Festival Event Description by Day

The next several weeks are marked by announcements of people being honored during the upcoming Festival.

Saturday, September 23, 2017
Annual Queen’s Ball
The presentation of the 2016 International Rice Festival Queen and 2017 Festival Honorees, Farmer of the Year, Jr. Farmer of the Year and Festival Queens from around the State of Louisiana, and is held at the Grand Opera House.

Thursday, October 19, 2017
This is the opening night for the many food booths, arts & crafts booths, entertainment and the carnival.

Friday, October 20, 2017
The first day of the International Rice Festival is recognized as “Children’s Day”. Special events include the official opening of the Festival by the President, crowning of the Junior King and Queen, Rice & Creole Cookery Contest, Rice Eating Contest and the Children’s Parade.

Saturday, October 21, 2017
Presentation of candidates for crowning of the International Rice Festival Queen. A special demonstration of old time rice threshing is held on the grounds of the Baptist Church on Saturday afternoon. The 5K Fun Run, Acadian Accordion Contest, Fiddle Contest, Rice Poker Run and Car Show all take place Saturday morning. Music continues in the afternoon with bands on two stages. In the midst of all of this, the grandest of all parades, the Grand Parade. A scene not to be missed!

Sunday, October 22, 2017
Sunday Family Day, from Noon until 6pm. Carnival Rides (and goodies) only. This is an Alcohol free day. Only vendors associated with the carnival will be there. Family fun & games only.
2017 Official Program
81st International Rice Festival
“Rice Capital of America” Crowley, Louisiana
October 19-22, 2017

Festival Officers

Suzy B. Webb
President

Chad Monceaux
Chairman

Josh Spell
Vice-Chairman

Randy Harris
Secretary/Treasurer

Roxie I. Viator
Festival Coordinator

Board of Directors

Chad Monceaux
Chairman

Josh Spell
Vice-Chairman

Randy Harris
Secretary/Treasurer

Roxie I. Viator
Festival Coordinator

Jonathan Habetz

Stella Morgan

Patty K. Simon

Jody Viator

J.C. Webb

Kira V. Weber

Front Cover
Miss AnnaLisa Marish Meredith
80th International Rice Festival Queen
FLOWBACK SERVICES & WELL TESTING
Jaguar Energy Services was formed to be the leading provider of oil and gas well testing and flowback services in the industry. Jaguar has built a staff of seasoned professionals and designed a new, superior fleet of test separators, manifolds, and allied equipment. Recognizing the varying operating demands of the multiple resource plays across the U.S., Jaguar offers a variety of test separators to meet the specific needs of our operators. Experienced personnel and new, well-designed equipment ensure a safe and efficient operation while delivering cost-effective results. This is the Jaguar commitment.

Jaguar Energy Services has positioned itself as a leader in flowback and well testing of oil and gas wells. Founded in 2011 by the executive leadership team, JES is staffed by an experienced group of flowback supervisors totaling over 100 years of well site supervision. The senior team has flowback experience throughout the oil and gas basins of the U.S., including the Gulf of Mexico.
ALL VARIETIES OF SUPREME RICE ARE GROWN BY LOCAL LOUISIANA FARMERS AND DELIVERED FRESH TO YOUR TABLE.

Supreme Rice Welcomes you to the International Rice Festival
Welcome

Suzy B. Webb
2017 International Rice Festival President

I would like to graciously welcome each and every one of you to the 81st International Rice Festival, the oldest and largest agricultural festival in Louisiana. We are proud to honor our rice industry and the wonderful farmers who continue to bless us with the abundant Rice Harvest.

The festival has so much to offer and I invite you to come and enjoy the food, parades, musical entertainment, various contests such as Jr. King & Queen Contest, Rice Queen Contest, International Rice Eating Contest, Rice and Creole Cookery Contest, Accordion and Fiddle Contest, International Rice “Poker” Run, Classic Car Show, Rice Grading Contest, Rice Threshing Demonstration and 5K Run Walk and an amazing carnival for all ages.

Each year the Rice Festival has continued to grow. I would like to extend a thank you to the many volunteers who give their time and talent to the growth and success of this great festival and to the sponsors for their incredible generosity.....it does not go unnoticed. Thank you....

In the late 80’s, I was asked by Doris Reiners to work with her at the Queen’s Ball. At that time, it was held on the Friday night of the festival. In 2005, we joined with the Honoree Social Committee and now have the Honoree Social/Queen’s Ball on one night prior to the festival. We honor the reigning queen, along with our newly chosen IRF Honoree, Farmer and Jr. Farmer of the Year and Parade Marshals. I have since volunteered on the Photography Committee and Parade Committee (Tractors) and Beer Booth Committee and currently serve as Chairman of the Queen’s Ball/Honoree Social Committee.

I have recently served on the IRF Board of Directors, immediate past president of NAIFA (National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors) - Louisiana and currently serve as president-elect of the Crowley Rotary Club. I am a graduate and past chairman of the board of the Acadia/Jeff Davis Leadership Excel program, as well as a member of CPW and KC 5499 Ladies Auxiliary. I am a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Eta Kappa Chapter and a member of the Crowley Chamber of Commerce.

Having been born and raised in Crowley the International Rice Festival has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My husband, J. C. (75th IRF President), our children, their spouses and our grandchildren would like to invite you to join us at the International Rice Festival.

“81 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE RICE HARVEST”

Past Rice Festival Presidents

1937      R.E. Schlicher & Justin Wilson
1938      R.E. Schlicher & Justin Wilson
1939      J. Bruce Barousse
1940      W.J. Cleveland
1941      Jerry Ashley
1942-45 War Years
1946      Jerry Ashley & R.E. Schlicher
1947      W.E. Trimble & W.M. Loving
1948      W.M. Loving
1949      A.B. Dore & W.D. Harmon
1950      Guy Gardiner & Millard Roberts
1951      Clyde Hodges
1952      Harry Redman & B.W. Hoyt
1953      W.J. Cleveland
1954      J.W. Barnett
1955      George Goessy
1956      Ralph Cowen
1957      Edwin Edwards
1958      Henry Cowen
1959      Alvin A. Brinker
1960      Edmund M. Reggie
1961      Joe Gielen
1962      Louis M. Basso
1963      Marion Edwards
1964      A.B. Dore
1965      T. Barrett Harrington
1966      J.B. Broussard
1967      Kenneth Faulk
1968      Dr. H. Rouse Caffey
1969      S.L. Wright II
1970      Dr. John Davis
1971      Bill Williams
1972      Dan Rogers
1973      Mike McBride
1974      Lyle Fogleman, Sr.
1975      Julius Meaux
1976      Rita Nicholson
1977      John E. Broussard
1978      L.J. Dailey
1979      Macon D. Faulkner
1980      JoAnn Broussard
1981      Stephen Stefanski
1982      John E. Hains
1983      Harry Benoit
1984      Phil Lizotte
1985      Keith Broussard
1986      Bill Williams
1987      Larry Trahan
1988      Robert Istré
1989      Glynn Mayard
1990      Ken Goss
1991      Debbie Dore
1992      Gene Williams
1993      Esther Trahan
1994      Diane E. Miller
1995      Larry G. Broussard
1996      E. Skip Smith
1997      Ronald Levy Jr.
1998      J. Elliot Dore
1999      Mellie W. James
2000      Gil Pinac
2001      Dolores Nutt
2002      Doris Reiners
2003      Harry Walker
2004      Patti K. Simon
2005      Tracy Wirtz
2006      Bradley LaCombe
2007      Jeremy “Jay” Suire
2008      Blane Faulk
2009      Janet Hebert
2010      Albert Leleux
2011      JC Webb
2012      Brady Williams
2013      Romona Credeur
2014      Connie Nott
2015      Troy Perry
2016      Elisabeth Leleux
2017      Suzy B. Webb
Miss AnnaLisa Marish Meredith
80th International Rice Festival Queen

AnnaLisa Mariah Meredith, International Rice Festival Queen LXXX, is a senior Agriculture Business student at Arkansas State University. She is the Vice President of Collegiate Farm Bureau, member of Collegiate FFA, former Vice President of Phi Beta Lambda. In eighty years she is the only woman to win outside of the state of Louisiana, making this the first win for the Arkansas Rice Festival. In 2015, AnnaLisa was crowned the 39th Miss Arkansas Rice Festival, where she traveled the number one rice producing state promoting Rice. Once crowned at the International Rice Festival she traveled the nation promoting what means so much to her. Traveling from one coast to the other, she celebrated rice and everything nice in Washington D.C. for the grand Mardi Gras to public speaking about all things rice in California at the Rice Millers Association’s National Meeting. Everything in-between included hopping down to Rayne, falling in love with fur in Cameron, Orange slice smiles in Ft. Jackson, pulling traps in Breaux Bridge, cheering from a boat in Morgan City, and raising money for Heart of Arkansas Pageant Meals on Wheels, and quack at the Mallard Masters in Augusta, AR. “This is not the end of promoting what means so much to me it’s only the beginning.

Thank you to everyone that has been my rock through this process. This crown is more than rhinestones and this banner is more than letters, it’s the heart behind it all that makes this title mean so much. From the county with one stop light with hundreds of rice fields to the big lights, representing the International Rice Festival in Crowley, Louisiana where everything is Rice and Nice, come on down to my festival on the 3rd full weekend in October. I am your 80th International Rice Festival Queen AnnaLisa Mariah Meredith hoping you have a Rice Day.”

Past Rice Festival Queens

1937  Mrs. Estelle Bonin Fleming
1938  Mrs. Cecile Trahan Larcade
1939  Mrs. Lucille Jones Brodbeck
1940  Mrs. Melba Keller Hoffpauir
1941  Mrs. Ann Meridith Van Ness
1942-45 War Years
1946  Carolyn Breaux Martin
1947  Mary Alice Teaso
1948  Mrs. Joyceyn Aube Heming
1949  Barbara Rodrigue
1950  Jackie Hoffpauir
1951  Lorraine Lott
1952  Angie Branch
1953  Mrs. Betty David Billiard
1954  Mrs. Cady Gardiner Privot
1955  Carolyn Leonards replaced by Wanda Peterson
1956  Mrs. Margie Moore Hanisee
1957  Patricia Lormand
1958  Mrs. Carolyn Cherry Moore
1959  Judith Ann Haydell
1960  Virginia O’Brien
1961  Marilyn Ann Adams
1962  Vickie Lee Nutting replaced by Sharon Elliott
1963  Brenda Daigle
1964  Valerie Oustalet
1965  Dianne Everett Miller
1966  Linda Leoyt
1967  Mrs. Debbie Carpenter Noble
1968  Susan Garcia
1969  Deborah Elizabeth Jones replaced by Lydia Breaux
1970  Paula Bergeron
1971  Bridget Parsley
1972  Sally Fall
1973  Mrs. Renee Duplechin Tautzin
1974  Karen Bollich
1975  Patricia Cran
1976  Tara Ann Hargrove
1977  Betty Alee
1978  Cynthia Gossen
1979  Beth Meaux
1980  Donna Pousson Hebert
1981  Danette Trahan
1982  Gwendolyn Dugas
1983  Michelle Meche
1984  Camille Bourgeois
1985  Anna Christine Arceneaux
1986  Tonya Stroute
1987  Catherine Arceneaux
1988  Dana Randolph
1989  Jean Marie LeJeune
1990  Toni Ann Adock
1991  Tiffany Shannon McDaniel
1992  Christine Lawson Gil
1993  Heather Hedrick
1994  Yvonne Gilder Anderson
1995  Keisha Benoit Rue
1996  Jennifer Boudous
1997  Angela Marie Abate Fay
1998  Courtney Terrell
1999  Amy Catherine Pastor Bergeron
2000  Elizabeth Jane Lawson Monk
2001  Melanie Rene Falcon Daigle
2002  Lauren Elise Barry Naquin
2003  Aleigha Evan Trahan Singer
2004  Joelle Elisabeth Benoit Guidry
2005  Krystle Lynn Todd Blue
2006  Marissa Champagne
2007  Amber Thibodeaux Hargrove
2008  Devin Angelle Babineaux
2009  Amber Comeaux Landry
2010  Andre Elizabeth Lyons Bruce
2011  Macy LeBlanc
2012  Sarah Mouton
2013  Hailey Claire Hensgens
2014  Allison Hoffpauir
2015  Camille Elise Quezodeaux
2016  AnnaLisa Meredith
Dr. Rustum Ernest Girouard, Jr. better known as “Ernest” was born on March 21, 1940 to his parents, Rustum and Frances Girouard. He was the first born son followed by 3 sisters and 3 brothers. He grew up on a farm in the rural community known as Cossinade located Northwest of Kaplan, LA where he and his wife call home.

Ernest worked on the farm with his family when he was not attending school and was very active in 4-H and FFA activities. Upon graduating from Kaplan High School he attended LSU and worked for the University Agriculture Department earning enough money to pay for most of his college expenses. He completed his Ph.D. work in July 1967 and graduated in January 1968.

In 1962 he married his high school sweetheart Alice (registered Nurse) during his last semester before completing his BS college degree. He is very thankful that Alice was able work and for her support in putting him through college.

He then accepted an Animal Nutrition position with Allied Mills in Illinois August 1967. In 1969 he resigned, purchased some land next to his family farm and moved his wife and son to Louisiana to begin his farming career. He and Alice have 3 boys, one girl, and 7 grandchildren.

As his farming acreage increased he was elected to represent the Louisiana rice industry at the local, state, and national levels serving on the State and National Rice Council and Research boards as well as serving on various committees and leadership positions. Most notable was his leadership on the Louisiana and USA Rice Research Boards serving as Board Chairman on each Board. He was chosen to represent Louisiana Rice Producers on the U.S. Rice Foundation Board and was elected Board Chair. The Foundation Board is responsible for oversite of the Rice Leadership class and allocation of research funds at the national level. He was also selected to be the Rice Stakeholder Representative on the first National Rice Cap Research Project and was elected Chairman of the Stakeholder Committee. He directed workshops at USA Rice Annual Meetings (2002, 2003 & 2004) which provided valuable guidance on conservation planning and participation in NRCS Federal conservation programs.

He was awarded the 2012 USA Rice Federation First National Distinguished Conservation Achievement Award. The International Rice Festival awarded him the 1999 Rice Farmer of the Year and his father Rustum E. Girouard received the same award in 1971.

Cooperative Farm Credit Associations and Bank Boards have also been a long term interest and he has been instrumental and establishing Farm Credit Charters in Louisiana to provide affordable financial farm credit for farm operating loans and land purchases. The 10th Farm Credit District honored him for his many years (42) of serving the District as a Stockholder Elected Board member and officer, and Chairman of many Stockholder committees.

He also has found time to continue to serve as Chairman of his local Soil and Water Conservation District, past President the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts (LACD); and a Board member of the National Board. In addition he currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Soil and Water Conservation Commission. LACD awarded him the State Outstanding supervisor and the Guy Carie Memorial Award (conservation).

He has a passion for the protection of the natural resources (soil, water, animals, plants and air) which led him to support and join the Louisiana Master Farmer Program. He completed the environmental classroom education Phase 1 and Phase 2 Best Management Practices field days. Then he requested Phase 3 for USDA/NRCS to develop a Resource Management System plan for his farming operation. The plan was accepted and fully implemented allowing him to compete the requirements to become a Louisiana Certified Master Farmer.

After farming 39 years he retired and then in 2006 he was employed by the LSU AgCenter to help with conservation planning in the Louisiana Master Farmer Program (LMFP) and was later promoted to the position of Coordinator of the program. Under his guidance the program has continued to increase in participation, received State and national recognition; and is now recognized nationally as the standard for the sustainability and protection of the natural resources in a farming operation. During his employment at the LSU AgCenter he received State and National Achievement awards, and the State Extension Award for program management.

His honors and awards are numerous and recognize his many contributions to protect Louisiana’s agricultural resources and sustainability of Louisiana producers.

After 45 years of serving the people of Louisiana at the local, state, and national levels on many Rice Industry, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Farm Credit Associations and Bank Boards, Dr. Girouard, Coordinator of the Louisiana Master Farmer Program (11 years) retired on August 31, 2017.
Kent Brown was born and raised in the small rural community of Hathaway, just north of Jennings, in Jeff Davis Parish in Southwest Louisiana. His parents, Harold and Ruth Brown and his three brothers, Craig, Ricky, and Steven, lived on the Brown family farm.

In the late 1800’s, Kent’s ancestors, who were wheat farmers in the state of Iowa, moved during the historical migration of Midwest farmers to the prairies of southwest Louisiana to begin producing rice. There were many challenges to adjusting to their new life, but the homesteaders endured the obstacles because of their love of farming. Over 100 years later, Kent Brown, the 4th generation farmer, continues to produce rice on the original 450-acre homestead, as well as an additional 200 hundred acres of rented farmland for rice and crawfish production because of his love of farming and family heritage.

Kent grew up learning about farming from his father. Following his high school graduation in 1974, Kent began farming full-time. With his knowledge and experiences in farming and rental of his father’s equipment, Kent leased farmland in the Hathaway area and began producing rice. In the 1980’s, after Kent’s dad retired, he purchased his father’s equipment and starting managing all the family farm production. Over the decades, Kent added efficiency to his operation with the purchase of on-farm grain storage and converting to an electric irrigation well.

For the past 43 years, Kent has worked hard to maintain and sustain the farm. He is especially proud that his son is currently a self-employed farmer and working to build his operation. Kent said, “I am proud that the 5th generation will continue production on Brown Farms.”

Currently, Kent plants two long grain rice varieties, Excel 729 and Clearfield 153. He also plants Jupiter, a medium grain rice. He attends the Annual Rice Field Days at LSU Research Station in Crowley, LA and follows the Best Management Practices recommended by the LSU Rice Researchers. He also incorporates guidelines by the Conservation Stewardship Program (C.S.P.). Several years ago, Kent was involved with the Kellogg’s Certified Rice Grower Program, a sustainability effort for the Kellogg Company to purchase medium grain rice for their cereal product.

For the past thirty-four years, Kent has been very involved with the promotion of the agricultural industry and rice production. He has served in a leadership role in many agriculture organizations. He is a current Board Member of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA); current President of Jeff Davis Parish Farm Bureau Board of Directors; current Treasurer of Jeff Davis Parish Rice Growers; current Member of Louisiana Rice Promotion Board; current Member of Louisiana Farm Bureau Rice Advisory Committee; current Member of Louisiana Farm Bureau Crawfish Committee; Past President of Jeff Davis Rice Growers; Past Member of Louisiana Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Past Secretary of Louisiana Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Ranchers State Committee; Past Chairman of Jeff Davis Parish Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

Kent stated, “I believe it is important to be involved in promoting the agricultural industry so people can have a better understanding of importance of agriculture in our nation.”

Kent’s wife is the former Jacqueline “Jackie” Doucet of Hathaway, who is a retired teacher. They have been married 35 years and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Their son, Eric, a 5th generation self-employed farmer, and his wife, Blaire Landry Brown, reside on the family farm in Hathaway, LA. Their daughter, Melissa, formerly employed at the National FFA Office in Indianapolis, Indiana, her husband, Brian Dunkel, and 3 children, Sam, Kate, and Ben Dunkel, reside in Brownsburg, Indiana. Their youngest daughter, Rachel Brown, is employed at the McCormick Corporation in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

They enjoyed raising their 3 children on the family farm, which helped instill the values of work ethics and appreciation for agriculture. They were very involved with FFA and 4-H livestock shows, projects, and activities. They are proud that each of their children earned a degree and pursued a career in the field of agriculture.

Kent is a member of the Raymond United Methodist Church. He is a current member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee; current Communion Steward and Chairman of the Raymond Cemetery. He served as Past Church Lay Leader, Past Church Treasurer; and Past Member of the Trustee Committee.
Michael Paul Zaunbrecher, Jr. Farmer of the Year

The 81st International Rice Festival will recognize Michael Paul Zaunbrecher as the 2017 Junior Farmer of the Year. Michael is the 19 year old son of John Lawrence and Leslie Soileau Zaunbrecher of Mowata. He has three brothers: John, Douglas, and Phillip and one sister, Adrienne Z. Fontenot. Michael is the grandson of Robert "Bobby" Soileau and Clara Soileau of Eunice, LA and Frank and Hilda Frey Zaunbrecher of the Mowata community.

Michael and his family live on the family farm in Mowata. The farm consists of 1,600 acres of rice, soybeans and crawfish.

Michael is a first year Agricultural Sciences student at McNeese State University. He is a 2017 Honor Graduate from St. Edmund Catholic School in Eunice, LA graduating with a 3.8571 G.P.A. Michael was a member of the National Honor Society and Senior Hall of Fame. He was invited to attend McNeese University Academic Signing Day in the Spring of 2017.

Michael was a 4-year member of the St. Ed’s football team, 4-year member of the St. Ed’s baseball team, and Campus Ministry team.

Michael has been a life member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Michael was a 4-H market lamb exhibitor for 11 years and won the 2016 Southwest District Livestock Show with the Grand Champion Market Lamb.

During the Summer of 2017, Michael was employed by USDA NRCS and the Acadia Soil and Water Conservation District as a District Technician.

Growing up on the family farm has helped Michael to learn the duties and responsibilities of a farmer from an early age. Michael began operating the tractors and plowing the fields at an early age.

Some of Michael’s many responsibilities include operating machinery during planting, harvesting, and pre-planting seasons, checking water in rice and crawfish fields to include opening and closing pipes, spraying levees, plowing, laser leveling, mowing driveways and field roads, and assisting with equipment maintenance, grain storage and transport.

Michael’s hobbies include spending time with his family and friends, hunting, fishing, riding 4-wheelers, and dog training.

Michael’s agricultural roots and dedication to farming are evident in his passion for the industry. Michael is a fifth-generation rice farmer on their family farm.

Michael was chosen by the USDA Farm Service Agency from a group of young deserving men nominated by FFA/Ag Teachers from area schools.
Sheriff K.P. Gibson, Co-Grand Marshal
Chief Jimmy Broussard, Co-Grand Marshal
Chief Jody Viator, Co-Grand Marshal

K.P. Gibson serves as the 8th Sheriff of Acadia Parish. Born and raised in Crowley, K.P. has been married for the past 24 years to Monica Sonnier Gibson. They are the proud parents of two boys, Cameron and Carter. K.P. has served as a law enforcement officer for the past 26 years. Starting his law enforcement career in 1991 with the Lafayette City Police Department, he served in the Patrol Division working the North Lafayette area, the Field Training Division and the Criminal Investigations Division. K.P. also served on the departments Dignitary Protection Team as well as the SWAT team.

In 2002, he successfully ran for the office of Chief of Police for the City of Crowley, Serving as Chief of Police for 14 years, the Crowley Police Department accomplished many upgrades to the department. These accomplishments include technology upgrades for the department as well as for the patrol units, creation of the department first narcotics unit, renovation of the Crowley Police Department just to name a few.

In 2015, K.P. successfully ran for the office of Sheriff of Acadia Parish. Since taking office in July of 2016, the department has increased the amount of deputies in enforcement jobs, reduced the response times to calls and has implemented a fleet management program. He continues to work on improving the services of the Acadia Parish Sheriff’s Office to better serve the citizens of our parish.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Sheriff and I am honored to be recognized by the International Rice Festival” he stated.

Jimmy Broussard’s life has been one of service. Beginning at a young age, he has served in music ministry for many Catholic and Protestant churches not only here in Crowley, but throughout Acadiana.

Born to the late Allen and Gayle Broussard, Jimmy’s parents were tragically killed by a drunk driver in 1969, leaving him an only child without a mom and dad. Jimmy was raised by his paternal grandparents, who provided him with the old fashioned morals and values that he still upholds today. The tragedy to his parents has been a long standing banner against drunk driving that he still holds to this day.

Jimmy began his career in law enforcement as a Communications Officer at the Acadia Parish Sheriff Department, under then Sheriff Kenneth Goss. In 2000, he joined the Reserve Force of the Crowley Police Department as a DARE Officer and has been a long standing banner against drunk driving that he still holds to this day.

Broussard is married to the former Lynne Millet and they are the proud parents of two daughters, Jordan Rose (married to Joshua Conner) and Megan Claire. They are also grandparents to a blue-eyed angel in heaven, Cole Anthony Conner.

Jody Viator was born in Abbeville in 1960. Jody is the son of L.J. and Sue Delcambre Viator. He graduated from Abbeville High in 1978.

He moved to Crowley in 1985. In 1989 he began his career in firefighting. Entering the Crowley Fire Department in 1989, he rose through the ranks and was promoted to Captain in 1993. In 2005, he became Crowley Fire Chief. He continues his education and training through the LSU Fire Emergency Training Institute. Jody is a member of Local 1442 Crowley Professional Firefighters and is also a member of the Professional Firefighters of Louisiana (PFFA) and the International Association of Firefighters.

His Rice Festival volunteering activities began in 2004. He has been a member of the Board of Rice Festival Directors since 2015.

Jody is married to the former Roxie Istre. They have one daughter Kira Viator Weber. Jody plays bass guitar in his daughter’s band, Kira Viator & Bayou Beat since 1993. He began playing the guitar when he was seven years old. During his younger years, he played guitar in the family’s band with his father L.J. and his sister Ann Bell.

Chief Viator’s commitment to help those in need grew out of his own concern that someone would be there to help his wife and daughter if they were in need. Jody holds a deep conviction that someone be there for a family in its time of need. That is the simple and sincere principle that guides his public service in Crowley.
Michael Christian Doughty  
**Grand Marshal of the Children’s Parade**

“My students are not special because of their needs, but because of their gifts. This has been a guiding mission statement for my career in special education.”

Michael Christian Doughty is in his 19th year of teaching special education at Crowley High School. Working with students with severe/profound disabilities is his passion.

Doughty credits his family for his love of those with exceptionalities. “My parents have always taken an interest in people with special needs. I have a cousin who has a mental disability, and every time I have been around him he makes me smile. His joy is infectious.”

In addition to teaching, Doughty also served as head baseball coach at Crowley High School from 2004-2015.

While living in Alexandria, Louisiana, Doughty received the Civitan Young Citizen Award presented by Mayor Ned Randolph in recognition for service in the community while being a full-time student athlete at Louisiana College. Crowley Rotary Club also presented him with an Outstanding Service Award.

Doughty served as a volunteer coach at the Crowley Recreation Department for 23 years and at Iota High School since 2016.

Christian was raised in Crowley and graduated from Notre Dame High School. He received a bachelor’s degree from Louisiana College where he was also a member of the baseball team. Christian also earned a master’s degree from McNeese State University as well as a teaching certification in special education.

Christian is married to Connie Meche Doughty. They are the owners of Rice City Designs in Crowley. The Doughtys have four sons, Mike, who is married to Elea McNeely Doughty, Taylor, Ben and Will all of Crowley. They also have one grandchild, Bo Michael Doughty. Doughty and his family are active members of First Baptist Church, Crowley.

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**Past Children’s Parade Grand Marshals**

1983   World’s Fair Mascot Pelican
1984
1985
1986   Justin Wilson
1987   Joseph Baronet
1988   Oscar Johnson
1989   Dr. James M. Griffin
1990   Barton W. Freeland, Sr.
1991   Mary Alice Fontenot
1992   Maria Placer
1993   Virginia Ruddock
1994   Alyson Habet
1995   Helen M. Zaunbrecher
1996   Dr. Marietta “Mellie” James
1997   Joey Webb Jr.
1998   Teachers of the Year
       Tammie McGuidry, Ray O. Blum
       and Genita Domingue
1999   Donna F. Corley
2000   Tim and Tony Robichaux
2001   Coach Piz Richard Pizzolatto
2002   Doug Daigle
2003   Marlene LeBouef
2004   Kira O. Viator
2005   Stella Abshire Guidry
2006   Scott Brazda
2007   Chad Monceaux
2008   Lewis Cook
2009   Louis Cramer
2010   Edward “Ed” Dartez
2011   Steve Fontenot
2012   Ann Mire
2013   Dolores Nutt
2014   William Bryan Pinac
2015   Clarence Lee Woodward III
2016   Kelly Cart Leonards
2017   Michael Christian Doughty
### Past Rice Festival Junior Queens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Thelma Goss</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Janelle Plattsmier</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Ella V. Ortego</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>War Years</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>Claude C. Lyons</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>Bernice Guillot</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Marjorie Devillier</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>Mary Ann Gielen</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Mary Jeanne Peres</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Laura Ruth Baker</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>Alura Kay Miller</td>
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<td>Barbara Gail Belland</td>
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<td>Barbara Jean Antis</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Stephanie Abshire</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>Julie Ann Prejean</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Jerrie Lynn Premeaux</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Susan Elaine Jabusch</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Beverly Jane Hebert</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Cynthia Comeaux</td>
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<td>Katherine Maureen Menard</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Tia Lynne Cormier</td>
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<td>Ladonna Richard</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Shelly Lynn Poisson</td>
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<td>1976</td>
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<td>Jillane Annette Gotte</td>
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### Past Rice Festival Junior King

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Paul C. Hannagriff, Jr.</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Tim Robinson</td>
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<td>John Copeland Reed</td>
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<td>Norman Oliver</td>
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<td>Shane Thomas Schexnider</td>
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<td>Nakia Lantz</td>
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<td>Bradley Arabie</td>
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<td>Michael Garret Ruppert</td>
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<td>Paul Maichal Stokes</td>
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<td>Gretchen LaCombe</td>
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<td>Bonnie Wittz</td>
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<td>Amber Nicole Thibodeaux</td>
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<td>Amy Michelle McClelland</td>
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<td>Anna Brittany Zunbrecher</td>
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<td>Caroline Arysse Nuger</td>
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<td>Adrianna Hudson</td>
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<td>Hannah Kimble Doucet</td>
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<td>Brandi Abate</td>
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<td>Lily Claire Hoffpauurt</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Bethani Chesterman</td>
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<td>Mary Katherine Lavergne</td>
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<td>Phoebe Lynn Henry</td>
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<td>Vivian Barousse</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Emmy Claire Navarre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Malari Navarre</td>
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</table>
BAND SCHEDULE
LOUISIANA RICE MILL/SUPREME RICE SOUND STAGE
(COURTHOUSE)

Thursday, October 19, 2017

6:30PM – 7:45PM | KIRA VIATOR WEBER & BAYOU BEAT
sponsored by Ed Guidry Electric / Randy Falcon, The Accordion Shop

8:15PM – 9:30PM | TJ GAUTREAUX & LOUISIANA SOUL
sponsored by Gueydan Duck Festival / Louisiana Soul

10:00PM – MIDNIGHT | JAMIE BERGERON
sponsored by LA Lottery / Hayne Frog Festival

Friday, October 20, 2017

3:00PM – 5:00PM | RONNIE MATTHEWS
sponsored by City of Crowley

5:30PM – 7:30PM | DREW ZAUNBRECHER
sponsored by Texas Rice Festival

8:00PM – 10:00PM | COUNTRY ROUND UP
sponsored by Dugas, Solleau & Breux, LLC / Double L Customs

10:00PM – MIDNIGHT | ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
sponsored by UP Foundation / Farmer’s Rice Milling / Lake Air / AT&T / USA Rice Federation / Microtel Inn & Suites / Salvador’s Jewelers
Iron Oak Services / Lee & Patti Lawrence / PL3 & Associates / Acadiana Bottling / DSS Computers / Hoffpauir Farms

Saturday, October 21, 2017

NOON – 2PM | SOUND CHECK

2:00PM – 3:00PM | KIP SONNIER
sponsored by Schilling Distributing / Crescent Crown

5:00PM – 7:00PM | JOHNNY CHAUVIN
sponsored by LRC Wireless

7:30PM – 9:30PM | DUSTIN SONNIER
sponsored by LA Federal Land Bank / City Bar of Crowley / Acadian Sewer & Septic, Inc.

10:30PM – MIDNIGHT | WAYNE TOUPS
sponsored by Jaguar Energy Services
Friday, October 20, 2017
81st Official Festival Opening

9:00AM  |  OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RICE FESTIVAL
Opening remarks by Suzy Webb, 2017 International Rice Festival President. Introduction and Remarks, Miss AnnaLisa Marish Meredith, 2016 International Rice Festival Queen. Welcome, the Honorable Greg Jones, Mayor of the City of Crowley

9:30AM  |  NATIONAL ANTHEM, PAYTON BROUSSARD

9:45AM  |  ENTERTAINMENT BY TUMBLING TOTS AND TEENS

10:15AM  |  CHILDREN’S JUNIOR KING & QUEEN CONTEST
Presentation of young ladies and gentlemen representing first or second grade of Acadia Parish Schools.

10:30AM  |  ENTERTAINMENT BY CORE DANCE CENTER

11:00AM  |  ENTERTAINMENT BY DOLORES NUTT SCHOOL OF DANCE

11:30AM  |  CROWNING OF THE INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL JUNIOR KING & QUEEN by the Acadia Parish Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John Bourque and Mrs. John Bourque.
Presentation of savings bonds by representative of Office Centre/Teacher’s Pet. Presentation of Jr. King Scholarship & Jr. Queen Scholarship by Zip Seasoning / Lake Felix RV Park
Trophies sponsored by JC & Suzy Webb

11:45AM  |  ENTERTAINMENT BY INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL DANCE TROUPE

12:00PM  |  INTERNATIONAL RICE EATING CONTEST
Champion rice eaters from throughout the country vie for title. May the best man win!
sponsored by the Crowley Lions Club

12:30PM  |  CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS KARATE ACADEMY

1:15PM  |  RICE GRADING AND SHEAF AWARD
Presented by Jeremy Hebert, County & Parish Agent / LSU ag Center

1:15PM  |  RICE AND CREOLE COOKING CONTEST AWARDS
Chef de Riz Award presented by Letha Vincent, Chairwoman

1:30PM  |  INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL CHILDREN’S PARADE
sponsored by LAMM Family Care / Billing Plus
Theme: 81 Years of Celebrating the Success of the Rice Harvest
One hour spectacular that focuses on the use of rice in the making of floats and decorations by Acadia Parish Schools
School float trophies donated by LAMM Family Care / Billing Plus

Saturday, October 21, 2017

8:00AM  |  5K RUN WALK
sponsored by Crowley High School Track

9:00AM  |  NATIONAL ANTHEM, PAYTON BROUSSARD

9:15AM  |  5K RUN WALK AWARDS

9:20AM  |  81ST OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OPENING

9:25 AM  |  MILLWORKERS OF THE YEAR
Presentation of awards to the 2017 Outstanding Millworker
Falcon Rice Mill...Kenneth Webster / Supreme Rice... Cherie Richard

9:30AM  |  PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S CHOICE AWARD
To Volunteer of the Year

9:45AM  |  PRESENTATION OF VISITING QUEENS
International Rice Festival Queen’s Contest

10:00AM  |  INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL DANCE TROUPE

10:40AM  |  CROWNING OF THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN
by Festival Honoree, Dr. Rustum Ernest Girourd, Jr.

10:50AM  |  PRESENTATIONS TO THE 2017 INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL QUEEN
The “Bill Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund” donated by Jaguar Energy Services, presented by a Jason & Jared Monk. Supreme Rice Scholarship, presented by Brent Jones. I Falcon Rice Mill Scholarship, presented by Robby Trahan. Union Pacific Foundation Scholarship presented by Drew Tessier Acadia Parish Farm Bureau Scholarship presented by Cathy Hebetz Iberia Bank Scholarship presented by Romona Credeur
Lake Felix RV Park, Zip Seasoning, Ryan Siteg Lawn Care Scholarships presented by Cathy Habetz

11:00AM  |  FROG DERBY
sponsored by City of Rayne / Rayne Lions Club

3:00PM  |  INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL GRAND PARADE
sponsored by Southwind: Senior Living Suites / Southwind: Healthcare & Rehabilitation / Encore Healthcare & Rehabilitation
The grandest of all grand parades.
BAND SCHEDULE AT
CRAMER EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY SOUND STAGE
(4TH STREET)

Thursday, October 19, 2017
6:30PM – 7:45PM | TEMPORARY FIX
sponsored by Acadiana Bottling
8:15PM – 9:30PM | CHRIS BREAUX & 6 STRING RODEO
sponsored by Sam’s Place
10:00PM – MIDNIGHT | FORET TRADITION
sponsored by James “Jimbo” Petitjean, Acadia Parish Tax Assessor

Friday, October 20, 2017
3:00PM – 5:00PM | BLAINE ROY
sponsored by Sunbelt Motors
5:30PM – 7:15PM | COLBY LATIOLAI
sponsored by LAMM Family Care
7:45PM – 9:30PM | LEROY THOMAS
sponsored by J&J Exterminating / LAMM Family Care / Demone Decouette, D&D Construction
10:00PM – MIDNIGHT | CATEGORY 6
sponsored by LAMM Family Care / Billing Plus / Hoffpauir Farms / DSS Computers / Fezzo’s

Saturday, October 21, 2017
10:30AM – 12:30PM | DONNY BROUSSARD
sponsored by City Bar of Crowley
1:00PM – 3:00PM | BUBBA HEBERT
sponsored by LAMM Family Care
5:00PM – 7:00PM | KEVIN NAQUIN
sponsored by Conque Bail Bonds / Randy Falcon, The Accordion Shop
7:30PM – 9:30PM | GENO DELAFOSE
sponsored by Cramer Equipment & Supply
10:00PM – MIDNIGHT | BAG OF DONUTS
sponsored by LAMM Family Care / Billing Plus / T-Shirts, Etc. / Acadian Sewer & Septic, Inc. / Fezzo’s / DSS Computers / Southwind: Senior Living Suites / Southwind: Healthcare & Rehabilitation / Encore Healthcare & Rehabilitation

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT
CRAMER EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY SOUND STAGE
(4TH STREET)

Friday, October 20, 2017
1:30PM – 2:30ish | CHILDREN’S PARADE
sponsored by LAMM Family Care & Billing Plus
School Float Trophies donated by LAMM Family Care & Billing Plus

Saturday, October 21, 2017
8:00AM – 10:00AM | ACCORDION & FIDDLE CONTEST
sponsored by City Bar of Crowley / Falcon Rice / The Accordion Shop
Special Appearance by the International Rice Festival Dance Troupe
3:00PM – 4:00ish | INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL GRAND PARADE
sponsored by Southwind: Senior Living Suites / Southwind: Healthcare & Rehabilitation / Encore Healthcare & Rehabilitation
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT
LOCATIONS OTHER THAN MAIN STREET

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

9:00AM - 3:00PM  RICE GRADING CONTEST
USDa MARKETING SERVICE Grain Division, West Hwy 90

7:00PM  SENIOR CITIZENS BALL
RICE FESTIVAL BUILDING 717 West Mill Street

Friday, October 20, 2017

9:30AM  RICE AND CREOLE COOKING CONTEST
ACADIA PARISH ADULT ED CENTER 2122 N. Parkerson Ave.
Exquisite cuisine prepared with rice. From the winners, the Chef de Riz (Master Cook of Rice) will be selected.
sponsored by the USA Rice Federation

10:00AM  OPENING OF OUTDOOR ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
LEVY PARK between 3rd & 4th Street
sponsored by the Crowley Art Association

Saturday, October 21, 2017

10:00am  Opening of Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show
LEVY PARK between 3rd & 4th Street
sponsored by Crowley Art Association

1:00PM  RICE THRESHING DEMONSTRATION
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 4th Street & Avenue G
An old time rice threshing, hosted by Notre Dame Ag-Science Dept., Rice Museum & The First Baptist Church.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
7:00AM – 10:00AM REGISTRATION
JUDGING BEGINS AT 10:00AM
1:45PM  AWARDS PRESENTATION
BANK OF COMMERCE PARKING LOT 326 North Avenue G
sponsored by Genesis Services / Bank of Commerce & Trust Co
Simon & Sons Construction & Trim / Viator Services and Repair / Wal Mart

14TH ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL RICE (POKER) RUN
7:45AM  REGISTRATION BEGINS
RICE PALACE I-10, exit 80
Scenic ride through beautiful “RICE COUNTRY”.
Good roads, Great Ride!
sponsored by Bayou Silkscreening / Shop Rite / Tobacoo Plus
Viator Services and Repair / Double L Customs / Burger Zone
Martin’s Tavern / City Bar of Crowley / Cajun Propane, Kenny Lucero
St. Martin Bank / Mark & Lynn Cullen, Compass Behavioral
Reggie’s Downtown Crowley / Sam’s Place / LAMM Family Care

8:50AM  BIKES LEAVE
2:00PM  AWARDS PRESENTATION
Cramer Equipment & Supply Sound Stage

Sunday, October 22, 2017

12:00 NOON—6PM  FAMILY FUN DAY
Where we have tracks, we have ties.

Most companies have one headquarters. One home. One star on the map.

At Union Pacific, we have a base of operations – but our real base is our operations. And that’s not just one place, it’s a system. It’s a community of communities across 23 states. Everywhere Union Pacific travels is a part of us, and almost every town along the way is a town where our employees live and work.

Union Pacific connects and supports communities across America, not just because it’s our business, but because these are our communities, too.
Acadiana Bottling Company

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE

81ST INTERNATIONAL RICE FESTIVAL

EXCLUSIVE SOFT DRINK PROVIDER

Acadiana Bottling Company • 918 Young St. • P.O. Box 989 • Youngville, LA 70592 • 337-237-3935 • 337-237-8580
Official Rice Festival T-Shirts
Special Thanks to Union Pacific Foundation for sponsoring the 81st International Rice Festival.

Special thanks for all their time & effort donated to make the International Rice Festival a success: The City of Crowley, The Acadia Parish County Agents Office, Louisiana Department of Agriculture, Dr. Steve Linscombe of the LSU Rice Research Station, Chief Jody Viator and Crowley Fire Department, Chief Jimmy Broussard and The Crowley Police Department, Sheriff K.P. Gibson and The Acadia Parish Sheriff’s Department and area law enforcement agencies.

Special thanks to our two Sound Stage sponsors: Supreme Rice and Cramer Equipment & Supply.

Special thanks to Robby Barousse, Clerk of Court and his staff for the dedication and support of the festival.

Special thanks to the Acadia Parish School Board for their involvement in the International Rice Festival Children’s Activities.

Special thanks to our Hospitality Room sponsors: Union Pacific Railroad Foundation, Acadiana Bottling, Slemco, Conque Bail Bonds, SWLA Center for Health Services, WalMart, City Bar of Crowley, Kristy Meyer, Rice City Gymnastics, First National Bank, Patti & Lee Lawrence, PL3 & Associates, Sea Trout Marina, Road Rock Recycling, JTD Services, Inc. and Sam’s Place.

Special thanks to Iron Oak Services for rental accommodations and equipment.

Special thanks to Acadiana Bottling for being our soft drink sponsor.

NO ICE CHESTS PLEASE

Please visit the Festival Beer Booth & help keep the Festival FREE!

Please drink responsibly... Designate a driver!

Official poster, t-shirts and other festival souvenirs are available at our souvenir booth located on Parkerson Ave. at the corner of Parkerson and 5th Street.

ACADIANA BOTTLING: SOFT DRINK EXCLUSIVE
SPECIAL-T-ICE: ICE EXCLUSIVE