy policy](#)

Teche Today is in St. Martinville, LA