



News

Fall 2006

## Louisiana Solar Tour 2006 – Coming October 7

The National Solar Tour this year will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006, and the LSES will be hosting the Louisiana tour again on the same day. This will be our 6<sup>th</sup> year to host this exciting event!

The National Tour of Solar Homes is held every October throughout the United States. In over 100 communities in 42 states, solar homeowners open their doors to visitors to demonstrate the renewable energy and conservation features of their homes. The tour highlights solar energy technologies that are working right now, in real places for real people.

If you want to be a part of this exciting event, there are many ways to participate. You can participate as a visitor by checking the website for tour homes in your area. You can participate as a host in your own solar home by emailing us now to get on the list. You can also participate as an organizer by helping to develop and publicize multi-home tours, or as a sponsor supporting the tours financially either on a local or national level in exchange for public recognition and visibility.



Drop us an email and let us know how you would like to be involved. [jeff@lSES.org](mailto:jeff@lSES.org)

## Members Helping Members



Several years ago, one of our charter members, Trey Rowzie began gathering the components to set up his own solar power system. He had a used 60 watt Solerex panel and a Trace charge controller and was about to buy a battery when he accepted a teaching position in Kyoto, Japan. The equipment and most of his belongings went into storage in Baton Rouge.

Trey contacted LSES director, Jeff Shaw to find a better home for the solar gear. Jeff knew that solar member and enthusiast Elissa Miller of New Orleans would be the perfect recipient. She just bought a home to fix up in



New Orleans that has no grid power and she wants to keep it that way. Needing just small amounts of power to charge a laptop and cellphone and a few lights, she hopes to expand the system with more batteries and panels to eventually run a small fridge. Elissa will keep us posted on the reconstruction of her historic home that she saved from demolition! Good luck, Elissa.

## The LSES Solar Forum is Open



Don't forget to use the LSES Solar Forum. Here's your chance to talk solar with other members. Post your questions, start discussion topics, or try your hand at answering some of the posts.

In order for the forum to be a success it will need your help. Sign in and post. Make sure you let us know how the forum works too.

Access is easy linked from the [lSES.org](http://lSES.org) front page or directly at [www.lSES.org/forum](http://www.lSES.org/forum). Make sure you register as a user so you can get credit for your posts.

## Fall Internship Available

LSES has an intern position opening for the Fall semester to assist in some of the society activities. Help is needed with correspondence, website updates, Solar Tour information, and other fun and important things. This position is best suited for someone located in Baton Rouge. If you would like to help (or know someone that could) please email your resume or letter of interest ASAP to [jeff@lSES.org](mailto:jeff@lSES.org).

## New Members – New Systems

Metairie resident **Kyun Lee** evacuated his home for Hurricane Katrina like many others in the New Orleans area. Fortunately he returned to find his home ok but he decided to install a solar power system that could meet some emergency power needs. He had Gulf South Solar design and install a 576wp battery backup stand-alone PV system with 8 – 72 watt GE modules. The modules are located on the back patio roof. A Xantrax 1524 inverter take the solar input DC from the module string and provides 120 volts AC. This power is then distributed to 6 of the house circuits with a manual transfer switch. A bank of 4 Deca L-16 420 amp-hour solar batteries is charged with the 30amp ASC charge controllers. More pics and info are available at <http://lahomepower.com/lee.html>



**Bill Hargrove** found that living weeks without power in your own home is no fun. It's especially rough if you rely on a well for your drinking water. The falling pine trees from Hurricane Katrina severed the main power lines in Abita Springs where he lives. He decided to have Gulf South Solar install a small stand-alone system (440 watts) to handle his emergency power needs.



The photovoltaic system is powered by 4 – 110 watt roof mounted GE modules. A Xantrax XPower 1750 inverter provides 120 VAC to its own built-in power outlets. His 4 batteries are charged with the dual ASC charge controllers. Bill added a 6 circuit manual transfer switch that he was able to install himself.



## **New Orleans Sustainable Building Progress**

LSES is excited to be participating in the New Orleans Sustainable Building Policy Summit. The outcome of this series of meetings is a collection of 10 white papers to be presented as a Sustainable Building Roadmap to the New Orleans City Council. Our component is Renewable Energy. Members Micah Walker Parkin of the Alliance for Affordable Energy and John Moore of Global Green are helping put this on. If you would like to assist send an email to [jeff@lses.org](mailto:jeff@lses.org)

## **Director of Programs Aleman Machado - Update**



LSES Director of Programs Aleman Machado had a busy solar summer. He moved to Carbondale, CO to attend classes at Solar Energy International. At SEI he received certificates of completion in several classes like Solar Home Principles, Solar Water Pumping, Renewable Energy for the Developing World, and Sustainability for the Developing World. In addition Aleman attended the American Solar Energy Society conference "Solar 2006: Key to Climate Recovery" where he attended workshops on: RE for Agriculture, NEC rules for Photovoltaic systems, and NREL's Homer Micro-optimization model. There were other various technical sessions and forums ranging from how Germany, Japan, and California have been adapting their infrastructures to accept Photovoltaics; to how schools have been using RE for strategic purposes. Aleman said that the

exhibits by vendors in the solar industry to the NREL tours made the whole trip well worth going to Denver.

## JOIN LSES

[WWW.LSES.ORG](http://WWW.LSES.ORG)

FOR ONLY \$15 A YEAR YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE EVER GROWING LOUISIANA SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY. YOU WILL RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND INSIDE INFORMATION ON SOLAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR STATE. DUES ARE EASIER TO PAY NOW THROUGH PAYPAL.

## JOIN ASES

[WWW.ASES.ORG](http://WWW.ASES.ORG)

ASES HAS INSTITUTED DUAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP TRACKS KEEPING IN TACT THE CORE MEMBERSHIP GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS, SCIENTISTS AND ACADEMICS (PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP, \$89), AND ADDING A LEVEL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE END USER AND ADVOCATE (BASIC MEMBERSHIP, \$39).

## JOIN ASE

[WWW.ASE.ORG](http://WWW.ASE.ORG)

IT'S FREE! AND YOU WILL RECEIVE PERIODIC UPDATES FROM THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY.

*Louisiana Solar Energy Society  
5741 Menlo Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
e-mail: [jeff@lses.org](mailto:jeff@lses.org) web: [www.lses.org](http://www.lses.org)  
Director – Jeff Shaw  
Newsletter – Elizabeth Mathews*