



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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For Immediate Release

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COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA PRESENTS SIX WITH COASTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

BATON ROUGE (April 26, 2006) — The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will recognize six honorees as outstanding stewards of Louisiana's coast at the eleventh annual Coastal Stewardship Awards Banquet to be held on Friday, May 5 at the LSU Faculty Club in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Carlton Dufrechou is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Achievement award. Other honorees include Mr. Kerry St. Pe', Dr. Rex Caffey, Mr. Tab Benoit, Ms. Patricia Strain and Ducks Unlimited.

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.

The Coalition is pleased to welcome Louisiana filmmaker Glen Pitre as the keynote speaker for this year's event. The awards program, now in its eleventh year, 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.

A total of six awards will be given at this year's banquet.

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Mr. Carlton Dufrechou will receive the Coalition's Distinguished Achievement award for his work as the Executive Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF). During Dufrechou's 14 year term, LPBF has become one of the leading environmental organizations in Louisiana dedicated to restoring and preserving the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

Mr. Kerry St. Pe' has been awarded for his service as Program Director for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. During the past year, St. Pe' has demonstrated a tireless dedication to educating the public and acting as an ambassador for Louisiana's fragile wetland habitat in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Dr. Rex Caffey has been awarded for his work as an Associate Professor of Wetland and Coastal Resources at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. As one of the nation's foremost academic experts on the links between wetland habitats, sustainable natural productivity and human needs, Dr. Caffey has shared Louisiana's plight with vast audiences by writing numerous articles for scientific journals and the popular press, coordinating education efforts, facilitating partnerships between local officials and university scientists and serving as the director for the Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy.

Tab Benoit has been awarded for his role in organizing the "Voice of the Wetlands" organization to help raise awareness and money for coastal restoration. Serving as both president and musician for "Voice of the Wetlands," Benoit has initiated a number of organizational, awareness and fundraising activities that focus on music and local culture to help raise local and national awareness about the crisis of wetland loss and coastal erosion.

Ducks Unlimited has been awarded for their work with many private and governmental groups to secure grant funding from the North American Wetland Conservation Act to restore wetland habitats of value to waterfowl while also protecting coastal wetland resources from

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further degradation. Ducks Unlimited is currently involved in 6 NAWCA grants, more than any other grantee in Louisiana's Gulf Coast region.

Ms. Patricia Strain has been awarded for her work as a pre-school teacher at University Presbyterian Church. Ms. Strain has transformed an area of her classroom into a "swamp center" for learning about the unique cultural and environmental role that wetlands serve and has facilitated many field trips and learning sessions that further her student's knowledge and understanding of Louisiana's wetlands.

The Coalition is extremely pleased to recognize and honor this year's award recipients and hope that you will join the Coalition and our awards program sponsors to celebrate this group of dedicated coastal stewards. Sponsors for this year's event are The National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, America's Wetland, CH2M Hill, Entergy, Environmental Defense, Delacroix Corporation, Doris Falkenheiner, Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, T. Baker Smith and Son, Inc., Waldemar S. Nelson and Co., Wampold Companies, Westbank Electric and Wilco Marsh Buggies. For reservations or additional information contact the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at (225) 344-6555 or visit <http://www.crcl.org/awardsMain.html>

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