

2021 Folklife Month Tradition Bearers and Folklife Ambassadors

Honoring Steve Judice: Singer/Songwriter; Lafayette, LA
Folklife Ambassador: Dr. Tommy Ike Hailey, Associate Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Steve Judice is a singer-songwriter born and raised in Lafayette. His music reflects his influences of country, folk, Cajun, and Americana. In July 2020, Steve released his fifth full-length album of original music, a well-received work produced, recorded, and engineered in Louisiana. Ten years ago, he co-founded an annual songwriter's retreat bringing artists together to write and showcase their work. He has toured extensively and opened for such recognized artists as Guy Clark, Billy Joe Shaver, David Olney, Rodney Crowell, James McMurtry, Dave Alvin, Jimmy Dale Gilmore, and Jim Lauderdale. In 2016, three of Steve's songs were selected for inclusion on the soundtrack for the full-length feature film *Race to Win*. He continues to work on new material and believes there may be yet another album in his future.



Honoring Vance Vaucresson: Creole Sausage Maker; New Orleans, LA
Folklife Ambassador: Teresa Parker Farris, Independent Folklorist, Chair-Louisiana Folklife Commission

Creole culture preservationist Vance Vaucresson is a third-generation meat processor and President of Vaucresson Sausage Company. The 120-year-old family business makes *chaurice*, andouille, and other traditional sausages for grocery stores and restaurants across the region. Vaucresson sausage is also a culinary mainstay at major local events such as the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival—where Vance runs Jazz Fest's only original food booth—the French Quarter Festival, and the Creole Tomato Festival. In the tradition of his father, "Sonny" Vaucresson, whose eponymous Bourbon Street café operated for nearly a decade, Vance and his family will soon open a deli and restaurant, steps from where his grandfather Robert Levinsky Vaucresson ran his butcher shop in the city's historic Seventh Ward neighborhood.



Honoring Elvin Shields: Twisted Wire Sculpture; Natchitoches, LA
Folklife Ambassador: Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Associate Professor of English, Northwestern State University

Elvin L. Shields is a twisted-wire toy maker from the Cane River region. As a child of sharecroppers, he started his craft at the age of five. He left the plantation in 1967, but upon retiring from a career in mechanical engineering returned to Natchitoches more than three decades later. Now a volunteer for the U.S. Park Service at Oakland Plantation, he teaches toy making to young people and speaks to visitors about his



experience as a youth. In 2012, he restored the 1860 slave cabin in which he was raised, turning it into a sharecropper's museum at Oakland Plantation. He has participated in the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival and the Melrose Arts & Crafts Festival since 2013.

Honoring The Broussard Sisters: *Juré* Singers; Frilot Cove, St. Landry Parish
Folklife Ambassadors: John Sharp, Assistant Director for Research at Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Herman Fuselier, Executive Director, St Landry Parish Tourist Commission



The Broussard Sisters perform music in the tradition of *juré*, a style of call-and-response a cappella song with rhythmic hand claps considered a forerunner to zydeco. Composed of relatives Sandra Broussard Davis, Virginia Ballard, Tavian Seraile, and Vivian Edwards, the group hails from Frilot Cove in rural St. Landry Parish and was mentored by their aunt, Cecilia Broussard. The family name is widely known in Louisiana for traditional music, including three generations of zydeco royalty. Related to the ring-shout tradition, *Juré* was once common in rural Louisiana Creole communities.

Honoring Stanley Masinter: Bagpipe Major; Baton Rouge, LA
Folklife Ambassador: Jim Hogg, CEO, Jim Hogg Group, LLC



Though growing up in New Orleans the son of a professional jazz musician, Stan Masinter was heavily influenced by his vocalist mother's gospel and bluegrass roots from the north Louisiana hill country. Such music traditions reach back centuries to Ireland and the Scottish Highlands where his ancestors, along with many of those who settled north Louisiana and the Florida Parishes, originated. Through performances, competitions, and education, Stan has pursued the preservation of the genre and its cultural traditions. He plays both as a solo piper and as the pipe major for the renowned Baton Rouge Caledonian Pipes and Drums, which offers free lessons in partnership with the Caledonian Society of Baton Rouge to those interested in Scottish bagpiping and drumming.

Honoring Terry Lapeyrouse: Shrimp Drying; Chauvin, LA
Folklife Ambassadors: Jonathan Foret, South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center; Dustin Reuther, Tulane University



Terry Lapeyrouse is a fourth-generation Chauvin resident and second-generation owner and operator of Lapeyrouse Seafood, Bar, Grocery, and Campground. Out of his establishment, he continues the tradition of drying shrimp, practiced in coastal Louisiana as far back at the mid-1800s with the arrival of Chinese immigrants. Terry catches shrimp for drying adjacent to his store using a stationary butterfly net, while the remainder he purchases locally. Deteriorating environmental and economic conditions have contributed to the exodus of year-round residents on lower Little Caillou Bayou; however, Terry remains along with a handful of others, rooted in a multigenerational connection to place and tradition.