

SPRING 2011

# Louisiana Folk

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE CENTER

THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NATCHITOCHESES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL  
JULY 15 & 16

The 2011 Festival theme, “The Tribes Remain: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Cultures,” is a celebration of the resilient cultures of a vibrant people. Southeastern Indians, including the Oklahoma tribes removed from the region, share their traditional cultures with the Louisiana tribes. It is important to the tribal people that non-tribal people know that they maintain and treasure their cultures. They repeatedly say, “We remain.” In spite of centuries of struggle, the American Indians of Louisiana and their neighbors have maintained arts, music, and lore.

The Festival audience at the 2011 Festival will have a rare opportunity to experience the traditional arts of many different American Indian peoples in narrative sessions, crafts demonstrations, and performances of storytelling and tribal songs. Traditional singing and dancing groups will include the Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dance Troupe, the Jena Band of Choctaw Traditional Dancers, the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe, and the Caddo Culture Club, as well as a Koasati Stomp Dance. Festival performers will also present a drum session, a style show, a cooking demonstration, and American Indian hand games. We are also excited to present an outdoor exhibition match of a traditional stickball game!

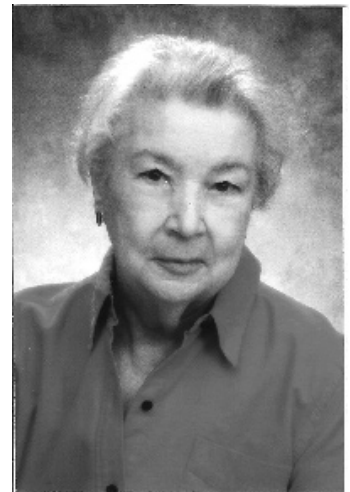
The 2011 Festival will provide a much needed opportunity for the Festival audience to glimpse the tremendous beauty and significance of these sometimes hidden tribal cultural arts in Louisiana. In addition, the Festival will also include music by (among other performers) Knight Train, bluegrass with Reasonable Facsimile, Richard Smith and Julie Adams, Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band, Cajun music by the LakeSide Gamblers, Cocoa Creppel, the Treater Band, Willis Prudhomme & Zydeco Express, the Back Porch Band, the Lost Bayou Ramblers, T-Salé, the Jambalaya Cajun Band with D.L. Menard, and Geno Delafosse & French Rockin’ Boogie! In addition, the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held during the Folk Festival. This will be a Festival to remember!

## 2011 HONORARY CHAIR

Cecile Elkins Carter, a member of the federally recognized Caddo Indian Nation of Oklahoma, retired from teaching, but continues to work as a historian, writer, and speaker. Her primary research focuses on Caddo Indian history, culture, and traditions. She writes and speaks with authority based on thirty-five years of scholarly research and a collection of oral histories she began collecting from tribal elders in 1970. She continues to research close to the Red River on the Oklahoma side of Lake Texoma and is actively engaged in Caddo cultural and historic preservation programs administered through the Caddo Nation headquarters near Binger, Oklahoma, about 47 miles west of Oklahoma City.

Her book, *Caddo Indians: Where We Come From*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, is a well documented and easily read narrative detailing the history of the Caddo Indians. It won the Oklahoma State Historical Society History Book of the Year award in 1995 and was finally made available in a paperback edition in 2001.

Ms. Carter has held appointments as the Caddo Nation Cultural Representative and Liaison. She was also the Caddo Nation’s first coordinator of the Native American Graves Protection Act, and was instrumental in establishing the Caddo NAGPRA office in 1995. Currently Ms. Carter is a Charter Member of the Caddo Heritage Museum Board of Trustees and serves as the Board’s Senior Advisor.



Cecile Elkins Carter

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## LOUISIANA STATE FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP



Jason Saucer  
2010 Grand Champ

On Saturday, July 16, the Folk Festival will host the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two main categories – Non-Championship Division and Championship Division. Fiddlers are welcome to enter in either division but not both. Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. Alternatively, the Non-Championship Division is not competitive for the state championship. The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division – pages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above—will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state’s best fiddler. At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, the winner will perform on the Festival’s main stage in Prather Coliseum.

## HALL OF MASTER FOLK ARTISTS

### **Cecile Carter**

Refer to front page *Honorary Chair*

### **Clyde Jackson**

Clyde Jackson was born in La Salle Parish, Louisiana. A member of the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, he has worked tirelessly for his community. He saw the tribe gain Federal acknowledgment and served as their miko (chief). He also served as the Louisiana Commissioner of Indian Affairs during both the Treen and the Edwards administrations, leaving that office to become a forestry technician at Dewey Wills Wildlife Refuge in La Salle, Catahoula and Rapides Parishes. One of the last fluent Choctaw speakers in the community, he is now teaching Choctaw to the people, both adults and children. He is an excellent deerskin tanner and works to keep that craft alive. Only a few southeastern Indians continue that craft. Clyde has demonstrated tanning at a number of public venues including the Louisiana Folk Festival and the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. His continuing contributions to his tribe, his parish and the state, and keeping Choctaw heritage alive, merits his inclusion in the Hall of Master Folk Artists.

### **Janie Luster**

Janie Luster is a member of the United Houma Nation and has spent her life in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Descended from a famous traiteuse or medicine woman who taught her not only traditional arts and crafts, but also the rich knowledge of plant life and curing passed on by her people, Mrs. Luster has single-handedly managed to revive the traditional Fuegiau stitch palmetto basketry, lost for almost a generation. Ms. Luster and her daughter are widely known for these beautiful baskets. She has demonstrated her art and taught others at many fairs and festivals including the Jazz Festival, the Louisiana Folk Festival and Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Mrs. Luster’s devotion to her people, her traditions and to passing those on to others certainly merits her inclusion in the Hall of Master Folk Artists.

### **Doris Battise**

Doris Battise has spent her life among her people the Coushatta and Alabama Indians of Louisiana and East Texas. She speaks her language and the Alabama language. She lives on the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation in Livingston, Texas. She is widely known for her pine straw basketry, having won prizes for her art in Texas and other states. Her effigy (animal) baskets represent some of the finest examples of that form. Mrs. Battise passes on her traditions, including her native language, to her daughters and to her grandchildren. Stories, arts and tradition are strong among her people. Those cultures are intact because people like her teach others and share. It is her art, but, moreover, her generous sharing of that art that warrants her inclusion into the Hall of Master Folk Artists.

### **Pierite Family**

Donna Pierite is married to Michael Pierite and they have two children, daughter Elisabeth, a bead-worker and dancer, and son Jean-Luc Pierite, a tribal craftsman and graphic artist. Mrs. Pierite and her family belong to the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church in Marksville where she and her children are multilingual chanters. Mrs. Pierite, her daughter, son and brother (Steven Madere) wrote and produced Tawaka (in Tunica “sub-commander”), the language and culture page that appeared in the Tunica-Biloxi tribal newspaper. Along with her husband, children, and her brother, Mrs. Pierite has given various presentations at schools, universities and other venues, including performances at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Mrs. Pierite has also made several televised appearances, including a featured role in “Taste of Louisiana with Chef John Folse” (Season 11, Episode 1). In an effort to gain more exposure for the tribe’s language and culture, the Pierite Family can be seen at the Alligator Feeding Shows at the Paragon Casino in Marksville, Louisiana at 12pm, 2pm, and 6pm every Saturday.

## TENTATIVE NARRATIVE SESSIONS

***Language: There is power in the Word, Southeastern Indian Languages: Yesterday and Today:***

This session will discuss the diversity and beauty of the Southern Indian languages. Native speakers will discuss the loss of the languages and the struggles of the people to keep them alive. Virtually every community has some language program for recording, teaching, and using their specific languages now. Choctaw, Chitimacha, Coushatta, Alabama-Coushatta and Tunica-Biloxi tribes represented.

***Woodworking: Things made from Wood:***

It was said that, before the white people came, a squirrel could travel from Georgia to Texas without touching the ground. The Southeast is a land of wood. The Indian people used it in myriad ways. Native craftspeople will discuss a sample of the roles wood plays including, but not limited to, bows and arrows. Wood comes from sacred trees and demands deep respect. Choctaw, Houma, Caddo, Cherokee, and Creek communities will be represented.

***Pottery: Things made from Earth:***

All the Southeastern Tribal traditions hold the Earth a sacred thing, the mother of life. Clay pottery is often considered the first thing to come with people to the surface of the world. Each tribal community developed its own unique vessels and forms. Sacred symbols became beautiful decorations. These panelists will discuss pottery-making today and its roots in traditional ways of making and decorating this fine art. The work of women, their gift from the First Woman on Earth. It passes to men in the present. All deeply rooted in the past. Caddo, Choctaw, and Creek peoples will be represented.

***Basketry: Things of Grass, Straw, Vines, and Canes: The Art of Southeastern Basketry:***

Of all the arts of the Southeast basketry may be the oldest, and it has persisted in its traditional forms until the present. Fragments suggest some basketry designs have been passed on for two thousand years and are still replicated by tribal hands. This panel will discuss the materials, methods of manufacture, and the forms of the baskets as well as problems and solutions found by the tribes in keeping their precious traditions. Choctaw, Coushatta, Alabama, and Chitimacha tribal communities will be represented.

***Treating and Medicine: These are Sacred Ways: The Traditional Religion and Medicine:***

All things are sacred, spiritual, in Southeastern Indian traditions. Humans live together with all other life and there are balances and harmonies to be kept. The sacred universe offers humans knowledge to take care of themselves and even the environment. Tribal people learn from Nature, from their elders and use that knowledge in good ways. The struggle to explain and maintain that knowledge is the focus of this panel. Alabama-Coushatta, Coushatta, Houma, and Choctaw communities will be represented.

***Food Ways: The Three Sisters:***

***Corn, Beans, and Squash and other Gifts:***

Gifts from the spirit world. Corn (maize), beans, and squash were farmed, gathered and prepared to feed the people. People in the Indian World shared some of these foods with the wider worlds, others remain mainly for them. They added some of the European and African traditions and new foods appeared. Methods of cooking are shown, discussed, and a few tastier portions may appear. Coushatta, Choctaw Apache tribal groups will be represented.

***Games: The Little Brother of War and other games: Play is serious but fun:***

This will be a discussion of the Stickball game, its rackets (sticks), the balls, and play rules. Some things like “passing” the ball, “set ups” and “guarding the goal” may have influenced other American sports. Modern Lacrosse is this game’s northeast version and has become a world sport. Gaming has deep cultural roots from ball play to casinos. Choctaw, Creek, and other communities will be represented.

***Storytelling: Rabbit and His Friends: Stories for Fun and Learning:***

Traditionally American Indian people cherished the storytellers and everyone learned from them at an early age. Some were fun, about Rabbit, Hog, and Turtle, and full of wisdom. Others were explanations of the universe and full of “medicine.” This group of panelists represents storytellers from the Southeastern traditions. Caddo Nation, Choctaw, Coushatta-Alabama and other communities will be represented.

***Songs and Dances: The Drum Dance: Music works to hold the world together:***

This session will discuss the ways Southeastern Indian people, particularly the Caddo, view music and dance. It will involve active participation in a variety of examples of how drumming, singing, and participation add richness to the lives of the people.

***Film: People of Many Waters: Native American Documentations:***

This session is devoted to a discussion, with questions and answers about a recent film, based in the Chitimacha country on Lower Bayou Teche and the Atchafalaya Basin. It “connects” things – a sacred thing to do in the Southeast.

## Friday, July 15

East Stage	Main Stage	West Stage
	<b>4:30 - 5:00</b> Welcome by the Tunica-Biloxi Singers	
<b>5:00 - 5:45</b> Children's Drumming Lessons	<b>5:00 - 5:45</b> Cajun Dance Lessons	
<b>6:00 - 7:30</b> Richard Smith and Julie Adams	<b>6:00 - 7:15</b> Treater Band	
	<b>7:30 - 9:30</b> Geno Delafosse	<b>7:00 - 9:00</b> Open Jam with Reasonable Facsimile
	<b>9:45 - 11:15</b> Lost Bayou Ramblers	

## Saturday, July 16

Stickball exhibition match by Mississippi Choctaw scheduled from 11:30-12:30 on Saturday in field behind Prather Coliseum.

East Stage	Main Stage	West Stage	N-Club Room
<b>9:00 - 9:45</b> Flute Playing	<b>9:00 - 10:45</b> Mystic Wind Choctaw Social Dance Troupe Traditional Songs and Dances	<b>9:00 - 9:45</b> Hand Games	<b>9:00 - 9:45</b> Language Preservation
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b> Cajun Dance Lessons	<b>11:00 - 12:15</b> Cocoa Creppel	<b>10:00 - 10:45</b> Tunica-Biloxi Singers	<b>10:00 - 10:45</b> Native American Foodways
<b>11:15 - 12:45</b> Knight Train	<b>12:30 - 1:00</b> Welcome Ceremony Louisiana State Fiddle Champion Performance	<b>11:00 - 11:30</b> Flute Playing	<b>11:00 - 11:45</b> Storytelling
<b>1:00 - 2:15</b> LakeSide Gamblers	<b>1:00 - 1:45</b> Koasati Stomp Dance	<b>11:45 - 12:30</b> Caddo Style Show  <b>12:30 - 1:15</b> Drum Session	<b>12:00 - 12:45</b> Pottery Making
<b>2:30 - 3:45</b> T-Salé	<b>2:00 - 3:30</b> Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe	<b>1:30 - 2:30</b> Kidfest	<b>1:00 - 1:45</b> Songs and Dances
<b>4:00 - 5:15</b> Jambalaya Cajun Band with D.L. Menard	<b>3:45 - 5:15</b> Caddo Culture Club	<b>2:45 - 4:00</b> Cocoa Creppel	<b>2:00 - 2:45</b> Treating and Medicine
<b>5:30 - 6:45</b> Willis Prudhomme & Zydeco Express	<b>5:15 - 6:15</b> LakeSide Gamblers	<b>4:15 - 4:45</b> TBA <b>5:00 - 5:45</b> Jena Band of Choctaw Dancers	<b>3:00 - 3:45</b> Film: Native Waters - Directed by Tika Laudun
<b>7:00 - 8:15</b> Knight Train	<b>6:30 - 7:45</b> T-Salé	<b>6:00 - 7:15</b> Back Porch Band	<b>4:00 - 4:45</b> Woodworking
<b>8:30 - 10:00</b> Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band	<b>8:00 - 9:15</b> Willis Prudhomme & Zydeco Express	<b>7:30 - 8:45</b> Bluegrass with Reasonable Facsimile	<b>5:00 - 5:45</b> Basketry
	<b>9:30 - 11:00</b> Jambalaya Cajun Band with D.L. Menard		<b>6:00 - 6:45</b> Traditional Games

## Tentative List: INVITED CRAFTS PEOPLE

Alice Tyler (Clifton-Choctaw) Bead Work	Evelyn Alfaro (Coushatta) Pine Needle Baskets	Kenneth and Mary Royston Woodcarving and Needlework
Ann Luster (Houma) Spanish Moss Dolls	Gladys Shutt (Alabama-Coushatta) Pine Needle Baskets	Myrna Wilson (Koasati) Pine Needle Baskets and Beadwork
Becky Walsh (Clifton-Choctaw) Pine Needle Baskets	Harry James (Choctaw/Oklahoma) Silversmith	Phil Cross (Caddo) Bow Making
Bill Fisher (Jena Choctaw) Wood Carvings	Evangeline Robinson (Oklahoma Choctaw) Pottery	Roy Burst (Choctaw) Silversmith
Tom Colvin (Choctaw) Palmetto and Cane Baskets	Ivy Billiot (Houma) Wood Carvings	Roy Parfait (Houma) Wood Carvings
Casey Bigpond (Mississippi Choctaw) Stickball Making	Janie Luster (Houma) Palmetto Baskets	R. V. Couch Musical Instruments
Christy Murphy (Jena Choctaw) Chinaberry Necklaces	Jereldine (Jerri) Redcorn (Caddo) Pottery	Scarlett Darden (Chitimacha) River Cane Baskets
Clifton Rambin Gourds	Jess Oosahwe Cherokee Crafts	Scott Roberts (Oklahoma) Muscogee Creek Potter
David Eveningthunder (Shoshone) Artist and Flute Player	John Colson Filé Making	Susan Lee (Choctaw-Apache) Crafts
Doris Battise (Alabama-Coushatta) Pine Needle Baskets	John Darden (Chitimacha) River Cane Baskets	Tommy Gandy Scrollsaw Work and Wooden Puzzles
Elisabeth Pierite Native American Beadwork	Kenneth Kerry White Oak Baskets	W. D. Norton White Oak Baskets
Rose Fisher (Choctaw) Cane Baskets	Evelene Steele River Cane Baskets	William Harjo (Livingston, TX) Creek Flute Making
	Bill Ellzey Walking Sticks	

## 2012 NATCHITOCHESES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL

The 2012 Festival theme is “Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music.” From Monroe to New Orleans and from Lafayette to Shreveport, music has always been the lifeblood of Louisiana. Long before the Louisiana Purchase, the people of Louisiana have employed their folk music to shout praise to the heavens, to sing for joy, to find comfort in their lamentations, to vent their frustrations while in the deepest blues, and to dance away their troubles. From Mardi Gras second line parades to jazz funerals to Cajun fais do-do dance parties, music is not just important but an essential element in Louisiana traditional folk culture.

The traditional musical genres that will be performed at the 2012 Festival comprise a diverse landscape with musicians coming from throughout the state to perform. Country and honky tonk music will be represented by Breaux Bridge resident Yvette Landry. From Lafayette, the Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band will play traditional bluegrass. Henry Gray and the Cats and saxophonist Hardrick Rivers and his group the Rivers Revue Band will play the blues. Coming all the way from New Orleans, the Storyville Stompers Brass Band will play traditional brass band second line jazz. French Creole la la music will be performed by Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys. Longtime Festival favorites the Back Porch Band will play a variety of traditional musical genres, including gospel, Civil War era music, American pioneer music, and Irish and Scottish music. Many other musicians will perform at the 2012 Festival aside from these artists, including some of your favorite Cajun and Zydeco performers!

Many of the performers at the 2012 Festival will participate in narrative sessions as well as informances in which the interview portion of the session is deepened by musical performances by the artists. The Festival will also include the folk crafts people and traditional foods the Festival is renowned for, as well as the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship! Join us for a rousing celebration of Louisiana’s musical heritage, past and present!

# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

Joe & Paula Abney	Butch & Dayna Lee
Bill & Alice Bryant	Marguerite Loftin
James E. Cormier	Senator Gerald Long
George and Mary Dugas	Jack McCain
James & Betty Durham	Mayor & Mrs. Wayne McCullen
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Dr. & Mrs. L. C. Guilbeau	James R. Vincent
Hurst and Jane Hall	Burton & Sue Weaver
Rick Hargis	City Bank & Trust Co.
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Don and Sue Hatley	Paragon Casino Resort
Lisa Abney and Doug Hollingsworth	Mariner's Restaurant
Terrence and Sharon Jones	CP-TEL
Georgia's Gift Shop	Ken & Mary Royston
Walter P. Ledet	Holiday Inn Express of Natchitoches
Randy & Brenda Webb	

## Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

Lisa Abney & Doug Hollingsworth	Al V. Morgan
Bill and Alice Bryant	John & Maye Foster

### SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

National Endowment for the Arts; Dept of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism: Division of the Arts -- Shreveport Regional Arts Council; Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission; Paragon Casino Resort; Cane River National Heritage Area, Louisiana Office of Tourism.



LouisianaTravel.com



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Supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council as administered by the Shreveport Regional Arts Council.

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## WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Dates: July 15-16, 2011

FESTIVAL HOURS: Friday-4:30 pm - 11:15 pm Saturday-8:00 am -11:00 pm

Box office opens: Friday at 4:30 pm Saturday at 8:00 am

\$8.00 all events Saturday  
\$5.00 evening only (5:00 p.m. - Till)  
FREE kids 12 & under  
\$11.00 two-day all event pass  
(available in advance only)

### CRAFTS ON SATURDAY ONLY

Discounted all-event passes must be purchased by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at the Louisiana Folklife Center, Room 213 Kyser Hall; no discounted all-event passes will be sold at the Festival.

The Festival is held in comfortable, air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, on the campus of Northwestern State University in historic Natchitoches. The site provides ample, nearby parking and is handicap accessible. No alcohol is allowed or sold on the site. To reach the Coliseum, take the Natchitoches exit from I-49. From Shreveport, turn left; from Alexandria, turn right onto Hwy. 6 / University Parkway and turn right on South Jefferson. Prather Coliseum is on the right, just beyond the tennis courts. Contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332, by email [folklife@nsula.edu](mailto:folklife@nsula.edu), or through the website at <http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu>



The Fiddle Championship needs your support in order to remain an ongoing event!

\_\_\_ \$50 Supporter---2 passes (all events)

\_\_\_ \$100 Friend---4 passes (all events)

\_\_\_ \$200 Patron---8 passes (all events) &  
Stage Signage

\_\_\_ Other Amount

In addition, you will receive recognition from the stage, listing in the Festival Program and on the website, and the opportunity to present a prize.

Make checks payable to:  
NSU Foundation

Mail to:  
Louisiana Folklife Center  
NSU Box 3663  
Natchitoches, LA 71497

### SPECIAL STICKBALL EXHIBITION!!

A special stickball exhibition match is scheduled to be played by the Mississippi Choctaw on Saturday, July 16, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the field behind Prather Coliseum.

### KIDFEST

Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state.

Kidfest will be available on Saturday ONLY from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Theme related activities will include stringing beads, molding animals from clay, and making Indian musical instruments such as rattles and drums.

### EXHIBITS

Exhibits for the 2011 Folk Festival will include several tribal exhibits, a Cane River Creole National Historical Park exhibit, a Cammie G. Henry Research Center exhibit on Louisiana Indians, and a Caddo Nation exhibit.

The Louisiana Folklife Center  
NSU Box 3663  
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0014  
(318) 357-4332

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2011 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival  
“The Tribes Remain: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Cultures”  
Please check your preference:

\*Make checks payable to the NATCHITOCHES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL\*

\_\_\_ Friend of the Festival (\$25)  
Receives: 1 pass (all events)

\_\_\_ Member (\$50)  
Receives: two passes (all events)

\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$100)  
Receives: 4 passes (all events)  
1 T-shirt (size \_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Patron (\$250)  
Receives: 10 passes (all events)  
2 T-shirts (sizes \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Grand Patron (\$500)  
Receives: 20 passes (all events)  
3 T-shirts (Sizes \_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Benefactor (\$1000)  
Receives: 40 passes (all events)  
Logo on Stage

In addition, you will receive listing in the Festival Program and on the website.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497  
Donations received after June 15, 2011 may not be listed in the Festival Program. Fair market value of items received may not be deducted from your Federal Income Tax.