C. C. Lockwood To Speak at Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series

Famed naturalist and wildlife photographer, C. C. Lockwood, will be the guest speaker for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, October 29, at the WBR Museum. Lockwood has lived and worked in fragile ecosystems whose preservation shapes his artistry. He will discuss his work in the Atchafalaya Basin with a reception and book signing to follow.

Through words and images, Lockwood has captured the unique sense of space in wild places as diverse as Louisiana swampland and the rugged back country of the American West. His work has earned him international acclaim as an environmental artist, including the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award for conservation photography.

Lockwood's work continues to reflect changes and perils in the natural world. His 11th book, Marsh Mission, is part of a years-long effort by Lockwood to bring attention to the crisis of vanishing Gulf Coast wetlands. His newest book, Louisiana Wild, The Lands Protected and Restored by The Nature Conservancy, portrays the good work this organization is doing on over 280,000 acres of land in our state. Lockwood said, "I felt like a kid in a candy store when I started this project for I got to visit swamps, lakes, marshes, prairies and oyster reefs from the Arkansas border to the Grand Isle wetlands."

Lockwood's lecture, book signing, and reception coincides with the final day of the WBR Museum's "Water Trails of the Atchafalaya" exhibit which features some of his work.

This lecture series is held annually in memory of Ethel Claiborne Dameron, founder of the WBR Historical Association and WBR Museum. The program is free and open to the public. The WBR Museum is located at 845 North Jefferson Ave. in Port Allen. For more information, call (225) 336-2422, Ext. 15 or visit www.wbrmuseum.com.

Calumet Plantation Historic Marker Replaced

This summer, the Historic Preservation committee completed replacing the Louisiana state historic marker for Calumet Plantation. The marker was originally dedicated in May 1971 and is one of the oldest in the parish. It was sponsored by the United States Daughters of 1812 - Chalmette Chapter.

The time worn marker was irreparably damaged in a vehicle accident at its location at the intersection of Rosedale Road and Hwy 1145.

The parish roads department assisted with the reinstallation of the marker at its original location. The pieces of the damaged marker found a new home with one of the roads department employees who installed the new marker and will be on display in the den of his home.

Plantation Dinner Set for October 1

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association will sell an old-fashioned plantation dinner from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. during the West Baton Rouge Museum's SugarFest celebration on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017. The delicious dinner cooked by Danny's Cajun Catering includes ½ smoked chicken, rice dressing, beans and roll for only $8.00. It will be served near the Arbroth Store on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum, 845 N. Jefferson, Port Allen. Jane Brou and Deborah Salvadars are co-chairs of this fundraiser. For additional information or tickets, call Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, Ext. 10.
FROM OUR PRESIDENT
AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association along with the West Baton Rouge Museum has had a busy summer. History Camp a “Blast from the Past” was held on June 19 – 23 and June 26 – 30, 2017. Some of the Historical Association members volunteered to help with this year’s camp entitled “Tales from the Bayou. The Teachers Institute also called “Tales from the Bayou” was held July 18-20, 2017. The Historical Association sponsors two teachers each year to attend the Institute.

The “Christmas in July” card party and luncheon held on July 31 was a great success raising more money than 2016. I wish to thank all people who donated their time and money to this undertaking.

If you pass by the fire station on Rosedale Road, please take notice that there is a new Calumet Plantation historical marker replacing the old one that was damaged. I wish to thank Brian Falcon and his committee for making this happen.

So what’s happening this fall? Right around the corner on Sunday, October 1 is the sweet celebration, SugarFest. Again the Historical Association will be sponsoring the chicken dinners and the sweets booth. If you haven’t purchased your tickets for the dinner, contact Alice LeBlanc at 225-336-2422, Ext. 10.

Finally, mark your calendars, on Sunday, October 29 at 2:30 p.m. the Ethel Claiborne Damron Lecture featuring noted photographer and naturalist C.C. Lockwood. Make sure to come early and visit the exhibit “Atchafalaya Water Trails” as this will be your last opportunity. The exhibit will be taken down the next day.

I wish everyone a Happy Fall.

Lorry Trotter
President

From Our Director

Dear friends,

The West Baton Rouge Museum had a busy summer with our Blast from the Past Summer Camp, Teacher’s Institute, as well as daily group tours. We are gearing up for new exhibits and our 22nd annual SugarFest on Sunday, October 1st... we hope to see you there!

We couldn’t do all that we do without our dedicated staff and amazing volunteers. As a way to thank our volunteers and staff and also to develop our interpretation, we will organize periodic field trips to historic sites and other businesses that will help inform the stories that we tell here at the West Baton Rouge Museum.

On August 14th we were treated to a behind the scenes tour of Cane Land, a single estate rum distillery, that uses sugarcane processed at Alma Plantation. We learned lots about this booming industry in Louisiana. The current exhibit, Raw Sugar: Harvest in Black and White showcases dramatic photographs by Julie Stewart of Alma plantation’s process of harvesting sugarcane from the field, to the milling process at the factory, and then to the sugar house which holds the raw sugar. Volunteers will be notified soon about our planned tour of the Alma mill during grinding season.

In addition to periodic educational excursions, the WBRM will host regular professional development for staff and volunteers at our monthly “Enrichment Mondays” held on the 3rd Monday of each month. Current volunteers, staff, and interested community members are invited to attend. Each month will feature a different topic that highlights a particular skill or activity the museum wishes to explore. Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. Interested participants should contact Gwenn LaViolette, Museum Educator, for more details at 225.336.2422 ext. 16 or email gwenn.laviolette@gmail.com.

These are exciting times at the museum. We look forward to having you join us!

Sincerely,

Angélique Bergeon, PhD
Director
12th Annual Christmas in July Card Party Nets $4,756.68

Thanks for the great show of support from 147 players at our largest Card Party fundraiser to date! The July 31 event was chaired by Lorry Trotter assisted by Evva Wilson as food chairman. Committee members included Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Alice LeBlanc, Dorene Mayeux, Andrea Normand, Janet Simoneaux, and Ruth Stanley. Others who participated by providing food or helping to serve were Carolyn Blanchard, Toni Brantley, Jane Brou, Wilhemenia DeCuir, Sara Grady, Janice Hebert, Cindy Lowe, Drew Maciasz, Ann Marionneau, Marion Otwell-Coleman, Ida Pierre, Edana Robnett, and Janell Woods. Attendees played bridge, bourée, canasta, hand & foot canasta, pokeno, Mexican train dominoes, and Shanghai rummy. A gift basket raffle and 50/50 raffles added interest to the day at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen. Thanks to all who participated in any way in our annual fundraiser.
Drew Maciasz
WBR Historical Association Volunteer

Drew Maciasz serves as President of Harry L. Laws and Company (HLL&Co.), former operators of the Cinclare Sugar Mill. The company owns and operates over 15,000 acres of land in West Baton Rouge, Iberville and St. Mary Parish. Maciasz has been with the company since 2012. He is responsible for all lease transactions, land negotiations, and company acquisitions.

The flagship part of HLL&Co. is agriculture, primarily in the sugar business. Drew’s responsibilities also include maintaining the historical assets and traditions the company has developed over 140 years of operation.

In 2012, Maciasz was hired as part of a succession plan for the company, and to take the place of the President upon his retirement. He and Butch Plaucue, previous President of Harry L. Laws and Company, worked together for three years prior to assuming his current position. Before joining Harry L. Laws and Company, Maciasz was employed in the banking and financial industry for about 15 years.

Drew is a native of New Roads, LA and a longtime resident of West Baton Rouge Parish. He attended Catholic High School of Point Coupee and graduated from Louisiana State University in 1999 with a degree in communications. He is married to the former Amanda Normand and they have three children: John (12), Meredith (10), and Sarah (7).

Drew and his family enjoy living at Cinclare Plantation, which is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, as is the entire Sugar Mill District. They successfully applied for state and federal tax credits to rehabilitate the main home at Cinclare and have moved the entrance of the home to where the old boiler room was located. Additionally they have modernized other areas of the home to accommodate their young family.

Drew is an outdoorsman who enjoys bird and deer hunting, skeet shooting and even cutting grass! He also enjoys cooking, boating and camping. Maciasz is serving his first term as a member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association Board of Directors.

Curators’ Corner

Juke Joint
It has been an exciting summer developing the West Baton Rouge Museum’s new Juke Joint which will be open for performances (including Lil’Ray Neal and Riverside Blues) at this year’s SugarFest! The building is re-purposed from the old Boy Scout hut here in Port Allen. It was not uncommon for jukes to be converted from old houses, shacks, stores, barns, and just about any other building. These barrooms provided a source of income for the proprietors and musicians traveling the “chitlin’ circuit” throughout the south. Sometimes called night clubs or lounges; there is no mistake that a juke joint was the place to dance. They were places of refuge for railroad workers, roustabouts, and farm laborers; a place to have fun and “let off a little steam” after long hard day of work. The WBRM’s Juke Joint highlights 75 years of music history in posters, artifacts, and reproduction photographs accumulated from juke joint establishments throughout the region. Port Allen has a fascinating connection to nationally recognized artists like Ernie K-Doe (Ernest Kador, Jr.), Slim Harpo (James Moore), Buddy Guy, Silas Hogan, and Rufal Neal. The Neal family has graciously donated family photos, concert banners, musical instruments and posters. We are still looking for posters, images, and artifacts to add to the juke joint exhibit. If you have anything that you would like to share, please contact Exhibits Curator Kathe Hambrick at 225-336-2422 x11.

Lives Interlinked
A new exhibit on Henry Watkins Allen and Valery Trahan is opening in time for SugarFest. The display, which is based on Julie Rose’s research, illustrates the complex relationship between Louisiana’s last Confederate Governor and the enslaved man who served as his valet in the Civil War and at the state house. On display in this exhibit is the Trahan trunk which Governor Allen gave to Trahan before he fled to Mexico. The Trahan family donated the trunk to the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, now Preserve Louisiana, in 1968. The Trahan family legacy continues in Port Allen through the artwork of local sculptor, Ronald Trahan, who was commissioned by the WBRM to create a sculpture of his great grandfather, Valery Trahan. Yet another example of lives interlinked, Ronald Trahan was a student of renowned Louisiana artist, Frank Hayden who was a student of Angela Gregory, the artist who sculpted the statue of Governor Allen across from the courthouse. The maquette of the Allen statue is also featured in the Lives Interlinked display.

Over Here & Over There
On November 4, 2017 the museum will open the two part exhibit, Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I and Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I. This traveling exhibit curated by the National Archives will focus on the home front efforts of Americans during the Great War as well as the two million Americans who served in Europe with the American Expeditionary Forces. West Baton Rouge and Louisiana’s contributions to WWI will be reflected through photographs, artifacts and personal stories found in the Historical Association’s collection. Please contact Curator of Collections, Elizabeth Brantley, at 225-336-2422 x12 if you have any artifacts from the WWI era that could help us tell this important story.
West Baton Rouge Museum's Teachers Institute 2017

West Baton Rouge Historical Association has been a proud sponsor of the museum's Teachers Institute program since its inception in 2007. This year's theme, “Atchafalaya Academics,” explored Louisiana's swamps, bayous, and marshes in search of history, culture, language, industries, economics, natural resources, geology, plant and animal life found in the environment of the Atchafalaya Basin. The three-day summer professional development series taking place July 18, 19, and 20 was attended by K-12 teachers across all subject areas.

Participants worked with museum staff, scholars, and special guests to develop lessons for use in their classrooms after being immersed in lectures, hands-on activities, and field trip experiences.

Pictured here are teachers learning by taking museum and boat tours and holding baby alligators. It's no wonder the Atchafalaya region is known as America's foreign country!

Teachers Institute was also supported in part by West Baton Rouge Parish Schools, Criterion Catalyst and Technologies, and a host of local, state and National organizations.

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Sweets Booth & Contest Featured at SugarFest

A favorite place to shop at SugarFest on Sunday, October 1 is the Sweets Booth sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. It will be open for business from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. under the tent near the Arbroth Store on the West Baton Rouge Museum grounds. Chairperson Mary Bennett invites everyone to stop by to purchase their favorite cake, candy, cookies, or pie.

A Sweets Contest will be held in the morning for the best cake, candy, cookies, or pie. A full cake or pie, at least two dozen cookies, or two dozen candy samples must be submitted. The items must be delivered to the Sweets Booth between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. Contest forms are available at the WBR Museum or may be picked up at the Sweets Booth on October 1.

If you'd like to donate sweets to sell at the Sweets Booth, they may be dropped off in a non-returnable container at the sweets booth on Sunday, Oct. 1 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Cookies, cupcakes and candy should be individually wrapped for sale in plastic wrap or bags. Cakes and pies may be delivered whole. Please do not bring items that need refrigeration. To assist the volunteers, please label your sweet item. If you are unable to bring your item on Sunday, someone at the Museum will be happy to receive any donation on Friday or Saturday afternoon before the event.

For additional information or questions, call Mary Bennett at 485-4213.
On Thursday, April 20, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., the West Baton Rouge Museum was the host site for Wine and Wright: An Evening Art Workshop underwritten by AIA Louisiana. AIA Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Architectural Foundation worked with Jeannie Luckett of the museum's education department and former director, Julie Rose to create an event where participants could try some of the hand drafting tools much like Frank Lloyd Wright used to design interior furnishings and to draw architectural elements. The evening included a reception, a lecture presentation by Stacey Pfingsten, Executive Director of the Louisiana Architectural Foundation and drafting instruction by Patricia Bourgeois, Associate Architect with Wardlaw and Lasseigne, LLC.

Museum Receives New Chicken Coop

Elijah Owens, pictured right, recently organized and supervised the building and setup of an 1800’s replica chicken coop for the West Baton Rouge Museum for his Eagle Scout Project. When Eli started planning his project, he met with former director, Julie Rose to see what he could do to help the WBR Museum. Julie had several ideas in mind, but she was most passionate about a chicken coop that would fit in with the rest of the early 19th century theme on the Museum grounds. All the wood used to build the coop was salvaged from the old chicken coop along with the hen box and the ramp. Eli was able to accomplish this task with the help of fellow scouts, John Aillet and Logan Zimmerman, Troop 53 leaders, and friends, Jonathan Castille, Hayden Toups, and Adam Budd.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The designation "Eagle Scout" was founded over one hundred years ago and only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank. Since its founding, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by almost 2.5 million young men. Thank you Eli and best wishes from your friends at the WBR Museum.

Pictured: (L-R) John Aillet, Mr. Kirby, Eli Owens and Logan Zimmerman (behind the chicken coop).

West Baton Rouge Museum staff and volunteers recently toured Cane Land Distillery in downtown Baton Rouge where they learned about Rhum Agricole, which is made from cane juice harvested at Alma Plantation. Staff and volunteers will be invited to tour Alma Sugar Mill this fall during grinding season. See photos to the right.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1 – SugarFest, Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – The 22nd annual sweet celebration of the sugar cane harvest

October 6, 1:00 p.m. – Le Café Français

October 11, 17, 24, and 31 - 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. - Book Club/Film 4 Week Program “Generations of Struggle: Readings,” an LEH/NEH program featuring a viewing of the film Slavery by Another Name, followed by two books: A Lesson Before Dying, by Ernest Gaines, and Between the World and Me, by Ta Nehisi Coates.

October 16, 9:30 a.m. – Enrichment Monday

October 27, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Halloween Event in partnership with the WBRP Library.

October 29, 2:30 p.m. - West Baton Rouge Historical Association's Annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series featuring famed nature and wildlife photographer C.C. Lockwood

November 3, 1:00 p.m. – Le Café Français

November 4 – January 7, 2018 – Over Here & Over There: Centennial of WWI

November 4, 11, and 18 and December 2, 9, and 16, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - World War I and America Reading/Discussion Group – Join history scholars, Dr. Karl Roeder and Dr. Paul Paskoff on Saturday mornings to explore the continuing relevance of the war by reading, discussing, and sharing insights into the writings of Americans who experienced it firsthand. This program, organized to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the nation’s entry into the war in 1917 and presented by Library of America with support from the NEH, is a major initiative involving public programs in all 50 states, a traveling exhibition, a multimedia website, and the publication of an unprecedented anthology of writings by Americans who experienced World War I.

Sunday, November 5 - Reception, Entertainment, and World War I exhibit viewing for Veterans, their families, and the public to accompany the annual Veterans Day parade

November 20, 9:30 a.m. – Enrichment Monday

November 29, Noon, Lunchtime Lecture “WWI and West Baton Rouge Soldiers” presented by Ellis Gauthier.

December 1, 1:00 p.m. – Le Café Français

December 3 - Holiday Open House

December 7 - Noon, Lunchtime Lecture, "World War I in the Air: America Joins the Fight!" presented by Gary Ethridge

December 18, 9:30 a.m. – Enrichment Monday

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.
Patricia L. Alford
American Sugar Cane League
Mary Arrasmith/Katie Heck
Babs Babin and Family
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier
Angélique Bergeron and Family
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron
Carolyn Blanchard
Mike & Pat Blanchard
Sue & Sid Blanchard
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno
Carol & Carolyn Bourgeois
Barry & Susan Brewer
Qiana Bynum
Kim & Kerry Callegan
Kym & Tony Caviola
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley W. Coates
Cou-yon’s BBQ-Port Allen
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies, L.P.
Glen Daigle
Chad & Ashley Doiron
The Dow Chemical Company
Ann Neal Dugas & Family
Linda Lowe Erley
Don & Marie Favrot
William H. Forman, Jr.
Ellis Gauthier & Family
Sara & George “Skipper” Grady
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones
Terry & Steve Guidry
Gary Hart *
Lee & Michelle Hart
Janice Hebert
Holy Family Catholic Church
Garry Hubble Family
Kenneth H. Kahao, Jr.
George & Bentley Kennedy-Stone
Janice Kitchens/Anita Melancon
LA Farm Bureau Federation
LA Heat Pump Association
Lagniappe Dulcimer Society
Harry L. Laws Co., Inc.
Dorene & Dale Mayeux
Modernaires Dance Club
Andrea & Joey Normand
Al & Brenda Parker *
Placid Refinery
Richard’s Printing
River View Development
Kathy Robillard
Edana Robnett
Stacy Ryan
Debra & Ronnie Salvardras
Claire Sarradet
Janet Simoneaux
Bob & Connie Smith
Sneaux Balls on the Geaux
Bobby & Ruth Stanley
Jamee Blink Steele
Eleanor Favrot Stevens
Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Sun Plus, Inc.
Mike & Ellen Tausin
Lorry & Bill Trotter
Al & Cathy Troy
Margot G. Turk
J. Kenneth Washington
West Baton Rouge Chamber
West Baton Rouge CVB
West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
West Side Women’s Club

Welcome New Friends:
Mary Arrasmith/Katie Heck
Gary Hart
Al & Brenda Parker

* Denotes New Friends Member

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Historical Association
Board of Directors

2017 Officers
President
Lorry Trotter
Vice President
Mary Bennett
Secretary
Janis Hebert
Treasurer
Glen Daigle

2018 Officers
President
Lorry Trotter
Vice President
Mary Bennett
Secretary
Janis Hebert
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Glen Daigle

2017 Historical Association
Board of Directors

Babs Babin
Joyce Barbier
Jane Brou
Glen Daigle
Wilhelmenia DeCuir
Glen E. DeMourelle
Brian Falcon
Ellis Gauthier
Garry Hubble
Drew Maciasz
Dorene Mayeux
Andrea Normand
Ida Pierre
Janet Simoneaux
Ruth Stanley
Evva L.Z. Wilson

October 1, 2017

OCTOBER 1

SAVE THE DATE
Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

Acquisitions Memorial Fund

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Annie Laurie Ivey - Jim Barnett

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DONATION FORM

Please fill out the form, enclose your donation made payable to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association in an envelope and mail to: West Baton Rouge Historical Association, 845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767. Only one acknowledgement card will be sent per donation. Thank you.

FROM: ____________________________________________________________

IN MEMORY OF: ___________________________________________________

PLEASE MAIL CARD TO: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________

NOTE: Place an (X) next to the Memorial Fund to which you wish to send your donation.

ACQUISITIONS FUND ______ ETHEL CLAIRBONE DAMERON FUND ______

FRANK CARRUTH III CHILDREN’S FUND ______ (make checks payable to WBR Museum)

GENERAL FUND ______ MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND ______

The WBR Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax exempt. Thank you for supporting the WBR Historical Association.

Membership Form - 2017

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

E-mail Address: _________________________________________________

Telephone: _____________________________________________________

Please check the membership category you wish to join.

Student $10.00 ________ Friends $100.00 (businesses/individuals)

Member $20.00 ________ Patrons $35.00 (individuals)

Make checks payable to West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and mail to 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.