



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baton Rouge (April 22, 2009) – On Friday, May 8, 2009, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will recognize ten (10) award recipients as outstanding stewards of Louisiana’s coast at the fourteenth (14) annual Coastal Stewardship Awards Banquet to be held at the LSU Faculty Club in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. John Day is the 2009 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award and Mr. David Fruge will be recognized with the Distinguished Achievement Award. Recipients of the Coastal Stewardship Award include Mrs. Angela Capello, Mr. Richard DeMay, Ms. Vickie Duffourc, Mr. Allan Ensminger, Mr. Jerald Horst, Dr. Paul Kemp, Mr. Greg Miller and Ms. Rosina Philippe.

The Coastal Stewardship Awards program is sponsored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana to recognize significant contributions by an individual or group in the effort to save Louisiana’s coast. This year’s recipients have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the preservation and restoration of Louisiana’s fragile coast, and we congratulate them for their outstanding accomplishments.

Dr. John Day is this year’s recipient of the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Day is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences and the Coastal Ecology Institute, School of the Coast & Environment at Louisiana State University(LSU). He is a world renowned wetland plant ecologist. Shortly after Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Day co-authored the “Mister Go Must Go” report, which described the impact of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) on wetlands and on storm surge. It included a plan for restoration which is now influencing the MRGO Ecosystem Feasibility Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Dr. Day has investigated the Caernarvon Diversion more than any other researcher and is largely responsible for the pulsing of discharge there and for other planned diversions. Dr. Day became very involved in a Ninth Ward project after Katrina to use treated wastewater beneficially for wetlands around Bayou Bienvenue. This project obtained \$10 million in Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding through the state and plans have been made for the complete construction of a \$50 million project which seems likely to happen because of the wide spread support for this project. When completed, it will be the largest project of its kind in the world. It will also strategically help rebuild wetlands adjacent to the levees in Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes.

Mr. David Fruge will receive the Coalition's 2009 Distinguished Achievement Award. Mr. Fruge worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(USFWS) in Lafayette for over 30 years. His last position, which he held for 20 years, was as the Louisiana Project Leader where he represented the U.S. Department of the Interior as the Task Force representative to the Coastal Wetlands, Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA). Under Mr. Fruge's leadership, the Task Force and other CWPPRA committees successfully implemented 80 projects. Mr. Fruge also served as the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) leader and the Endangered Species leader. His efforts helped lead these successful programs for protecting and restoring Louisiana's coast and protecting endangered and threatened species by working with private land owners and other governmental agencies. After retiring from USFWS, Mr. Fruge continued his work on coastal issues and joined the LADNR as the Coastal Management Supervisor. Mr. Fruge is currently the Director of Planning and Project Manager for the Governor's Office of Protection and Restoration where he is responsible for implementation and management of the LCA program and other restoration programs.

In addition to the Lifetime and Distinguished Achievement Awards, eight (8) individuals will be presented with 2009 Coastal Stewardship Awards.

Mrs. Angela Capello is a Biologist Supervisor with the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries(LDWF) and is a dedicated advocate for coastal restoration. She is the supervisor for the LDWF Aquatic Education Program and is responsible for hosting, through LDWF, WETSHOP, a weeklong training for educators which provides an intense look at wetland issues related to wetland habitats, botany, ecosystem, birding, history, coastal land loss and restoration, water quality, oil and gas exploration, fishing, seining, trawling and fisheries management. Mrs. Capello also created and designed several outreach interdisciplinary, aquatic stewardship programs and publications.

Mr. Richard DeMay is a Senior Scientist for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and has been with BTNEP since its beginning in 1991. Mr. DeMay has been the driving force behind the Migratory Bird Celebration, habitat restoration and preservation, and development of the Grand Isle Birding/Nature Trail which is an important segment of the America's Wetland-Louisiana Birding Trail. Mr. DeMay has been instrumental in working with the Port Fourchon Port Commission on a restoration project that uses pipeline sediment delivery to build not only marsh habitat but also ridges. Mr. DeMay has gained much notoriety for his superb coastal birding calendars which he has produced for three consecutive years.

Ms. Vickie Duffourc , who has over twelve (12) years of professional experience in coastal zone planning and management, wetlands permitting and coastal restoration, and environmental regulatory compliance work, founded the Bayou Segnette Community and Boaters Association, Inc. in 1995 and currently serves as president. This organization works diligently to protect and preserve the environment and culture of the historic natural area adjacent to the Jean Lafitte National Park. Ms. Duffourc's current work with Shaw Coastal, Inc. has her assisting the state, several parishes and cities with their coastal management and restoration efforts.

Mr. Allan Ensminger retired from LDWF as Chief of the Fur and Refuge Division and is currently the owner and president of the Wetland and Wildlife Management Company. During his tenure with LDWF, Mr. Ensminger developed wetland management programs in the Rockefeller Wildlife Management Area to enhance the caring capacity for fish and wildlife resources. His work at the Rockefeller Wildlife Management Area became a model management system that was utilized in other coastal locations across the state. For the past 25 years, Mr. Ensminger has provided wetland consultation services to private and public agencies to carry out wetland restoration programs and to implement Best Management Practices on the land. Mr. Ensminger serves as Supervisor on the Crescent Soil and Water Conservation District and as chairman of the Wetland and Endangered Species Committee of the LA Landowners Association.

Mr. Jerald Horst retired after 30 years as professor of fisheries at the LSU School of Renewable Resources and Marine Extension Specialist for LSU Sea Grant and the LSU Agricultural Center. Mr. Horst has been a prolific author with nearly 80 fisheries-related publications to his name. He is the president of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association and a member and past president of the LA Association of Professional Biologists and the American Fisheries Society, LA Chapter.

Dr. G. Paul Kemp is currently the Executive Director for the Louisiana Coastal Initiative for the National Audubon Society Office in Baton Rouge. He is a former Executive Director for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) and has served on the CRCL Board of Directors since his leaving CRCL as its director. Dr. Kemp was one of the very first to be on the ground after Hurricane Katrina and documented levee failures. Dr. Kemp's insight into storms and storm surge behavior has been critical to defining the role of the MRGO during Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Kemp has been a member of the Multiple Lines of Defense Assessment Team and one of the first to contribute to the concept. Dr. Kemp has become an expert on the role of wetlands to reduce storm surge and wave energy.

Mr. Greg Miller is the Senior Project Manager for the USACE's New Orleans District. Mr. Miller has served in an exemplary manner for the MRGO closure and restoration and the LCA initiative. Under Mr. Miller's leadership, all schedules, public outreach and reports necessary for the MRGO closure and restoration were completed in a timely and professional manner. The MRGO Deep-Draft De-authorization Report triggered the de-authorization of the MRGO closure structure across the MRGO near Bayou La Loutre. Mr. Miller is currently overseeing the management of several USACE feasibility studies for authorized coastal restoration projects including the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration, Violet Diversion and several LCA other projects.

Ms. Rosina Philippe receives this award for her significant contributions as an ambassador for coastal wetlands, her work to restore Grand Bayou as a traditional coastal fishing village and her national advocacy for these issues. Ms. Philippe has worked tirelessly to ensure that her community is able to rebuild on their traditional land, to advocate for restoring the coastal wetlands that protected her community at one time and to promote the traditional way of life for residents on Grand Bayou. Ms. Philippe has

participated in and organized wetland restoration and planting projects with several organizations and works with the University of New Orleans for Hazard Assessment, Response, and Technology. Most importantly, Ms. Philippe has hosted tours that help outsiders understand the plight of Louisiana's coast and traditional coastal communities.

The Coastal Stewardship Awards program begins at 6:00 p.m. and is open to members of the public who have reserved tickets in advance. The evening consists of a reception, banquet dinner and keynote address followed by the presentation of awards. Tickets are available for \$40 per person. For reservations or additional information please contact the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at 225-767-4181 or visit our website at www.crcl.org.

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