

Qualifications for Consideration of the Caroline Dormon Outstanding Louisiana Naturalist Award

1. Individual must live in **Louisiana** and contributed to our understanding of Louisiana's natural history
2. Award recognizes a **lifetime** achievement in the field of natural history
3. Individual must have made a **significant** contribution to the understanding of Louisiana's natural history
4. Individual has track record of **sharing** his/her contribution with the lay public, scientific community, or both

Previous Caroline Dormon Award Winners

This award is named for Caroline Dormon, a Louisiana naturalist, horticulturist, ornithologist, historian, archaeologist, preservationist, naturalist, conservationist, and author. She was undoubtedly one of the pioneer interpreters in Louisiana, and in many ways, her influence extended throughout North America and the world. Among her many accomplishments, Dormon was the first person to promote and lobby for the establishment of a national forest in Louisiana (Kisatchie National Forest); she was the first woman employed by the United States Forestry Department; she was the only woman appointed by Franklin D. Roosevelt to the De Soto Commission (established to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the expedition of Hernando De Soto); and, she was an accomplished author and painter who advocated for the preservation of native wildflowers and wildlife. Besides her formal writings, she corresponded with amateurs and professionals of many interests around the world. She even sent specimens of goldenrod to Thomas Edison who was experimenting with the plant as a potential source of rubber. In 1965, Ms. Dormon received an honorary doctorate from LSU in recognition of her lifetime of achievements.

2018: Dr. Charles Allen is a botanist and has collected more than 22, 000 herbarium specimens and published more than 100 botanical articles. Charles is a retired Professor of Biology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and also retired from Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands. He is a charter member and past President of the Louisiana Native Plant Society (LNPS). His published books include "**Edible Plants of the Gulf South**," "**Wildflowers of Louisiana**," "**Trees Shrubs and Woody Vines of Louisiana**," and "**Grasses of Louisiana**, 3rd ed". With Dr. Malcolm Vidrine, he helped to establish the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and its restoration projects. In recent years, he has offered plant id classes at home and on the road and also teaches master naturalists' programs. He and his wife Susan own and operate Allen Acres B&B, a nature-oriented paradise in west central Louisiana where he organizes and leads many area field trips. Their property (Allen Acres Natural Area) is constantly monitored for the identification of living organisms (plants, moths,

butterflies, birds, etc.). A recent project (2014) is eleven mercury vapor lights and sheets for an inventory of moth species with the species count at 758 and growing.

2019: Vernon Antoine Brou, Jr., is in his 50th year of catching, mounting, cataloging, and studying insects on a 24-hour, 7-day basis. During 2018, he operated 115 insect traps every minute of every day, January 1 to December 31, as he has done every year for the past half century. He has discovered over 400 new species of Louisiana moths and scientifically described 16 new species of Lepidoptera. He has a personal research collection of about 400,000 insects, mostly Lepidoptera, and especially moths in about 650 drawers. Vernon officially donated an additional >349,000 specimens to museums just in the US, with an appraised value >\$600,000. Seven new Lepidopteran species have been named after him. He has provided public displays of his collections at the La. Wildlife & Fisheries Museum, Louisiana Nature & Science Center, Audubon Zoo (“Butterflies in Flight”), and the Audubon Insectarium. Paramount to accomplishing his 50+ year study of Louisiana insects of all orders and families has been the design, testing and development of numerous types of insect traps (more than 400 traps) and the development of associated unique automatic collecting chambers allowing continuous daily and nightly, year-round, sampling without having to be present or actively attend the collecting devices during the collecting activities.

2020: Kelby Ouchley managed wildlife refuges for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for 30 years. Two of his major accomplishments during that tenure are establishment of the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Mollicy Project, a 19,0000-acre restoration venture that has been featured in the New York Times. Being situated on the outskirts of Monroe/West Monroe, Kelby’s vision for BBLNWR as a primary location for public education and outdoor experience has been well realized. The refuge has a thriving “Friends” group, also initiated by Kelby, that took on converting an old house into a Visitor Center with a meeting room, gift shop and educational exhibits. The Refuge also has an Educational Center with live animal exhibits and a classroom. Kelby is an acclaimed author with six published books, all of which educate and advocate for natural history. His eloquent and accessible “way with words” draws people in; his books are widely read by a general audience. He has also published many articles in both popular magazines and scientific journals. He is probably even better known in Louisiana for Bayou Diversity, his weekly radio program that has aired on the local NPR affiliate, KEDM-FM 90.3, since 1995. Kelby writes and narrates the program. Bayou Diversity frequently shows up on the “favorite programs” list of people who support KEDM financially during its various membership campaigns. Also, Kelby is often called on as a speaker for natural history related conferences and workshops.

2021: Bill (William R.) Fontenot dedicated his career in biology to restoring ecological integrity in lands, from the smallest urban gardens to the largest wildlife management areas. His career began with Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, working first as Curator of Natural Sciences at the Lafayette Natural History Museum, then as manager of the Acadiana Park Nature Station, where he retired in 2008. He operated his own wildlife management, “wildscape” design, and ecological restoration consulting business, specializing in ecological assessment, biological inventory, land-use planning, and wildlife-friendly native plant-oriented landscape planning. Bill has led thousands of guided tours, published numerous natural history-

related articles in newspapers, newsletters, and magazines, and contributed a weekly nature column in the Lafayette, LA Sunday Advertiser newspaper for 23 years. He now produces a nature blog at <https://www.facebook.com/thenaturedude>. Bill has authored/coauthored a number of books and publications and has served as an officer or board member of numerous natural history-related organizations in Louisiana. Bill has received several previous awards, including the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's *Professional Conservationist of the Year* award, the Louisiana Ornithological Society's *President's Award*, and the Louisiana Native Plant Society's *Karlene DeFatta Award* for service to those organizations. In 2011 The Cullowhee Gardening with Native Plants Conference honored him with the *Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence*.

2022: A. James “Jim” Delahoussaye has worked as an environmental scientist, teacher, folklorist, and commercial fisherman in the Atchafalaya Basin. He has also worked as distinguished zooarchaeologist, an adjunct researcher in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he analyzes animal bones from prehistoric Native American middens. In addition to his scientific publications, avid bird watching, presentations to the public, and participation in videos documenting life on the Atchafalaya, Jim has chronicled the unique relationship between the people and the Atchafalaya River. He has collected life stories from descendants of houseboat families who lived in the Atchafalaya Basin, preserving a unique culture for posterity. His large collection of recordings and related materials from this project was recently gifted to the Library of Congress, where it is housed in the American Folklife Center. Jim’s knowledge and expertise covers all aspects of the natural history of the Atchafalaya Basin, and the people who depend on it. He not only has the formal education and background, but he also has the lived experience of working and earning a living in the Basin.

2023 NOMINATION FORM

CAROLINE DORMON OUTSTANDING LOUISIANA NATURALIST AWARD

LOUISIANA MASTER NATURALISTS ASSOCIATION

NOMINATOR:

DATE:

CONTACTS: CELL PHONE -

EMAIL –

NOMINEE:

AWARD YEAR: **2023**

CONTACTS: CELL PHONE -

EMAIL –

DOES THE NOMINEE RESIDE WITHIN THE BOUNDRIES OF LOUISIANA? YES NO
WHICH CHAPTER REGION?

TELL US WHY YOU ARE MAKING THIS NOMINATION. WHAT QUALITIES DOES THE NOMINEE HAVE THAT JUSTIFY THIS HONOR?

LIST HOW THE NOMINEE HAS VOLUNTEERED IN THE STATE TO SHARE AND ADVOCATE FOR NATURAL HISTORY (ENGAGEMENT IN CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, SERVICE, ETC.).

AREAS OF EXPERTISE?

Please attach any supporting documentation, such as biography, letters of support, etc. to the nomination form. **All nominations must be received by March 10, 2023.**

Nominations can be emailed to Bob Thomas at rathomas@loyno.edu (in the subject line, please place in ALL CAPS – DORMON AWARD NOMINATION. Nominations may be mailed to Bob Thomas, 3230 Metairie Court, Metairie, LA 70002-5018. Questions can directed to Bob at 504-909-6568.