



Putting Our Coast to Work

Restore or Retreat Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Twenty years of advocating for comprehensive coastal restoration for the Bayou Region

2020 Annual Report

The regional coastal advocacy organization Restore or Retreat (ROR) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2020! The birth of Restore or Retreat in 2000 brought landowners, port commissions, parish governments, restoration advocates, levee experts, business owners and residents together for one specific purpose— restoring the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.

Early successes for the organization included initiating a \$1 million reconnaissance level study of a major sediment diversion for the Barataria and Terrebonne Basin's under the leadership of then-Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle. The results of the study were used in multiple state and federal documents, and information is still relevant in current coastal projects today.

ROR continues to host field trips for decision makers and influential media to restoration areas and project sites such as Davis Pond and Caernarvon freshwater diversions, Caminada Headlands, Bubba Dove Flood Gate, wetlands of central Terrebonne, Wax Lake Outlet and more. Guests at past ROR events and field trips include US Senators and Congressmen, EPA administrator and regional officials, Chairman of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, RESTORE Council leadership staff and members, and more.

With each passing year in coastal Louisiana, we are faced with many challenges, but none have been greater than the challenge our state and nation face during this global pandemic and the most active Atlantic hurricane season on record. Coastal Louisiana has always been resilient, and the resilience of ROR's programs and partnerships has remained strong, despite this extraordinary time.

ROR continues working with BHP, Louisiana Sea Grant and the Water Institute of the Gulf on a collaborative leadership development initiative for native communities in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes called the Coastal Advocacy Through Science Training (COAST) program, as well as co-hosting a weekly radio show, "Delta Dispatches," to discuss Louisiana's coast, its people, wildlife and jobs, and why restoring it matters with the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition. Additionally, ROR's partnership with Off the Hook Cajun Restaurant to benefit our coast through a monthly coastal give back night—good food for a good cause—continues, among many more programs and partnerships.

Working in the Barataria and Terrebonne basins, the heart of the worst coastal land loss in the United States, ROR focuses daily on engaging communities and implementing real restoration solutions for the region. Our work moving forward will reflect the continued sense of urgency to implement State Coastal Master Plan-level projects for the Bayou Region. We are proud to be working on the 2023 Master Plan, on outreach and engagement efforts in Lafourche and Terrebonne, and on bringing a coastal research center to Nicholls State University, to name a few. We appreciate your support moving forward!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RESTORE OR RETREAT

The birth of *Restore or Retreat* (ROR) brought landowners, port commissions, parish governments, restoration advocates, levee experts, business owners and residents together for one purpose: to save our irreplaceable region.

2000
ROR is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and located on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux. Alex Plaisance is elected President.



2007
ROR supports Louisiana's first ever comprehensive Coastal Master Plan and ROR advocates for a greater share of offshore royalty revenues dedicated to Louisiana's coast.



2012
The RESTORE Act is passed by Congress and ROR becomes part of the RESTORE Coalition to advocate for those dollars to be dedicated to Louisiana's Coast. ROR also hosts their first stakeholder summit to engage area leaders.

2014
ROR Executive Director is appointed to the Governor's Advisory Commission, and ROR partners with the National Wildlife Federation.

2016
ROR hosts Working for Our Coast business workshop to connect area business to levee district and CPRA for upcoming work.

2018
ROR partners with State to put a Master Plan in every public library in Louisiana.

2020
ROR celebrates 20 years!



2004
At ROR's urging, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources completes a study to investigate a major sediment diversion into the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.

2010
Following the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, ROR advocates for long-term restoration of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins.



2013
ROR participates in its first ever restoration project in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and continues to host field trips for local, state and federal leaders.



2015
ROR partners with CPRA to host community meetings on the State's Master Plan.

2017
ROR announces partnership with CPRA to identify strategies to maximize the impact of near-term funding for Coastal Master Plan.

2019
ROR celebrates 100th podcast episode with interview of Louisiana's Governor and hosts coastal candidate luncheon.

Projects

Continued Investment from State Coastal Agency



Louisiana's CPRA debuted its annual spending plan, exhibiting investment and work ahead

Every year, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority releases its fiscal annual plan, which highlights and priorities our state's coastal investments annually. The coastal protection and restoration budget over the next three years, of which the overwhelming majority-- over \$2 billion-- is for projects in construction, shows that our state is taking this crisis and its urgency seriously and stepping up with significant action. There are a significant number of vital, priority projects funded and advancing through the annual plan, including nearly half a billion of investments in restoration and protection for Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. Because of this overall investment and the investment in the Bayou Region, Restore or Retreat has expressed this support both in our public and written comments, as well as following its passage in the Louisiana Legislature as it seeks approval. ROR will remain steadfast in our mission of advocating for timely and science-driven advancements of major projects in our area, such as Terrebonne Basin Barrier Islands, Morganza to the Gulf, North Lafourche and Larose to Golden Meadow hurricane protection systems, Houma Navigational Canal Lock complex, Caminada Back Barrier Marsh, and the Bayou Lafourche Pump Station, just to name a few.

At a time when jobs for our working coast are most needed and highly valued, restoration projects have begun in earnest. These projects certainly bring good news for the protection and restoration of our working coast, but also represent a powerful investment in our economy and good paying jobs that comes along with this work.

Project Highlights

Several projects in the Bayou Region have made project breakthroughs

Two Projects Move Forward, Progressing Toward Construction Start

- A regional project 'decades in the making,' the Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex, saw significant and unique financing achievements in 2020, and construction work is to begin in the near future. "We have taken careful consideration to design a complex with far-reaching environmental benefits by distributing freshwater into the basin and keeping salt water at bay, but also making critical accommodations for business and industry to continue to thrive along our working coast," said Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District Executive Director Reggie Dupre.
- The West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment Project received \$31 million in funding from CWPPRA for construction. This project would create 295 acres and nourish 242 acres of open water, emergent saline smooth cordgrass marsh and black mangrove habitat using dredged material. Construction start is aimed to begin next year, and should last eight to 12 months.



“

The Houma Navigational Canal Lock has always been the anchor for restoring this part of the Bayou Region.

REGGIE DUPRE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TLCD

Construction Underway for Barrier Island Projects in both Lafourche and Terrebonne

- Construction on all three islands within the Terrebonne Basin Barrier Island project have commenced and continue to progress, despite excessive hurricane impacts. This Terrebonne barrier islands project, a critical line of defense and vital ecosystem habitat encompassing Trinity-East Island, Timbalier Island and West Belle Barrier Headland, will create and/or nourish approximately 1,100 acres of marsh, dune and beach using approximately 9.2 million cubic yards of sediment. This includes restoration of seven miles of beach.
- Construction has also begun for Caminada Headlands Back Barrier March Creation Project, formerly separated into Increments I (BA-171) and II (BA-193). The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources beneficial use program contributed \$3 million in funding, adding 169 acres onto the eastern end of the project footprint. Construction began in June 2020 and the project is scheduled for completion mid-2021.

Partnerships

Restore or Retreat Assists with Queen Bess Island Planting

ROR worked with partners to plant over 6,000 plants on Louisiana's premier pelican nesting site

On November 12 and 13, 60 eager coastal enthusiasts, including local students, faculty, athletes, biologists, engineers and more, gathered at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Research Lab in Grand Isle to await their boat ride to Queen Bess Island with one goal in mind—restoring our coast! As a partnership between Restore or Retreat, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Shell, Jefferson Parish, Fletcher Technical Community College and Nicholls State University, the 2020 Queen Bess Island Planting provided an opportunity for area volunteers to transplant a combination of over 6,000 black mangrove and matrimony vine plants to help reinforce nesting sites on the recently restored 37 acres of Queen Bess Island.

The Queen Bess Island restoration project and supportive planting are integral to the long-term survival of brown pelicans in Louisiana and sustainability of our southern treasure, Queen Bess Island. Likewise, the hard work and passion of all volunteers, as well as the support of project partners and our community partners Bayou Community Foundation, Entergy, Off the Hook Cajun Restaurants and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation solidifies Restore or Retreat's mission to saving our coast, community and culture—in an irreplaceable region.



In the Field

ZOOM into #OurCoast



ROR featured many friends and colleagues of the Bayou Region and our coast during a fun #GettingToKnowROR series in 2020. The web series kicked off with CPRA Board Chairman Chip Kline.

ROR adapts to the virtual shift amidst the global pandemic



ROR's Executive Director Simone Maloz was featured as a LWCC Champion of Louisiana for her work with Restore or Retreat.



ROR visited USACE's ERDC campus in Vicksburg with CPRA, Lafourche Parish Government, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District and T. Baker Smith to view their innovative work and learn how we can bring it #ClosesttotheCoast.



ROR joined Port Fourchon and Lafourche Parish for hurricane damage assessment with Governor John Bel Edwards and CPRA. Impacts to the port and parish were discussed, as well as active restoration projects in the region.



ROR is working on an exciting project with partners Chevron, Ducks Unlimited and Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana which we hope to debut in the new year.

ROR

Membership

ELITE

Walton Family Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
Chevron
BHP COAST Program

PLATINUM

ConocoPhillips
Greater Lafourche Port Commission**

GOLD

South Central Industrial Association
LOOP
Callais Family Fund, Bayou Community Foundation
Fourchon Oilman's Association

SILVER

Submar, Inc.
Creole Classic Fishing Tournament

BRONZE

Apache LA Minerals, Inc.**
Bollinger Shipyards**
Duplantis Design Group, P.C.**
James R. Peltier
The Allan Company
T. Baker Smith, LLC
Bayou Industrial Group
Capital One Bank
Entergy**
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Parker Marine Services, LLC
Sealevel Construction, Inc.
Thibodaux Regional Medical Center
Thomas J. Boudreaux, Architect, AIA-LLC
Marguerite Knight

Associates

Buquet Distributing Co., Inc.
Picciola & Associates, Inc.**
Phylway Construction LLC
South Louisiana Bank
Volkert, Inc.
Williams, Inc.
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
Weeks Marine
Bluewater Rubber & Gasket Co.
Norman Duplantis
Angelette-Picciola, LLC
EATEL**
Fletcher Technical Community College**
Michel H. Claudet, LLC
Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc.
Southern Guard Service
Stephanie Hebert Insurance Agency, Inc.
Terminix Pest Control
Archie Chaisson for Parish President
Lori LeBlanc, LLC
Thibodaux Regional Orthopedic Clinic
Gaubert Oil Company, Inc.
Halliburton
Synergy Bank**
Caillouet Land LLC
James and Penelope Callahan
Charles C. Theriot & Company
C-K Associates, LLC
Danos
Berwick and Alexis Duval
Edward Wisner Donation Adv. Comm.
Lafourche Parish Assessor Wendy Thibodeaux

Lafourche Parish District Attorney
Kristine Russell
Leonard Chauvin P.E., P.L.S., Inc.
Robert and Terri Naquin
North Lafourche Conservation, Levee
& Drainage District
Picciola Land Company, LLC**
Providence Engineering and Design, LLC
Francis and Helen Richard
Rig Chem LLC
Ricky and Charlotte Smith
The Seafood Shed Inc.
Triche-Doverspike Financial Group, Inc.
Jane Arnette
Alfred Delaune
Internal Medicine Associates
Lafourche Chamber of Commerce
Gretchen Caillouet & Associates
LA 1 Coalition

Friends

Luci Sposito Campaign Fund
Stephen and Martha Peltier
Ted M. Falgout & Associates, LLC
David Cavell
Friends of Bayou Lafourche
Deanna Lafont
Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court
Annette Fontana
Marla Abel for Judge
New York Life
Nicholls State University Foundation

Kathy Stuart
Tommy and Martha Thomassie
White Car Marketing
2nd Wind Marine, LLC
Chandler LeBoeuf
Joni Tuck

***Donors for both Annual Membership
and Rendezvous fundraiser*



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