

ASLA Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Kerry St. Pé

Nominee's Address: 312 Pelican Dr

City/State/Zip: Raceland, Louisiana 70394

Phone: 985.537.3678

Nominator: Haley Blakeman

Kerry St. Pé is the Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), a nationally recognized effort dedicated to preserving and restoring the 4.2 million-acre area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in Southeast, Louisiana. Before becoming director of BTNEP, he served as the Chair of its Scientific-Technical Committee from 1991 to 1996 and was a member of the BTNEP Management Committee.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) developed a coalition of government, business, scientists, conservation organizations, agricultural interests and individuals for the preservation of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex. Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is a part of the National Estuary Program, which goal is to prevent activities that threaten an estuary's public water supply, are harmful to shellfish, fish and wildlife population, and negatively impact recreational opportunities for estuary residents. Protecting the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex is critical to combat Louisiana's wetland loss by restoring wetlands and barrier islands, supporting diverse biological communities, establishing water quality standards, promoting environmentally responsible economic estuarine activities, implementing comprehensive education programs, developing comprehensive watershed planning, forging common-ground solutions to estuarine problems, and formulating estuarine ecosystem health indicators.

Kerry grew up near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Port Sulphur, Louisiana during the '50s and '60s where the vast coastal marshes surrounding his home inspired him to become a marine biologist. After graduating from Nicholls State University in 1973, Kerry worked for 23 years as a field biologist and regional coordinator for the Water Pollution Control Division of the Louisiana Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries and Environmental Quality. His work allowed him frequent encounters with the people, marshes, and swamps of the area now known as the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.

Under the Water Pollution Control Division, he investigated water pollution incidents and conducted studies of shell dredging and other environmental impacts in Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain as well as a major study on the impacts of oilfield brine in coastal Louisiana. His oilfield brine study was an important catalyst in getting both state and federal regulations established to stop these discharges to Louisiana water bodies.

Mr. St. Pé has directed hundreds of oil spill removal and remediation events in the coastal marshes of southeast Louisiana and has developed nationally-used training courses on diagnosing causes of fish mortalities. He has provided expert testimony to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Department of Justice as well as to the Louisiana Legislature. He serves on numerous national, state, and local advisory boards and is a frequent public speaker. His wetland restoration work has been featured in the best selling book *Bayou Farewell, the Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast* by Mike Tidwell and most recently in the PBS documentary, *Washing Away: Losing Louisiana* and the LPB documentary, *Turning the Tide*.

In 2004, Mr. St. Pé was invited as a member of a United State delegation, to the Mekong River Commission to forge an agreement between the member countries of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Kerry was also appointed as the Interim Administrator of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) from July 2002 to June 2005.

Mr. St. Pé has received a variety of awards for his work in coastal Louisiana, including several *Outstanding Publication Awards* from the Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association. He was also the recipient of the first (1996) and eleventh (2006) *Annual Coastal Stewardship Award* from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. The Golf of Mexico Program awarded Kerry the *Gulf Guardian Award* in 2009. In May of 2010, Kerry was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by Nicholls State University. In March of 2012, the Nicholls Alumni Federation presented Kerry with the *James Lynn Powell Award*, the highest honor awarded to an alumnus of the university.

Louisiana's coastline has been loosing wetlands at a rate of 16.57 square miles a year during the past 25 years, equal to the loss of a football field of coast every hour, according to the U.S. Geologic Survey. Throughout his career, Kerry St. Pe has worked to not only protect our critical Louisiana landscapes, but also to help educate the public and forge partnerships with other entities to do so. Without his leadership, we would have surely lost this nationally important resource and Louisiana would have suffered even more land loss. He has been instrumental in bringing awareness to Louisiana's land loss, as well as communicating the severity of the situation and the potential solutions to Louisianans and others around the world.

Because of his contributions to Louisiana's landscape, as well as his ability to bring together scientists, designers, government officials and the public to find solutions for these critical issues, the Louisiana Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects requests your consideration of Kerry St. Pe for Honorary ASLA membership.



Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20001-3736

re: Honorary Membership Nomination

Dear Nominating Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write on behalf of Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (LCASLA) in support of the nomination for Mr. Kerry St. Pé to be elected as an honorary member of ASLA. Mr. Kerry Pé is an outstanding person whose achievements and influence have provided notable service to the profession of landscape architecture.

Mr. Kerry St. Pé has dedicated his life and career to bringing global awareness to Louisiana's land loss, as well as communicating the emergency status of the situation. Having grown up in south Louisiana and residing here all his life, he has witnessed first hand the effects of land loss and strives to protect and preserve our coast, wetlands, and quality of life in Louisiana. He is fully engulfed in his work and engaged with the community which helps bring awareness to our state, the issues, and severity of the problems. As the current Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP), a nationally recognized organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the 4.2 million-acre area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in Southeast, Louisiana, his message and efforts have reached international levels and acclaim.

Mr. St. Pe is a leader and activist that strongly believes in taking action now and encourages others to participate. He has the ability to bring together scientists, government officials, and the public to find solutions and engage the issues. He organizes volunteer clean ups and service projects to get the public involved and keep efforts moving in the right direction. Even with his busy work schedule, he volunteered to speak at our 2013 Louisiana Chapter ASLA conference in Baton Rouge. Mr. St. Pé is passionate about educating and explains issues in a way that everyone can understand. He educates and communicates to all who will listen, and embodies our goals, ethics, and moral values as landscape architects. He is an important figure in coastal restoration and preservation efforts which go hand in hand with every aspect of landscape architecture.

It would be a great honor to have him represent Landscape Architecture and Landscape Architects as an honorary member in ASLA. As Secretary for LCASLA executive committee, I strongly encourage you to consider this nomination.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harbourt
LCASLA Secretary

Jennifer Y. Harbourt, PLA, ASLA
Principal
Reich Associates
a design collaborative

William A. Reich, PLA, ASLA
Jennifer Harbourt, PLA, ASLA
Christine S. Forsman, PLA, ASLA
Stephen Rust, ASLA
Beth Roberts

301 East Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70802
225/766-5610
225/336-5890
Fax 225/769-4790

www.reichassociates.net



Leslie Suazo
Coastal Restoration Coordinator

c/o ConocoPhillips • 806 Bayou Black Road • Houma, LA 70360 • 985-853-3020 • lsuazo@ducks.org

Honorary Membership Nomination
ASLA
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is truly my pleasure to write in support of the nomination of Mr. Kerry St. Pe' for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. Having known Kerry on a personal and professional basis for over twenty years, it is difficult for me to imagine anyone more intimately familiar with our magnificent, yet fragile, Louisiana landscape as is he.

I first met Kerry when he had only recently been appointed as the Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and I served as legislative assistant to our local State Senator. I soon discovered that in addition to being my "nearly next door" neighbor, Kerry and I shared many mutual friends from his birthplace, Port Sulphur, Louisiana. Our conversations often revolved around his childhood near the mighty Mississippi River, and mine, growing up swimming in Bayou Lafourche – once a major tributary of that river. These conversations spanned generations, as my mother and Kerry would often share their varied experiences growing up along on the river: Kerry's adventures exploring the vast coastal marshes, and my mother's earliest childhood memory living in Morganza, Louisiana: the Great Flood of 1927 – an event that continues to shape our lives and our landscape to this very day. These discussions were quite diverse, ranging from great river events, to the best location of citrus trees in our back yard, as well as my mothers' first lesson on invasive species – at age 80!

Kerry's love of the coastal marshes around his childhood home in Port Sulphur not only inspired his chosen career path as a marine biologist, but ignited a passion to protect, preserve and restore our coastal landscape – a calling rather than a career. From his early days with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and his work with the Water Pollution Control Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Kerry possessed a keen understanding of the impacts of human activities upon our landscapes and our communities. He pioneered several initiatives that resulted in positive changes to state and federal regulations to improve water quality; including an oilfield brine study that resulted in regulations to prohibit such discharges in to Louisiana water bodies.

This pioneering spirit led to Kerry's selection as the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee for a major, first of its kind planning effort in Louisiana: the nomination of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System into the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program. In this capacity, Kerry was able to shepherd a diverse membership of scientific and technical advisors through the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Management Program. This

document was accepted by the State of Louisiana and the EPA, thus establishing the Barataria-Terrebonne National estuary Program (BTNEP) as one of 28 program areas of national significance. Since becoming Program Director, Kerry has worked tirelessly to develop a broad coalition of public and private sector interests, scientists, conservation organizations, and individuals dedicated to the preservation of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex. During this time, I was fortunate to come to know Kerry on a very different level, when he hired me as the Community Relations Coordinator for the BTNEP.

I am so proud to say that I know Kerry not only as a friend, but as a wonderful mentor and colleague. He has been a champion for the mission of the Program: to prevent activities that threaten our estuary's public water supply, are harmful to shellfish, fish and wildlife populations, and negatively impact recreational opportunities for area residents, but he has also been an outspoken advocate for the protection and restoration of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine Complex - an area often referred to as "ground-zero" in Louisiana's ongoing battle against coastal wetland loss. He still reminds me (when he thinks I need a bit of humility) that he taught me everything I know about Louisiana's Coast, but not everything HE knows! While I know this is only too true, I am grateful to have had the benefit of his patience, guidance and tutelage during my tenure at BTNEP.

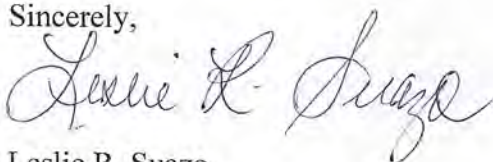
I witnessed his dedication in a very real way a few years later, during the spring of 2010. As Director or Coastal Restoration and Preservation for Terrebonne Parish during the oil-spill related to the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, I often called upon Kerry to seek his guidance on response and clean-up activities. Kerry very willingly shared his knowledge and expertise from years of oil-spill related field work, calming the fears of commercial and recreational fishermen, shrimpers, and oystermen with the patience, reason and "real-world" advice gained from his years of experience.

Kerry continues to be a patient and willing teacher for anyone interested in learning about the beauty and bounty of our coastal Louisiana landscape, sharing his experience and insights with memberships of civic and community groups; student groups from kindergarten to college and political leaders alike. Whether he is speaking to an individual (like my Mom) in the backyard, or to a large community gathering, Kerry's unique ability to relate landscape scale challenges to an individual level fosters a sense of place that is a rarity in the 21st century.

Above all, Kerry is steadfast in pursuit of common-ground solutions to the many issues facing the communities of coastal Louisiana, where we live, work and play – this wonderful place we call home.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write in support of my mentor, colleague and friend, Kerry St. Pe', whom I believe to be deserving of honorary membership in your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie R. Suazo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Leslie R. Suazo



A CECI GROUP COMPANY

CECI Group Services

Civil Engineering

Planning Services

Survey & Mapping

Coastal Engineering

Environmental Services

Website: www.coastalengineering.com

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: Kerry St. Pé

Nominee's Address: 312 Pelican Drive

City/State/Zip: Raceland, Louisiana 70394

Phone: (985) 537-3678

Nominator: Gregory M. Grandy, ASLA

I am honored and proud to nominate Kerry St. Pé for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscape Architecture. Mr. St. Pé grew up near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Port Sulphur, Louisiana during the '50s and '60s where the vast coastal marshes surrounding his home inspired him to become a marine biologist. Kerry has dedicated his life to conserving the natural resources of coastal Louisiana and the unique culture that is tied to those wetlands in of South Louisiana.. Mr. St. Pé is currently the Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) an area that is literally ground zero in habitat loss in coastal Louisiana.

Prior to becoming the Director of BTNEP, Mr. St. Pe worked for 23 years as a field biologist and regional coordinator for the Water Pollution Control Division of the Louisiana Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries and Environmental Quality. His work allowed him frequent encounters with the people, marshes, and swamps of the area now known as the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. Under the Water Pollution Control Division, he investigated water pollution incidents and conducted studies of shell dredging and other environmental impacts in Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain as well as a major study on the impacts of oilfield brine in coastal La. His oilfield brine study was an important catalyst in getting both state and federal regulations established to stop these discharges to Louisiana water bodies. Mr. St. Pé has directed hundreds of oil spill removal and remediation events in the coastal marshes of southeast Louisiana and has developed nationally-used training courses on diagnosing causes of fish mortalities.

In 1997, Kerry St. Pé became the Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, one of 28 such program throughout the U.S. BTNEP is a partnership of government, business, scientists, conservation organizations, agricultural interests, sportsmen, and individuals working to preserve, protection, and restore the 4.2 million-acre estuary between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. With such a

diverse group of partners, it takes a leader with tremendous skill to build consensus and Kerry has been that leader for nearly two decades.

BTNEP has been at the forefront of coastal restoration in an area that has some of the highest land loss rates, the Barataria and Terrebonne basins. Between 1956 and 1978, scientists calculate that over 294,000 acres of marsh were converted to open water. While the rate of land loss currently shows a decline, the Barataria and Terrebonne basin area is experiencing over half of the land loss rate for the entire state of Louisiana.

Kerry has worked tirelessly to educate the public and act as an ambassador for Louisiana's fragile wetland habitat in the wake of devastating hurricanes, ongoing land loss, and the largest oil spill in the history of our country. Under Kerry's leadership, BTNEP has mounted an aggressive outreach and education campaign which annually produces award-winning, outreach materials that educate, inform and focused on coastal Louisiana and our extraordinary cultural heritage. BTNEP actively engages our citizens and visitors to our state by organizing and leading volunteer efforts to plant native trees and grasses to create habitat, remove invasive species, clean litter from our waterways and beaches, remove derelict crab traps, and install Christmas tree fences.

Following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on coastal Louisiana and the impact of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Kerry's passion for our unique culture and knowledge of our wetland crisis led to even more opportunities to educate the public and help lead the efforts to restore our wetlands. His wetland restoration work has been featured in the best-selling book Bayou Farewell, the Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast by Mike Tidwell and in the PBS documentary, Washing Away: Losing Louisiana and the LPB documentary, Turning the Tide. Mr. St. Pé has also received several Outstanding Publication Awards from the Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association and has twice been awarded (1996, 2006) the Annual Coastal Stewardship Award from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. In 2014, the National Academy of Sciences appointed Kerry St. to an advisory group to create a strategic vision and guide the program's development and implementation.

I have personally had the extraordinary opportunity to work with Kerry on a number of coastal restoration projects and his leadership made those projects better. Our state has been fortunate to have someone with the courage, conviction and passion of Kerry St. Pe leading conservation efforts for decades to protect our unique, fragile landscape and Louisiana's heritage that is so inextricably linked to the land.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory M. Grandy, ASLA

ASLA Executive Committee:

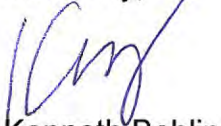
It is with great honor and pleasure that I recommend an ASLA Honorary Membership to Kerry St. Pé, Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). The BTNEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs throughout the United States and its territories. Kerry St. Pé will compliment the existing honorary LA's with his local and national prominence as director of one of the largest national estuary programs.

When you think of Landscape Architecture, outdoor public areas, landmarks, and structures to achieve environmental, social-behavioral, aesthetics and largescale ecosystem restoration, the prominence of Kerry St. Pé in his 17 years at BTNEP fits well. Kerry St. Pé, as leader of the BTNEP, is a very dedicated patron of the coast and is frequently requested to speak at conferences and meetings both locally and nationally. He is committed to his job as director and spends much of his free time at volunteer events, working with the local citizens, promoting and supporting the restoration of the ecosystem that forms the BTNEP. Kerry St. Pé was one of the highlighted speakers at the Louisiana Chapter ASLA 2013 meeting, devoting his weekend to attend.

Kerry St. Pé has an energy and enthusiasm about the coastal landscape. While Kerry St. Pé is focused on the Louisiana coast, he is a steward of the environment and nature as a whole. Kerry St. Pé has received numerous awards and honors for his dedication and work. Kerry St. Pé suffered a stroke several years ago, but his determination and enthusiasm for continuing his work helped expedite his recovery and he continues his energetic pace today.

In Louisiana and nationally, when you hear the name BTNEP, Kerry St. Pé and his passion for sustaining the ecological and social environment of coastal Louisiana comes to mind. He is a true leader, promoting the philosophy of Landscape Architecture. Kerry St. Pé will hold dear and true to his heart of being an honorary member of the ASLA and will cherish and advocate the field and values of Landscape Architecture. I therefore recommend Kerry St. Pé for ASLA Honorary Membership.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Bahlinger

Project Manager

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority