



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baton Rouge (April 24, 2009) – On Friday, May 8, 2009, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will recognize ten award recipients as outstanding stewards of Louisiana's coast at the fourteenth 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. G. 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 the 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. Dr. Day became very involved in a Ninth Ward project after Katrina to use treated wastewater beneficially for wetlands around Bayou Bienvenue. 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). 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. 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.

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 and teaching WETSHOP through LDWF. She has also created and designed several 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 instrumental in the development of a coastal birding calendar and he has been the driving force behind the Migratory Bird Celebration on Grand Isle.

Ms. Vickie Duffourc 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.

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 career, he developed a wetland management program on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge to enhance the caring capacity for fish and wildlife resources. His management model has been utilized in other coastal locations across the state.

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 currently serving as the president of the LA Outdoor Writers Association.

Dr. G. Paul Kemp is currently the Executive Director for the Louisiana Coastal Initiative for the National Audubon Society Office in Baton Rouge. 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 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 public outreach and reports needed for the MRGO closure and restoration were completed in a professional and timely manner. This report triggered the de-authorization of the MRGO and the authorization by Congress of the rock closure structure currently being built.

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 hosts tours that help outsiders understand the plight of LA'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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