



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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For Immediate Release

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COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA ANNOUNCES COASTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

BATON ROUGE (May 4, 2007) — The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will recognize eight award recipients as outstanding stewards of Louisiana's coast and honor five distinguished supporters of the Coalition at the twelfth annual Coastal Stewardship Awards Banquet to be held on Friday, May 11 at the LSU Faculty Club in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Jim Tripp is this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award and Mr. R. King Milling will be recognized as the 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award recipient. Recipients of the Coastal Stewardship Award will include Mr. Mike Dunne and Ms. Bevil Knapp, Dr. James Johnston, Dr. Shea Penland, Mrs. Courtney Pellegrin-Howell, the "Spirit of the Estuary" team consisting of Dr. Mary Banbury, Anne Rheams, Sue Ellen Lyons and Marian Brister Martinez and The Woodlands Trail and Park.

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.

Mr. James T. B. Tripp will receive the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Tripp has served as Counsel for Environmental Defense since 1973 and as General Counsel since 1983, focusing largely on coastal Louisiana issues. Mr. Tripp is recognized as one of the founders of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and as early as 1985, Mr. Tripp called for the creation of the Coalition to protect and restore Louisiana's wetlands. Mr. Tripp is largely credited with authoring "Coastal Louisiana: Here Today and Gone Tomorrow? A Citizen's Program for Saving

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the Mississippi River Delta Region to Protect its Heritage, Economy and Environment” in 1989. This was the first major publication to call Louisiana’s wetlands a national treasure and was singularly responsible for shifting the debate from attempts to document the extent of wetlands loss to proposing a plan of action for restoration. Today Mr. Tripp serves on the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection and Restoration and according to Dr. Paul Kemp, “The Coalition would have enjoyed far fewer successes without Jim’s continued tenacious advocacy in New York, Washington and now in Baton Rouge on the Governor’s Commission.” For over two decades Tripp has remained a steadfast supporter of the Coalition, both professionally and personally, through his financial support, his passion for our wetlands, his vision for our future and his commitment to see it realized.

Mr. R. King Milling is this year’s recipient of the Coalition’s Distinguished Achievement Award. As the Chairman of Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco’s Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection and Restoration, a member of the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority, Chairman of the Board for the America’s WETLAND Foundation and board member of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, he has led the charge to save and restore Louisiana’s coastal wetlands. In the appraisal of Governor Blanco, “...King’s steadfast determination to restore Louisiana’s disappearing wetlands is evident in his bold leadership...I would like to share my deep personal admiration for him and thank him on behalf of all Louisianans for his undying devotion to save and restore America’s WETLAND.” As Chairman of the Board of the America’s WETLAND Foundation, Mr. Milling has led the effort of the five year award-winning public education campaign America’s WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana. According to Sidney Coffee, Chair of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, “I am consistently inspired by King’s commitment and his sense of responsibility to improve the quality of the Gulf Coast not only for his children, but also for all future generations who will one day inherit this ecologically and economically critical region of our country.”

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In addition to the Lifetime and Distinguished Achievement Awards, six individuals or teams will be presented with 2007 Coastal Stewardship Awards. Mr. Mike Dunne and Ms. Bevil Knapp have been awarded for their book, America's WETLAND: Louisiana's Vanishing Coast. Dr. James Johnston has been awarded for his contributions to Louisiana's coastal programs as the Spatial Analysis Branch Director and Louisiana Coastal Ecosystems Coordinator at the National Wetlands Center. Dr. Shea Penland has been awarded for his work as a founding member of the Pontchartrain Research Committee and the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences at UNO. Mrs. Courtney Pellegrin-Howell has been awarded for her work to educate over 1500 out-of-state volunteers about coastal land loss and the history and culture of Louisiana through a regular series of Coastal Dinners. The development team consisting of Dr. Mary Banbury, Anne Rheams, Sue Ellen Lyons and Marian Brister Martinez, has been awarded for its work in developing the educational curriculum "Spirit of the Estuary – Using Art to Understand Ecology." The Woodlands Trail and Park has been awarded for preserving, protecting and celebrating the natural beauty and cultural treasures within a 10,000-acre peninsula in the Metropolitan New Orleans area.

Four individuals and one institution will be acknowledged as Friends of the Coalition for their sustained and significant commitment of financial support, resources and time to the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana over the course of the previous year. Michael Gray, Amy Cyrex Sins, Mac and Ellen Ball, and Whole Foods will be recognized for their generous support of the Coalition, enabling the Coalition to pursue its mission of preservation, restoration and responsible stewardship of the coastal wetlands, waters and barrier shorelines of coastal Louisiana.

The Coalition is pleased to welcome Washington Post reporter and author Michael Grunwald as the keynote speaker for this year's event. The 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

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awards. For reservations or additional information contact the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana at (225) 767-4181 or visit <http://www.crcl.org/awardsMain.html>

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. Our lead sponsor for this year's event is Whitney Bank. Additional sponsors include: Environmental Defense, America's WETLAND, Coastal Environments Inc., Ducks Unlimited, HDR Engineering, National Wildlife Federation, Waldemar S. Nelson & Co., U.S. Geological Survey, C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Delacroix Corporation, Gulf South Resource Corporation, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Loyola Center for Environmental Communication, Tetra Tech, The Nature Conservancy, and Kleinpeter Farms Dairy.

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