



Preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of Louisiana

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONVENES PRESERVATIONISTS AT OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION TO DISCUSS KATRINA RESTORATION EFFORTS

The Old Governor's Mansion, headquarters of the Foundation for Historical Louisiana (FHL), was the setting for a historic meeting convened recently by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Resource Center (PRC) of New Orleans to discuss "next steps" for restoration efforts after the devastating Hurricane Katrina.



Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, at the Old Governor's Mansion

Over 200 individuals, representing federal, state, non-profit, and business entities, attended the meeting designed to explore the restoration process. Also "present" at the meeting were 15 national reporters hooked up via conference call to the session.

The meeting was held in the East Room of the mansion and was hosted by FHL Executive Director Carolyn

Bennett and FHL board members. The Foundation is working closely with the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups to assist in the rebuilding efforts.

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, opened the meeting and stated that he was confident that wholesale loss of New Orleans' houses can be avoided, especially if measures pending in Congress win approval. He also said that owners of historic homes would receive a 30 percent tax credit against qualified expenditures to repair storm damage, if the measures are approved.

Vieux Carré Commission Deputy Director Dan Brown gave assurances that mass demolition would not take place. "The public is concerned about coming home and not finding their homes. That is not going to happen."

He added that every flood damaged house or building in New Orleans, whether or not it is located in a historic district, will be visited by one of a hundred assessment teams. "Photos will be taken and then posted on the internet," he said. Also speaking at the event and providing an historic neighborhood by neighborhood overview of flood damage was Patty Gay, who had taken a walking tour of New Orleans with Moe and other preservationists the day before the Baton Rouge event.

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75th Diamond Jubilee Gala

FEATURING
Deacon John and the Ivories
Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:30-11 p.m.

Lee Michaels



JOHN HARDY

Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry is proud to present the John Hardy Collection during the Diamond Jubilee Gala and to donate a percentage of sales from this exquisite collection to benefit the preservation work of the Foundation.

**For reservations call
225-387-2464 ext. 10**



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Join Us!

"LANDMARKS: MORE PRECIOUS THAN EVER"

Preservation Gala Planned October 27

The Foundation for Historical Louisiana will hold its annual gala on Thursday evening, October 27, at the Old Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge. This is the 7th annual gala and the major fundraising event to benefit the organization's mission of preserving the state's cultural and architectural heritage. This year's

individuals interested in 'partying for preservation' to attend this fabulous, classy, and fun affair. It is our goal to continue our work in preservation and to assist our sister city in their recovery," stated Bill Benedetto.

"Hurricane Katrina has disrupted life in Louisiana--but no storm will ever

Orleans' cultural treasures in the storm's wake. The fund will be directed by the FHL Board of Directors.

Tickets for the event are \$100 per person or \$125 at the door and include a fabulous array of food and libations from the area's finest restaurants and caterers. New Orleans' own Deacon John and the Ivories will be the featured entertainers for dancing in the Rose Garden of the 1930 Mansion, a White House look-alike. The Foundation's traditional silent auction is also planned for the landmark's great East Room. For tickets or sponsorships, please call (225) 387-2464.



Photo by Don Kadair

Governor's Mansion: Built in 1930

theme is "Landmarks: More Precious Than Ever" in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Old Governor's Mansion.

The celebration will feature Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry as the Presenting Sponsor which will highlight the John Hardy Collection. A preview and sale of this collection's exquisite pieces, created by the Bali artist John Hardy, will be held at the Preview Party and throughout the Gala. Corporate sponsorship packages are available and include a full year of benefits offered by the Foundation.

Bill and Carroll Benedetto are serving as the Grand Chairs for this Baton Rouge event, a star on the capital city social scene. "We invite everyone and especially our 'new' Baton Rouge citizens, and all

stop the preservation of our rich culture, deep traditions, and joie de vivre. Now more than ever, the work of the Foundation for Historical Louisiana is vital for preservation and restoration--not just to preserve history, but also to learn from it," said FHL Executive Director Carolyn Bennett. Additionally, the organization has established a dedicated fund through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and donations will be earmarked to assist with restoration advocacy and the preservation of New

75th Diamond Jubilee Gala

**\$100 per ticket
or \$125 at the door**

*Black Tie or come in the jewels
or finery of your choice*

**SILENT AUCTION
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Featuring over 100 great items!**

**Old Governor's Mansion
Valet Parking**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, October 27

Old Governor's Mansion Gala

The Foundation for Historical Louisiana has planned an exciting 7th Annual Gala to honor the Mansion's 75th anniversary. The event will be held at the Old Governor's Mansion, with Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry as the presenting sponsor. The gala, whose theme is, "Landmarks: More Precious Than Ever," is Thursday, October 27, and will feature the popular Deacon John and the Ivories. Call now for reservations 387-2464.

Friday, December 2

Holiday Open House

Celebrate this holiday season with the Foundation for Historical Louisiana at the Old Governor's Mansion Holiday Open House on Friday, December 2, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. This annual event coincides with downtown's Festival of Lights and will showcase the Mansion, decked out in her holiday best! The Old Governor's Mansion Holiday Open House is free and open to the public. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Saturday, December 10

Heritage Christmas Tour to Historical Natchitoches

Lagniappe Tours, the travel arm of the Foundation, is planning a Heritage Christmas Tour to historic Natchitoches, LA. This all day trip includes a stop at Melrose Plantation and a Creole Buffet on the way to Natchitoches, then the Christmas Tour of Homes in the Natchitoches Historic District that afternoon. Three (3) homes will be decked out in historical Christmas decor. Gift shops will be open for last minute shopping. Luxury coaches will leave Mall of Louisiana early morning, returning that evening. Call Lagniappe Tours at 225-387-2464, ext. 17 for more details.

Tuesday, February 28

Lagniappe Tours to Mardi Gras in New Orleans — Yes, it's on!

On Fat Tuesday, Foundation for Historical Louisiana members and friends are once again swinging down to the Big Easy to celebrate Mardi Gras in New Orleans! Leave your parking and crowd worries behind as we board a deluxe motorcoach and travel to the Crescent City. Enjoy the world-famous Krewe of Rex and Zulu, as well as the marching clubs and truck parades, from your reserved seats. At mid-afternoon, the party moves to Le Pavilion Hotel, known

as "the Belle of New Orleans," for a delicious and relaxing Creole buffet. As a Lagniappe Tours' passenger, you will have access to the hotel's facilities throughout the day. This very popular tour is truly the Big EASY way to experience Mardi Gras, especially with experienced Lagniappe Tour Guides. A deluxe motorcoach will depart from the Mall of Louisiana. Call now for reservations: 387-2464.

March 10 & 11

Magnolia's Memories III

This spring, the Foundation for Historical Louisiana will "bring back to life" notable Baton Rougeans to tell their stories in the popular Magnolia Memories III. "We're featuring five citizens who are buried there or lived here," says noted filmmaker Randy Walsh, organizer of the tableaux. "And who better to explain the foundation of today's Baton Rouge than those who lived it? So we're calling them back from the grave to talk to us."

Performance dates are Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11 for "Magnolia's Memories III." The outdoor drama vignettes are set in candle-lighted Historic Magnolia Cemetery and based on narratives from diaries, military records, logs, history books, and local legend. Sponsorships and tickets available: 387-2464

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION



Erin Misita Mixson Photo by Don Kadair

Weddings and Receptions
Rehearsal Dinners
Bridal Portraits
Corporate Events
Private Luncheons and Dinners
Cocktail Parties

Call 225-387-2464

FIRST WEDDING AT THE MANSION



▲ From left to right, and from the bottom of the stairs upward: Katherine Overton Cailleateau, Alice Lee Grosjean, Leah Knott, Mary Olive Davis, Charlotte Davis Parrott, Rose Lolita Long (daughter of Governor Huey P. Long), Lucille Long Hunt, Russell Billiu Long, Martha Hunt Gould, Lucille Long and James Henderson Long. The individuals standing at the very top of the stairs, whose faces are not seen, are the bride, Caledonia Cooper Ducoumau, and future governor, Earl Kemp Long, who gave away the bride.



From our Album



SMILEY ANDERS

The Old Governor's Mansion hosts many events, including weddings, receptions, preservation meetings, lectures, and even book signings! In July, the Foundation welcomed our own favorite humor columnist, Smiley Anders of *The Advocate*. His book, "The Best of Smiley: Appetizers 1979-1990," features excerpts from his award winning column. Over 75 people attended the noon event, including FHL members Ralph and Ann Howe who attended the reception.



VINTAGE BUS TOUR

Baton Rouge was the site of the first successful bus boycott of the 1950s, led by local African American leaders. This event became a blueprint for the more publicized boycott which took place two years later in Montgomery, Alabama, and set the stage for desegregation in the Deep South. Shown here are a group of Foundation members who recently visited a vintage bus at the Capital Area Transportation (CATS) Center. CATS plans to retrofit the bus as a "moving" museum and educational "vehicle."



LAGNIAPPE TOURS - VISIT OF ST. JOSEPH PLANTATION

Lagniappe Tours travelers pause on the steps of St. Joseph Plantation on September 17th before heading for Evergreen Plantation. St. Joseph received the Foundation's Bricks and Mortar Award in July.



LAGNIAPPE TOURS

Lagniappe Tours Guide Mary Beth Matthews tells travelers to make plans for Mardi Gras February 28, 2006. New Orleans officials indicate there will be a scaled down version of Mardi Gras and Le Pavilion Hotel is awaiting our arrival. Call 225-387-2464, ext. 17 for more details. This will be a historic Mardi Gras you will not want to miss.



TEEN USA

Baton Rouge hosted the Miss Teen USA competition this summer. During their week long visit to the Capital City, the beauties took time out on the Sunday before the national telecast and competition to tour the Old Governor's Mansion and to learn more about the seven governors who once lived here.



OLD SOUTH BATON ROUGE HERITAGE LECTURE

McKinley High, WJBO studios, Dr. Leo Butler (who made lovely suits for the Louisiana Governors), Pharmacy and Medical Clinic, Joe Ridley Haberdashery, and many more were highlighted in the early times of Old South Baton Rouge during a recent heritage lecture held at the Old Governor's Mansion. Called "Architectural Gems of Old South Baton Rouge", the lecture featured the research of LSU Professors Jay Edwards and Petra Munro Hendry and Heritage Education Specialist Julia Rose. Calandro's Cellar Wines served as underwriter of the event.

Above, left to right: Foundation member William Brockway visits with presenters Jay Edwards, Petra Munro Hendry, and Julia Rose.



OLD SOUTH BATON ROUGE HERITAGE LECTURE

Based on the researchers' findings, the community could

move forward to apply for a historical designation based on a theme: civil rights events or architecture of the area. The team identified 35 buildings eligible for meeting the criteria for historic register designation. They also identified from Julia to Maximillian streets for its diverse heritage and the area from Terrace Avenue and Joseph Delpit Drive for its historical significance to the African American business community. Edwards noted in his remarks that historical designations help to improve business viability, enhance community spirit and pride, stop blight, and bring eligibility for private and public grants.

Kenneth Trahan and his mother, Dr. Patricia Baranco, Sue Turner, and The Advocate Arts Columnist Anne Price attended the recent Old South Baton Rouge Heritage Lecture.

EVENTS

PRESERVATION AWARDS



Special thanks to Leo Honeycutt for his spectacular emcee performance. Also, special thanks to John Wilbert and Michèle Deshotels for serving on the selection committee and to David Norwood, who created caricature original drawings, which depicted the honorees' contributions.



The 2005 Preservation Awards were presented to (left to right) **Ruth Wilkinson** for her efforts to preserve the Old State Capitol, her role in the preservation of Poplar Grove Plantation, and for her involvement and dedication to the Foundation for Historical Louisiana; **Ory Poret** for his tireless commitment to the physical and historical care of historic Magnolia Cemetery, and for his dedication to genealogy and heritage writing and research; **Anthony Fama** whose photography and writing is keeping the history of Plaquemine and the area alive

for generations to come; and to **Lillie Gallagher** for advocacy on behalf of the preservation and adaptive restoration of Historic City Park and Golf Course. This year's Volunteer of the Year is **William Brockway**, AIA Architect and retired Boyd professor of architecture at LSU, for his assistance to the FHL in its continuing efforts to save the original wood windows at the Old Governor's Mansion.

The Foundation also presented its Bricks and Mortar Award to the **Simone and Waguespack families**, represented here by Mrs. Joan Boudreaux, for their dedication to rebuilding St. Joseph Plantation, one of the true treasures of Vacherie. Over 200 members of the two families have worked on the restoration project.



Chairman's Corner: CALL TO ACTION

In only a few times in Louisiana history have we as a citizenry been so challenged. As

preservationists, our important purpose and advocacy in this work is called to action. This is what "we" are all about. Two devastating storms have destroyed lives, homes, communities, and special landmarks.

Just two weeks after Katrina and Rita, preservation leaders from throughout the state and nation were called to Baton Rouge for a state-of-the-state overview on the status of storm damage to historic buildings in New Orleans, and to begin an open discussion on "next steps."

It is fitting that during the 75th anniversary of the Old Governor's Mansion that such a historic meeting should take place in the East Room. There were over 150 participants, numerous neighborhood organizations, and other state and federal agency representatives including FEMA, American Association for State and Local History Emergency Assistance Rescue Team, Southern, Tulane, Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans, State Division of Historic Preservation and the State Department of Justice.

In addition, the National Trust is continuing its leadership role in the recovery effort. It has put together a

request to Congress to establish special tax credits and is bringing experts and professionals together to save and restore structures.

The FHL is continuing to respond in many vital ways. It has made a renewed commitment to help preserve our cultural and architectural heritage in this long recovery process.

Our role as preservationists will be to advocate for the rebuilding of the communities, salvaging structures, preserving cultural assets, promoting

tourism, assisting owners and businesses in preserving their historic assets. At the FHL, we have established a special fund through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to assist with the efforts.

Please join us as a member. There is much to do and we must work together to muster all of our energy and experts to a cause we have been long called to do. Your support makes a difference!

Darryl Gissel, Chairman
Foundation for Historical Louisiana

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1940, Sam Jones became governor and his year old son, Bobby, took his first steps in the East Room to the applause of the family. To this very day Bob Jones says he remembers the event!
- When Harry Truman was nominated for vice-president of the United States, Governor Jimmy Davis delivered one of the nomination speeches at the convention. Later President Truman visited the mansion.
- In 1938, Gov. Richard Leche misses the radio broadcast of the Joe Louis and Max Schmeling fight because by the time the radio tubes warmed up the fight was over.
- A pet monkey named Pedro caused a great deal of excitement among the guests at a party hosted by Gov. and Mrs. Noe at the mansion. Pedro belonged to the governor's young son and was barred from any future social events...forever.
- The Kennon boys enjoyed LSU football. But even more, they liked the ride to the game — escorted by the Louisiana State Police with sirens blaring. What fun!

IN MEMORIAM

Donations have been received to benefit the FHL in memory of the following individuals. We gratefully acknowledge these gifts.

Lucile Munson

Mrs. Robert Jennings

Senator John J. Hainkel, Jr.

Mr. Lansing Kolb and Mr. Elton Beebe (Magnolia Management Corporation)

Tax deductible gifts may be mailed to FHL, PO Box 908, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0908.

Editor's Note: The Foundation for Historical Louisiana's Endowment Fund was created in 1990. It is housed with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Memorial and honorarium donations are often designated for this restricted, perpetual fund. By remembering and saluting a family member, friend, and loved one with a contribution to FHL's endowment fund, your gift helps insure that the mission of the organization is carried on for many years to come.

Preserve in the future! Please remember the Foundation for Historical Louisiana in your estate planning.

THE 1862 CIVIL WAR BATTLE OF BATON ROUGE EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS



Actors Jonathan Butts, Walter Brody and Drew Cothorn



Local musicians Garrett McCutchan and Randy Walsh

Over 350 people attended the historic Battle of Baton Rouge dramatic re-enactment as told by "eyewitnesses," including one of Baton Rouge's first photographers, W. D. McPherson, played by actor Walter Brody during the program held annually on the first Saturday in August. The event was held at the site of the battle, Historic Magnolia Cemetery, located at Florida Boulevard and 19th Street.

The event was produced by Randy Walsh, and directed and written by Walter Brody. It was sponsored by the Foundation for Historic Louisiana and the trustees of Historic Magnolia Cemetery. FHL board

member, Ory Poret, was the chairman of the event.

The presentation featured a Northern soldier, Corporal Paine, played by Drew Cothorn and a Southern soldier,

Private Henry Turner, played by Jonathan Butts. Lenore Finney (*not shown*) was also featured as an eyewitness. Also included in the program was music of the period, a Color Guard, firing of cannons, wreath laying and Taps.



A Civil War soldier and event chairman Ory Poret

THANKS TO OUR BATTLE OF BATON ROUGE SPONSORS



Augusta
PLANTATION



RABENHORST
FUNERAL HOMES

INSULATION & CONCRETE



KATRINA RESTORATION EFFORTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We need your help in generating resources, volunteer and financial support for the restoration effort. The power of people working for their neighborhoods and to restore their homes is a tremendous resource that must not be underestimated, and this sends the most positive message possible about the future of our city," she said.

In Baton Rouge, the Foundation for Historic Louisiana has already set up a fund within the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to assist with restoration advocacy and the preservation of New Orleans' cultural and architectural treasures in the storm's wake. "We are urging individuals and organizations to

make donations as we assist our sister city with this effort," said Carolyn Bennett, executive director.

Colleague organizations and preservationists across the country are contacting both PRC and FHL. Bennett says the PRC has a long tradition of strong success in working with neighborhoods, especially through exemplary programs such as Operation Comeback and Rebuilding Together and the group is stepping up organization efforts at this moment to raise awareness.

For more information, contact the Foundation offices at 225-387-2464.



"To preserve the
cultural and architectural
heritage of Louisiana"

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

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- Preservation Salons
- Commemorative Ceremonies
- Historic Baton Rouge Book
- *Magnolia's Memories*
- Docent Program
- The Shop at the Top

PRESERVATION ADVOCACY

- A Voice and Vision for Preservation Efforts, especially Baton Rouge
- Annual Preservation Awards
- Historic Marker Program
- Vintage Photographs
- Post Hurricane Preservation Projects

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- Historic Magnolia Cemetery
- Historic Highland Cemetery
- FHL Endowment Fund

LAGNIAPPE TOURS

- 30 Years of Cultural Heritage Tourism
- Baton Rouge and area itineraries for groups
- Step-on Guides
- Special Trips (New Orleans Mardi Gras - February 28, 2006; new 2005 "All the King's Men" tour)

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As a Foundation member, you receive:

- Free admission to the Old Arsenal Museum, Magnolia Mound Plantation, and the Old Governor's Mansion.
- 10% discount on purchases at The West Wing Gift Shop in the Mansion and Shop at the Top of the Louisiana State Capitol
- Invitations to all Foundation activities, including educational programs, receptions, banquets, and more
- Advance notice of Lagniappe Tours cultural and historical travel programs
- Free subscription to the Foundation newsletter
- Membership rate for selected events
- The great satisfaction of helping preserve history and architecture for future generations.

THANKS

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Preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of Louisiana

P. O. Box 908
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This edition has been printed in imperial rose, a color from the palette of historic Colonial Williamsburg.