

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS
24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPT. 3-7, 2014



Risk and Resilience

"We *Dance* even if there's no radio.

We *Drink* at funerals.

We *talk* too much and *laugh* too loud and *live* too large,
and, frankly, we're suspicious of others who don't."

✦ CHRIS ROSE, *I Dead in Attic*



"Safety is a word you shouldn't use anymore. The world is risky. You live in a risky place . . . There's no way any organization like the Corps can guarantee someone's safety."

✦ ED LINK

Research engineer at the University of Maryland and former Army Corps of Engineers chief of research and development, who chaired the Hurricane Katrina Interagency Performance and Evaluation Task Force

Welcome Back To the Crescent City...

It's been 11 years since SEJ first came to New Orleans, and I'm inviting you back for an unexpurgated return visit to see for yourself what's happened in the aftermath of two of the nation's most historic disasters.

This is the city I've fallen in love with during the past 30 years despite its flaws, including those that led to both the flooding in the aftermath of Katrina and the oiling after the Deepwater Horizon disaster. On our full-day bus tours and in our panels, meet our residents, both those who survived Katrina and those who moved to New Orleans to help it rebuild. Learn about the struggles of our fishers, many of whom saw their boats destroyed during the hurricane and then found their new boats forced to lay at anchor for an entire fishing season by the oil spill. Some of those same fishers found their other jobs – as offshore oil workers – also idled by the spill. Talk to our chefs, who have survived, and sometimes failed, on the frontline of a rapidly-changing worldwide seafood industry hit by bans of some fishing methods aimed at improving fish populations, by the shutdown of fishing during the oil spill, and by threats posed by the freshwater accompanying sediment that will flow through wetland-building diversions along the Mississippi River.

It's been nine years since the combination of poorly designed and built levees and floodwalls and Hurricane Katrina's storm surge devastated New Orleans. And it's been four years since the blowout of BP's mile-deep Macondo well sank the Deepwater Horizon drillship, killing 11 onboard and beginning an 87-day uncontrolled release of oil and gas into the Gulf of Mexico that quickly soaked wetlands and beaches in Louisiana with crude. These two events, and the ability of New Orleans and Louisiana to recover from their effects, represent the risk and resilience that are the theme for SEJ's 24th annual conference.

When Hurricane Sandy hit the Mid-Atlantic States in 2012, the lessons learned in Katrina's aftermath were used

to guide recovery efforts. The nation's civil engineers, led by the Army Corps of Engineers, used the information gleaned from forensic investigations into levee and wall failures to rewrite the manuals used to build new structures worldwide, including incorporating a modern understanding of the risk of future hurricanes combined with the expected effects of global warming on sea-level rise in determining how high those structures should be built. Both traditional nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity and non-traditional aid from Common Ground and Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation created new methods for combining sustainability with human kindness.

And the BP disaster has both triggered new rules and technology for dealing with the risk of future deepwater disasters, and will fund what will be the largest environmental experiment in history – the multi-billion-dollar rebuilding of Louisiana's wetlands, and a variety of other projects aimed at restoring the oil spill's damage.

We're going to be in New Orleans, folks, and that means good music and food, including a Saturday night party at Rock-n-Bowl, and beat dinners at restaurants in the French Quarter.

So join us in the City that Care Forgot for beignets and boudin on Bourbon Street; for superstars of stage, screen and jazz clubs that will answer all your "who dats;" for celebrity chefs and fascinating speakers who will test both your palate and your intellect; and for venues that will allow you to mix oysters, alligators, roseate spoonbills and shrimp with environmentalists, scientists, civil servants, captains of industry and all our folk who live down by yo' momma an' dem.

Conference Chair: **Mark Schleifstein**, Environment Reporter, *The Times-Picayune* and *NOLA.com*

✧ TOURS IN THE FIELD ✧

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see below), but all Thursday tours will return to the New Orleans Hilton Riverside about 5:00 p.m. Planning was still under way at the time of printing, so please visit www.sej.org for more details. For those looking for some exercise, tours 2, 3 and 7 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 4 and 9 are best suited for wheelchair accessibility.

1. AFTER BP: ARE WE REALLY PREPARED OFFSHORE?

(6:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

The four years since Deepwater Horizon have been about improving our readiness for spills and raising offshore drilling safety standards, but as Gulf drilling keeps expanding and pushing limits, U.S. regulators remain reactive rather than proactive, contractors still escape scrutiny and violations still get covered up. With that in mind, we will go behind the scenes at a leading spill response outfit, hear directly from offshore regulators, visit with a whistleblower who sacrificed his livelihood to expose offshore criminal activity and see for ourselves the safety challenges and unpredictability of working on an oil rig.

Total drive time – 5 hours.

2. REBUILDING BARRIER ISLANDS AND RESTORING MARSHES

(7:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

Studies show most of Southeast Louisiana will be drowned by the Gulf of Mexico before 2100 because it's sinking at one of the world's fastest rates at the same time seas are rising. The state is fighting that fate by using river and offshore sediment deposits to rebuild sinking marshes and beachfronts. Attendees will visit a beach rebuilding project near Port Fourchon, just 50 miles by air from New Orleans, but a winding, two-hour bus ride across some of the fastest-subsiding wetlands on the planet. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

3. IF THE GATORS DON'T GET YOU... THE SINKHOLE WILL

(7:15 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

What are ya, wimps? We'll take you to the heart of Louisiana's swampland to visit the Atchafalaya Basin and the Bayou Corne-area sinkhole. U.S. Geological Survey scientists will lead a morning boat trip into the million-acre basin, the largest river swamp in the United States. Here we'll see alligators, wintering waterfowl, invasive nutria and huge cypress trees. Then, in the afternoon, you'll see the sinkhole for yourself. The 26-acre hole emerged from cypress forest in August 2012 because a salt dome cavern failed deep underground. Hear from parish and Texas Brine Co. officials and residents about the environmental disaster. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

4. CHEMICAL CORRIDOR: INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

(7:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

The boom in North American oil and gas extraction is fueling expansion in Louisiana's petrochemical industry, with nearly \$84 billion in new plant construction planned. We will visit petrochemical and refining facilities and their surrounding communities to learn how the plants operate and what the expected expansion will mean for the surrounding environment and neighboring communities' health. We will hear from industry experts, environmental health and justice advocates, occupational health and safety experts to learn how environmental safety and health are addressed and how adjacent communities' have been grappling with these issues.

Total drive time – 3 hours.

5. OYSTER REEFS AND FISHERIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF BP AND KATRINA

(8:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

We'll head to Empire, near the Mississippi River's mouth, and hop on boats to examine oyster reefs. Oysterers and scientists will discuss how oyster beds are seeded and harvested, and why the brackish mix of salt and fresh water is needed to grow the Gulf of Mexico's large mollusks. We'll also hear about impending new freshwater diversions that are expected to build wetlands, but also could doom existing oyster reefs. We'll also discuss the effects of Katrina, the BP oil spill, changes in the oyster industry, and the low-oxygen "dead zone" along Louisiana's coast on local oyster harvesting. We might even taste some oysters from the boat.

Total drive time – 3 hours.

6. FRACKING, AND ALL THAT OIL AND GAS

(8:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

Louisiana is enjoying its biggest industrial boom since the oil bust in the 1980s, and decisions on new plants and expansions of existing ones are being driven by ample supplies of cheap natural gas, thanks to advancements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technology. Manufacturers who use the clean-burning fuel to power their facilities are reaping the benefits, particularly along the 70-mile corridor between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Hear what experts on all sides of this issue have to say during a visit to a drilling site in Amite County, Miss., in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formation, an emerging oil and gas play. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

7. LOUISIANA'S GREAT LAKES, CYPRESS SWAMPS AND WOODPECKERS

(9:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

We'll visit the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station on Lake Maurepas for a pontoon boat ride through cypress swamps, followed by a dip-netting exercise and a delicious lunch of alligator sauce piquant and other local delicacies. Then we'll visit the Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, a gem on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, where we may catch a glimpse of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. All along the way, we'll hear from experts about threats to the Pontchartrain Basin and what's being done to understand and combat them. **Total drive time – 2.5 hours.**

8. RISKY BUSINESS: HOW NEW ORLEANS' REBUILT LEVEE SYSTEM IS SO MUCH BETTER, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH
(9:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

We tour the post-Katrina hurricane storm surge risk reduction system – the Army Corps of Engineers' new name for the flood protection system – and learn how dramatic improvements in design requirements and new technology make New Orleans the best-protected city in the nation. But, we'll also learn how that protection still won't save the city from being flooded by the Big One. The tour will view new earthen levees, a 2-mile-long, 26-foot-high storm surge barrier, and a new pump station that could drain all the water out of an Olympic-sized swimming pool in five seconds.

Total drive time – 2 hours.

9. THE LONG ROAD HOME: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, ADAPTATIONS, AND LEGACIES FROM AMERICA'S BIGGEST REBUILD

(10:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, \$40 fee)

Each New Orleans community took its own road home. We'll look at what determines who comes back, efforts to rebuild better, and what others can learn from our disaster experiences. We'll tour the Lower 9th Ward to check in on Brad Pitt's Make It Right houses, Habitat for Humanity's Musician Village, and more traditional church-run renovation projects. We'll help replant Bayou Bienvenue, and have lunch with the Vietnamese fishing and farming communities. We'll return via the Lakefront and discuss efforts to re-connect residents with water. Finally, we'll visit Broadmoor's Rosa F. Keller Library and Community Center and dance with their high school marching band.

Total drive time – 3 hours.

✦ AGENDA ✦

SEJ's 2014 annual conference officially begins Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 3, with our opening reception, followed by dinner, special welcomes and surprise guests, and SEJ's awards program.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Before the official beginning, we offer the all-day workshop below, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet session with environmental reporters from across the globe. See www.sej.org for more details.

ALL-DAY WORKSHOP:

DISASTERS AND EXTREME WEATHER: GATHERING THE NEWS AND KEEPING SAFE

Disasters challenge even the best reporters. Events are chaotic, answers are hard to come by, and sources are obscured by bureaucracies. Still, the demand for news is insatiable. How can we hit the ground running? Veteran reporters and freelancers share their experience and advice, while first responders explain how and why government functions the way it does. Sessions will cover industrial infrastructure; sourcing; protecting our own psyche; and the common classes of contaminants. We'll examine industrial disasters and extreme weather at home and overseas, with help from international journalists. *SEJ members only. Check the SEJ website for the full agenda. Pre-registration and \$70 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included.*

OPENING RECEPTION, DINNER AND AWARDS

It's New Orleans, folks, so the bar will open early, the music will be playing, and everyone will be able to share their "where y'at" stories, even with a celebrity or two. We hope to start off with a real live Cabinet secretary this year – the invites are in. And we'll follow that up with visits from actors and musicians known for their ties to New Orleans and Louisiana, who will tell us their stories of how they survived Katrina or the BP oil spill, or how they're helping New Orleans recover. And we'll also get to view what our judges have decided is the best of the best reporting and photojournalism on the environment – great work that's changing the world, one story, one photo, one book at a time.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Tours: See previous page for details on SEJ 2014 field expeditions across the New Orleans area.

INDEPENDENT HOSPITALITY RECEPTIONS

Looking for networking opportunities? After spending all day out on tours, meet with hosts of independent receptions. They'll have experts, displays, information, and, of course, great food and drink. Check <http://bit.ly/RECEPTIONS> this summer to see the roster of 2014 hosts.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

OPENING PLENARY

COVERING DISASTERS: GETTING THE STORY AND STAYING ALIVE

From parachuting in and leaving, to living there and staying, we'll explore the full spectrum of news coverage of major disasters and consider ways reporters can better cooperate to both deliver the news and stay safe. This panel of journalists will share their stories from past disasters and emergencies, both domestic and international, and their thoughts on how we can all do a better job.

NETWORK LUNCH

Choose a discussion table on a wide range of timely topics and reporting tips, or join a breakout session with lively newsmakers.

BEAT DINNERS

Back to the scene of the crime... SEJ's beat dinners began at the New Orleans conference in 2003 and they've remained popular ever since. New Orleans is home to countless renowned restaurants and a crockpot full of celebrity chefs. We'll get you out and about to some of the Crescent City's finest and to some affordable local treasures.

Check the SEJ website beginning in August for options. Sign up on site for the topic and restaurant of your choice.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

LUNCH AND PLENARY SESSION

REAL RISK AND RESILIENCE IN A CLIMATE-CHANGED WORLD

From Katrina to Sandy, polar melting to equatorial desertification, we'll explore how climate change will increase and alter environmental risks in the near future. A panel of experts will discuss governments' and industries' plans to prepare for more frequent and more severe natural disasters, and how to minimize the environmental effects of energy extraction, whether from shale formations or deep drilling in the Gulf, with a special focus on vulnerable coastal cities like New Orleans.

MINI-TOUR ADVENTURES

Sign up on-site beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Options this year may include: Kayaking and swamp hikes; green buildings and urban gardening; lead and environmental justice; biking The Big Easy; environmental impacts of filmmaking; Endangered Species Breeding Center; NOLA.com newsroom; scrap yards and recycling; Aquarium and Insectarium.

SEJ PARTY AT THE ROCK 'N' BOWL

A New Orleans institution for decades, and now at a new location, this place has something for everyone. Come party with friends Saturday night at the world-famous "Rock 'n' Bowl" – the only place in New Orleans where you can bowl, dance, and eat good food, all at the same time. We'll have ten lanes open for bowling, a kick-ass band, good New Orleans' style fare and great conversation.

Pre-registration and \$35 fee required.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

BREAKFAST AND BOOKS AT THE ZOO

Join us Sunday morning as we gather at the prestigious Tea Room on the grounds of the Audubon Nature Institute just outside the Audubon Zoo. Enjoy a full Creole-style breakfast while we explore literary pursuits that celebrate the Mighty Mississippi and how the river has tied our country and culture together. The river is credited with providing inspiration for writers, poets, singers and wayward travelers for hundreds of years, and entire shelves are filled with its offerings. After breakfast, attendees will have the run of the renowned Audubon Zoo, including its new state-of-the-art elephant enclosure. And, of course, we'll bring back the "book slam," so start honing your pitches.

Pre-registration and \$25 fee required.

Staying in New Orleans a little longer? After the Sunday sessions, enjoy free admission to the zoo for you and any family members. Or visit the Audubon Institute's Insectarium or Aquarium, all with a free pass.

POST-CONFERENCE TOUR: BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA

Join SouthWings, the environmental air force, for non-SEJ-organized over-flights of the Delta region. Hear from scientists and other experts about the receding coastline and rapidly disappearing wetlands and see for yourself the scope of the damage and restoration work from the air. Stay tuned for announcements about details.

In the meantime, for more information about SouthWings, go to www.southwings.org. To inquire about this tour, contact Meredith Dowling at Meredith@southwings.org. Note: This opportunity is being organized independently by SouthWings and is not sponsored by SEJ. Fly at your own risk.

❖ SESSIONS ❖

THE CRAFT

- ❖ FOI and Right-to-Know Workshop
- ❖ EPA Open Mike: Get Your Questions and Comments Ready
- ❖ Transom Trolling: Prying Information from Federal Agencies
- ❖ Coffee-shop Journalism: How Do Editors and Writers Remain Connected?
- ❖ Who's Covering the Environment Today? From Al Jazeera's Rise to Newspapers' Demise
- ❖ Multimedia Workshop: Tips on Using iPhones, Recorders, Video Cameras
- ❖ Gadgets and Crowdsourcing: Citizen Journalism Combines with New Tools
- ❖ Seed-by-Seed: Funding the Freelance Life
- ❖ Collaboration: Marrying Environmental Research with Environment Journalism
- ❖ Making Sustainability Stick: Communicating Complex Topics Without Losing Your Audience
- ❖ Environment Journalism Revolution in the Classroom
- ❖ Back to School: Fellowships and MOOCs, or What to Do with Your Unpaid Furloughs

OCEANS AND COASTS

- ❖ Extreme Weather and Hurricane Science: Improving Forecasts
- ❖ Everglades Restoration Update: Billions Spent, What Did We Get?
- ❖ Is Sustainable Seafood an Oxymoron? From Shrimp Farming to Jellyfish Harvesting
- ❖ BP Spill – The Environment: Impacts on Wildlife, Wetlands, and Seafood Safety
- ❖ BP Spill – The Restoration: How Are Billions of Dollars Being Spent?
- ❖ BP Spill – The People: Health Studies and Claims Programs

THE LAND

- ❖ Levee Certification: As Army Corps Nears Completion, Who Loses Insurance?
- ❖ Water Wars: From California's Drought, to Texas's Growth, to Atlanta's Thirst
- ❖ Can't Beat `Em, Eat `Em: "Gulf" Shrimp from Asia, Asian Carp, Nutria, Formosan Termites
- ❖ Endangered Species: If We Can't Save Charismatic Megafauna, What Can We Save?

POLLUTION

- ❖ New Chemicals: Whither TSCA Reform? REACH? What's in Your Drinking Water?
- ❖ Clean Air Act: Update on Rule Changes and Legal Challenges
- ❖ BP Spill – The Science Windfall: NSF Basic Research on Cleanup Technology
- ❖ 21st Century Waste: Fracking, Leaking Landfills, Recycling, Shipbreaking

ENERGY

- ❖ Nuclear Power in Fukushima's Wake
- ❖ Oil Truckin' and Pipin': What's Happening in Your Backyard?
- ❖ Southern Forest Health: Where Does Biomass Energy Fit In?
- ❖ ObamaAir: Greenhouse Gases, Clean Coal, Pollution Trading and Carbon Caps

THE GLOBE

- ❖ Feeding Eight Billion People in a Warming World
- ❖ Melting Arctic and Increased Industrial Development
- ❖ Music and the Environment: How Musicians Are Saving New Orleans
- ❖ Changing Role of Religious Groups in the Environmental Movement
- ❖ Children's Environmental Health: Latest Trends
- ❖ Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Geoengineering: What's Being Done, Can Be Done, Won't Be Done?

❖ REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS ❖

NO MORE PAPER! SEJ wants to save both money and trees, so we're asking people to register online and pay by credit card at the Secure Payment Site.

TO REGISTER, GO TO:

bit.ly/SEJ-NewOrleansRegistration

Problems with the online form? Contact SEJ, sej@sej.org or (215) 884-8174 to have a form emailed, faxed or mailed to you, or click the Download PDF Form button on the registration site (link above).

Questions? Contact Robin Smith, rsmith@sej.org or (517) 290-4891. **Please call after 6pm and before 10pm ET on weekdays, and 9:00am - 6:00pm ET on Saturday or Sunday.** If you need immediate help during regular working hours, contact Chris Bruggers at (502) 641-1844.

Registration can be confirmed only when payment is received.

Cancellation Policy: If you cancel your registration in writing by **Aug. 5, 2014**, you will receive a full refund less a \$50 processing fee. Non-attendance does not constitute cancellation. Substitutions may be made. Email or mail your request for cancellation to Robin Smith. If SEJ must cancel the conference, registration fees will be refunded.

Current members only: You may include your dues with your registration fee. You must already be a member of SEJ to renew with conference registration.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Member rates apply to SEJ members only. SEJ membership is restricted to journalists, professors and students. Read SEJ's eligibility criteria here: <http://www.sej.org/eligibility>. Apply online at www.sej.org/how-to-join-sej. **Membership applications submitted after Aug. 1, 2014, might not be processed in time for the conference.**

Membership applicants: do not include your new member fees with conference registration. You must apply as directed above.

MEMBERS

Register on or by **7/1/14** for **\$195**
 Register 7/2/14 or later for **\$240**

Member Single day registration
 On or by **7/1/14** **\$110**
 7/2/14 or later **\$120**

NOT A MEMBER?

Save on registration by subscribing to SEJ's quarterly newsletter, *SEJournal*. To subscribe, just include your subscription fee with your registration.

Please contact SEJ at sej@sej.org or (215) 884-8174 if you are unsure about your subscription category.

SEJournal SUBSCRIBERS

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INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$45 Saves 50% off general admission registration for the individual subscriber	Register on or by 7/1/14 for \$525 Register 7/2/14 or later for \$575
SMALL NONPROFIT SUBSCRIPTION <i>(annual budget \$1 million or less): \$50</i> Saves 50% off general admission registration for up to three employees of the subscribing agency	SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION On or by 7/1/14 \$225 7/2/14 or later \$275
UNIVERSITY SUBSCRIPTION: \$55 Saves 50% off general admission registration for up to three employees of the university	Register on or by 7/1/14 for \$735 Register 7/2/14 or later for \$805
NONPROFIT SUBSCRIPTION: \$75 Saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three employees of the subscribing organization	SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION On or by 7/1/14 \$315 7/2/14 or later \$385
GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIPTION: \$80 Saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three employees of the government agency	Register on or by 7/1/14 for \$945 Register 7/2/14 or later for \$1,035
CORPORATE SUBSCRIPTION: \$200 Saves 10% off non-member registration fees for up to three employees of the corporation	SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION On or by 7/1/14 \$405 7/2/14 or later \$495

GENERAL ADMISSION

Register on or by **7/1/14** for **\$1,050**
 Register 7/2/14 or later for **\$1,150**

SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION

On or by **7/1/14** **\$450**
 7/2/14 or later **\$550**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- July 1:** Deadline to register at the early discount rate
- Aug. 5:** Deadline to cancel conference registration with refund less \$50 processing fee. Substitutions can be made after this time. To cancel registration, call (517) 290-4891 or email rsmith@sej.org
- Aug. 10:** Deadline to book rooms at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel

STUDENTS

Students **\$80**
 (Membership is not needed for student rate. However, students may be eligible for membership. See previous page for information on joining SEJ.)

✧ LODGING ✧

Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Two Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
 (504) 561-0500

Prime downtown location along the Mississippi River where distance is measured in feet, not cab fare. SEJ's primary conference hotel, where most sessions will be held.

Rate: **\$149** plus tax (single, double, triple or quad)

If you call to reserve at the group rate, make sure you say you are with the Society of Environmental Journalists.

If you book online, your reservation will automatically be at the group rates.

Book online at <https://aws.passkey.com/g/20913810>

Deadline to reserve at group rate: August 10

- ✧ Free wifi
- ✧ In-room refrigerators
- ✧ Laptop safe

✧ TRAVEL ✧

LOUIS ARMSTRONG - NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

www.flymsy.com/

Airport Ground Transportation:

www.flymsy.com/PageDisplay.asp?p1=6016

Airport Car Rental:

www.flymsy.com/PageDisplay.asp?p1=6017

Directions to Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel

Take Interstate-10 Downtown/East/Slidell, exiting at Poydras St. Turn right onto Poydras St., following Poydras south to its end at our hotel's front circle drive entrance.

Distance from Hotel: **13 miles**

Drive Time: **25 minutes**

See more at:

<http://www.hiltonneworleansriverside.com/map-and-directions#sthash.VIV8u5nH.dpuf>

LAKEFRONT AIRPORT

Lakefront Airport Directions

I-10 Downtown. Poydras St., turning left onto Poydras.

Follow Poydras south to its end at our hotel's front circle drive entrance.

Distance from Hotel: **10 miles**

Drive Time: **15 minutes**

See more at www.hiltonneworleansriverside.com/map-and-directions

Society of Environmental Journalists
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“To be engaged in some small way in the *revival* of one of the great cities of the world is to live a meaningful existence by default.”

✦ CHRIS ROSE
I Dead in Attic



SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

The Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) was founded in 1990 by a small group of award-winning reporters, editors and producers from top news organizations in the United States. They envisioned a new educational nonprofit organization that would connect, educate and empower colleagues toward more and better environmental coverage. Today the Society of Environmental Journalists is a lively community of more than 1,300 print, broadcast and online journalists, students, and educators throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and 27 other countries. SEJ serves to strengthen the quality, reach and viability of journalism across all media to advance public understanding of environmental issues. We offer conferences, events, publications, online community, Freedom of Information WatchDog program, academic resources, Awards, fellowships, mentoring, mini-grants, and a robust membership network. SEJ supports journalists who inform and advance news coverage on a wide range of environmental issues, with significant results.



ABOUT NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans and south Louisiana are the poster children for both risk and resilience in the 21st Century. Thus, it's no surprise that we've chosen risk and resiliency as the theme for this year's conference in the Crescent City. The lessons learned here from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have rewritten the rule books for how to reduce risk from disasters and how to respond in their aftermath. Whether it's the Army Corps of Engineers' rewriting the rules on how to build levees and other water structures to withstand the effects of hurricane storm surges and interior flood waters, including allowances for sea-level rise caused by global warming, or the response of nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity – pairing with New Orleans jazz giants Harry Connick Jr. and Branford Marsalis – targeting the city's musicians made homeless by Katrina with inexpensive – and LEED-certified – new homes, or the continuing struggles of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians to find a way to live in their traditional village outside an under-construction new levee system, the area is serving as a blueprint for how to deal with risk and resilience.

Read more about New Orleans here: <http://www.sej.org/node/17434/>

The Society of Environmental Journalists thanks our 2014 University Affiliates:

Loyola University New Orleans, Tulane University, Louisiana State University Manship School of Mass Communication



The Society of Environmental Journalists thanks our 2014 Conference Sponsors:

