

JOIE DE VIVRE

ALEX WARNEKE
A.WARNEKE@YAHOO.COM
#ODOTCOMM18



– JOIE DE VIVRE –

THE WORLD IS CHANGING. ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR INHABITANTS ARE THREATENED BY AN ONSLAUGHT OF HUMAN-DERIVED STRESSORS. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY IS DECLINING FASTER THAN EVER AND THE REALITIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE IMMINENT. FEW KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS EVOLVING EXISTENCE BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN LOUISIANA. AT THE EPICENTER OF RISING SEAS, COASTAL DISINTEGRATION, ONE HUNDRED YEAR STORMS, AND PERVASIVE RESOURCE EXTRACTION IT WOULD APPEAR TO MANY A HOPELESS SITUATION.

YET, BENEATH THE SURFACE THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF SOMETHING MORE – AN EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH ROOTED DEEPLY IN A WEB OF CULTURE, FAMILY, AND TRADITION. THE 'JOIE DE VIVRE' OR JOYS OF LIFE ARE WHAT HOLD THIS COMMUNITY TOGETHER. FURTHERMORE, IT IS THE PEOPLE'S STUBBORN DETERMINATION AND INGENUITY THAT PROPEL THEM FORWARD AS THEY ADAPT TO THE IMPENDING TIDE.



"LAND OF COMPLEXITIES"

WINDING OVER **2,300** MILES THRU THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER HAS FORGED AND FED THE VERY SOUL OF LOUISIANA. DESPITE SIGNIFICANT CONSEQUENCES POSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEGRADATIONS, THIS INTRICATE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM SUSTAINS LIFE AND CULTURE FOR MILLIONS.

THE INTERCONNECTED NETWORK OF WATER AND LAND PERFECTLY EMBODY THE COMPLEX NATURE OF THIS AND SIMILAR COASTAL COMMUNITIES. FAMILY, CULTURE, ENERGY, SCIENCE, TRADE, POLITICS, AND RECREATION ALL COME TOGETHER TO CARVE A PARTICULAR WAY OF LIFE. ULTIMATELY, THE FUTURE WILL RELY ON WHAT DIRECTION THE RIVER FLOWS NEXT — A DECISION CONTINGENT ON THE CHOICES WE MAKE NOW.



"GRIT: DEFINED"

/GRIT/

NOUN

1. SMALL, LOOSE PARTICLES OF STONE OR SAND
SYNONYMS: SAND, DUST, DIRT
2. COURAGE AND RESOLVE; STRENGTH OF CHARACTER
SYNONYMS: FORTITUDE, TENACITY, RESILIENCE

"THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AND GRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BAYOU IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EVER WITNESSED. IN THE FACE OF THE ONCOMING STORM, THIS IS THE LIFE PRESERVER THEY CLING TO."



"RÉSISTANCE"

DEEP DOWN THE BAYOU, SURROUNDED BY LEVEES AND FLOOD GATES, LIVE THE POINT-AU-CHIEN TRIBE. ACROSS THE LAST CENTURY, THESE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE ENDURED A BARRAGE OF STRESSORS THAT THREATEN THEIR ANCESTRAL LAND AND THE VERY ESSENCE OF THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITY.

TODAY, THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RELOCATION – THE FIRST FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED CLIMATE REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES. AS THE WATER RISES YEAR BY YEAR, THEY LOOK TO ADAPT TO A NEW NORMAL AND ARE TAKING CALCULATED STEPS TO PRESERVE THE FUNDAMENTAL TENANTS OF THEIR CULTURE AND HISTORY. THROUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND SHARING THEIR STORY – THEY MOVE FORWARD – A COMMUNITY OF RÉSISTANCE.



"BECAUSE SURVIVAL IS INSUFFICIENT"

"WE STAND NOW WHERE TWO ROADS DIVERGE...THE ROAD WE HAVE LONG BEEN TRAVELING IS DECEPTIVELY EASY, A SMOOTH SUPERHIGHWAY ON WHICH WE PROGRESS WITH GREAT SPEED, BUT AT ITS END LIES DISASTER. THE OTHER FOR OF THE ROAD — THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY — OFFERS OUR LAST, OUR ONLY CHANCE TO REACH A DESTINATION THAT ASSURES THE PRESERVATION OF THE EARTH."

— RACHEL CARSON

ON THE VERGE OF A SPECIES COLLAPSE IN THE **1970s**, PELECANUS OCCIDENTALIS SYMBOLIZES THE TRIFOLD IMPACT OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, PASSIONATE PEOPLE, AND SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED MANAGEMENT. FITTINGLY, THIS INCREDIBLE BIRD STANDS AS THE FLAGSHIP FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

"DOWN THE BAYOU"

"I was born
in the water
and the water
is in my
blood."

~captain
carl.



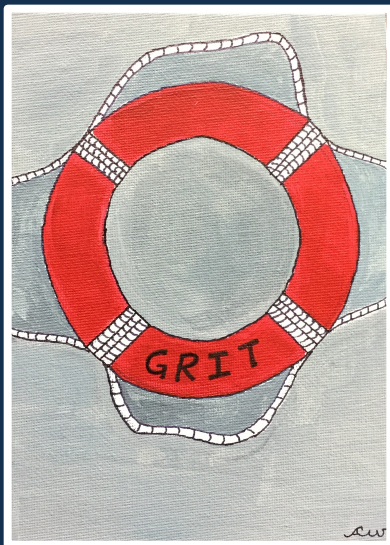
CAPTAIN CARL IS A THIRD GENERATION SHRIMPER AND BONA FIDE ALLIGATOR WRANGLER. HIS STORY IS ONE OF SO MANY IN COASTAL LOUISIANA WHEREAS THE MAJOR FISHING INDUSTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY HARD PRESSED TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN THE REGION. FISHERPEOPLE MUST NOW LOOK ELSEWHERE TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES AND MAINTAIN THEIR UNBREAKABLE CONNECTION TO THE WATER.

FOR CAPTAIN CARL, HIS HOPE IS FOUND HERE – AT LUMCON – WHERE HE CAN PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE SCIENCE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY RESTORE THE SOUTH.



"I was born
in the water
and the water
is in my
blood."

~captain
carl.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LOUISIANA
UNIVERSITIES MARINE CONSORTIUM
(LUMCON) FOR ALLOWING US THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO HELP TELL THE
WORLD YOUR STORY SO THAT THEY
MAY SEE AND KNOW.

