

Huval, Kemis James



Crawfish Traps and Foodways

Mr. Huval was born in 1945, in southern Louisiana and speaks Cajun French and English. He has worked in various occupations, including dirt works and commercial deep water crawfishing.

Kernis also makes traditional, standard crawfish traps (les carlets) and he cooks wild game Cajun style. His son Travis has been learning these skills from him and sometimes helps with presentations. They often demonstrate traditional black pot camp cooking.

Kernis has been crawfishing and cooking all his life. He learned these art forms by watching and practicing what he saw other fisherman and cooks do. Mr. Huval runs about one hundred and fifty traps in the Atchafalaya Basin year around. Most of the crawfishermen use ponds for fishing, but Kernis works out of the Basin. He leads guided Atchafalaya Basin tours in small groups to hunting and fishing camps.

Mr. Huval has demonstrated his skills at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, the Louisiana Folk Festival, and the Festival Acadians.

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