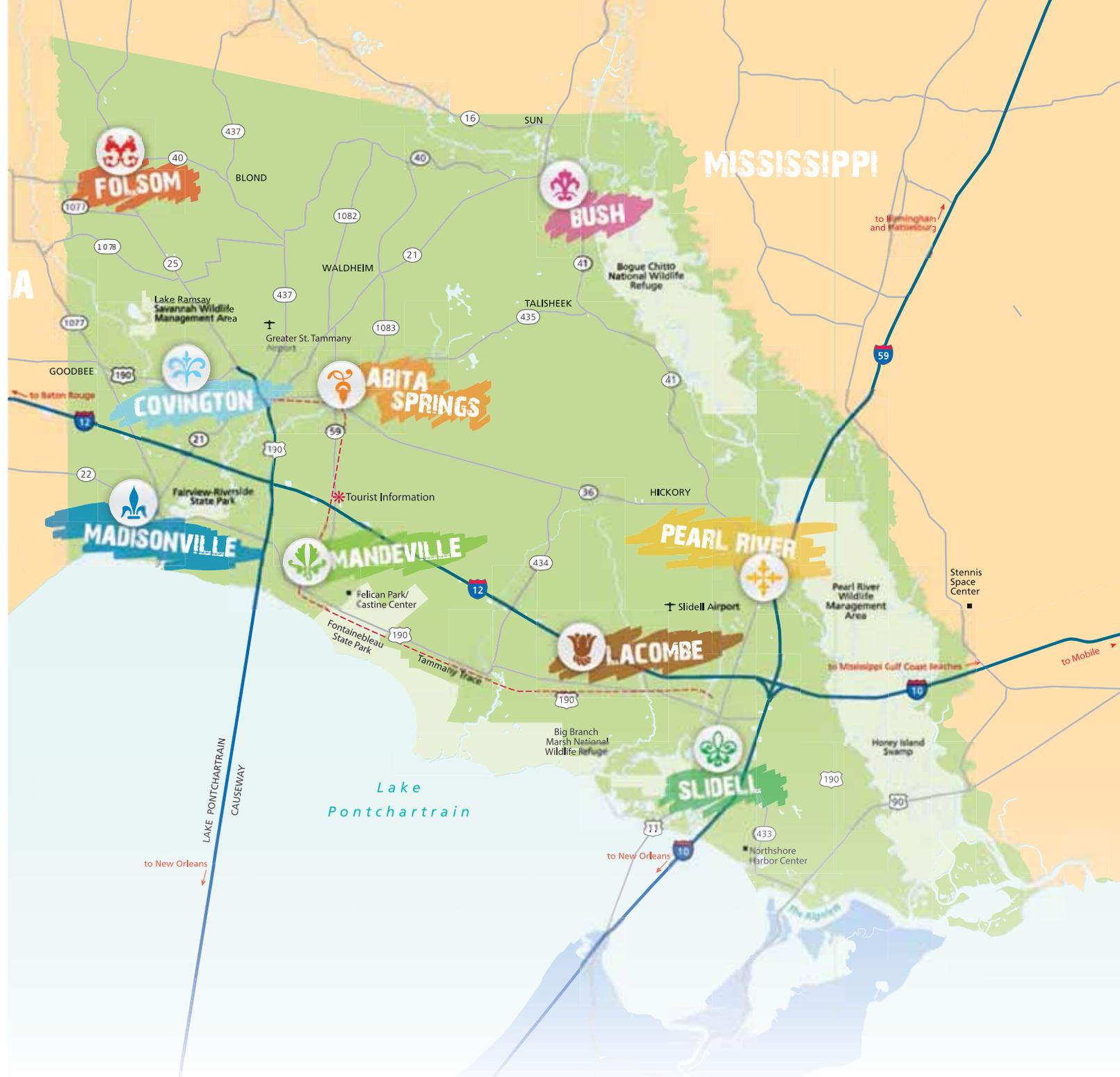


Explore

THE NORTHSHORE



St. Tammany Parish Tourist & Convention Commission
Fall/Winter 2020-21



LEGEND

-  Interstate
-  Secondary Road
-  Parks & Wildlife Refuges
-  Recreational Trail
-  Tourist Information

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Cajun Encounters brings visitors deep into the Honey Island Swamp.

Photography by Kevin Garrett



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Thousands of Louisiana visitors have been introduced to the flora and fauna of Honey Island Swamp over the years, thanks to Jeff Rogers of Cajun Encounters. See his story on page 31.

"My feeling is, now more than ever, we need the peace and serenity that is found in our beautiful Honey Island Swamp."

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CONNECT
Small museums and historic sites give perspective on the area's past.



FROM THE EDITOR

Adjusting to the New Normal



Is 2020 over yet? Oh, not quite. There's a lot of uncertainty as we put the Fall 2020/Winter 2021 Issue of *Explore the Northshore* to bed, and last night was another sleepless night for me in the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic. This time, it was from producing a Visitor Guide three months in advance of release while not knowing what the future holds.

Nevertheless, hope springs eternal in this part of Louisiana—always has—and there's no better destination for renewed faith as a guiding light than on the Northshore. Look at Abita Springs, for instance, whose healing artesian waters have reputedly cured ills since the late 1800s. These days, we imbibe those artesian waters through Abita beer (p. 18). The largest craft brewery in Louisiana has officially reopened its taproom, which makes it a great day for visitors and locals alike.

Life is going on, albeit with a little “social distancing” at the moment. We don't do that very well on the Northshore. We're used to an engaging smile and a warm bear hug, though we've been reduced to a wink. Well, those of us who can wink, that is. I've never quite been able to master it.

The great news is, St. Tammany Parish offers the type of getaway everyone is looking for, especially now. Forty minutes from New Orleans, our Northshore community has quaint small towns with historic districts, boutique shopping and two waterfront state parks. Road-trippers and RVers love that we're conveniently located at the convergence of three interstates.

Fairview-Riverside and Fontainebleau State Parks (p. 33), as well several private campgrounds, beckon with ample outdoor recreation opportunities like fishing, boating, hiking and plenty of hookups. Fontainebleau also offers amenity-filled cabins with wide porches perched over Lake Pontchar-

train, the perfect spot to watch a glorious sunset or sailboat in the distance.

Outdoor adventure has always been something Louisiana Northshore does well. On pontoon tours of the Tchefuncte River, charter-fishing trips from Slidell (p. 35), tours of Honey Island Swamp (p. 30-31), and bike rides on the Tammany Trace (p. 36-37), there are plenty of special spaces to soak up both solace and sunshine. You'll find your happy place while paddling miles of waterways or hiking and bird watching in Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge or at the Northlake Nature Center (p. 35).

Our Northshore events calendar is filling back up again. The Dew Drop Jazz and Social Hall (p. 6-7) has rescheduled all of its 125th anniversary concerts for autumn. Fall is shaping up to be unforgettable, with Slidell's Antique Street Fair in October and the Three Rivers Art Festival in November.

But truth be told, every day is cause for a celebration in St. Tammany, as you'll see on pages 8-13.

We're resilient here on the Louisiana Northshore, but we're also nimble and reliably ready to adapt at a moment's notice. So check our website LouisianaNorthshore.com for updates: We'll work hard to keep up.

On behalf of the St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission and all of our tourism partners, we want to assure you that measures will continue to be taken with your safety at the top of mind. That's the COVID-era extension of our centuries-old Southern hospitality. See you soon!

Wink (and air bear hug). 🐻

Christina Cooper

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Explore THE NORTHSHORE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Christina Cooper

CONTRIBUTORS
Jyl Benson, Beth D'Addono,
Kevin Garrett, Roberta Carrow-Jackson,
Renée Kientz, Anna Strider



PRESIDENT AND CEO
Donna O'Daniels

St. Tammany Parish
Tourist & Convention Commission
68099 Highway 59
Mandeville, LA 70471
(985) 892-0520
www.LouisianaNorthshore.com



PRESIDENT/CEO
Kimberly Ferrante

GROUP PUBLISHER
Adam Pitluk

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
David Halloran

ABOUT MIDWEST LUXURY PUBLISHING
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CONTACT THE PUBLISHER
info@midwestluxurypublishing.com
midwestluxurypublishing.com
917.447.7731

Explore the Northshore is a biannual publication of the St. Tammany Parish Tourist & Convention Commission. The STPTCC provides visitor information and assistance to leisure and business travelers in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Find comprehensive listings for accommodations, attractions, dining and events at the STPTCC's official website: www.LouisianaNorthshore.com

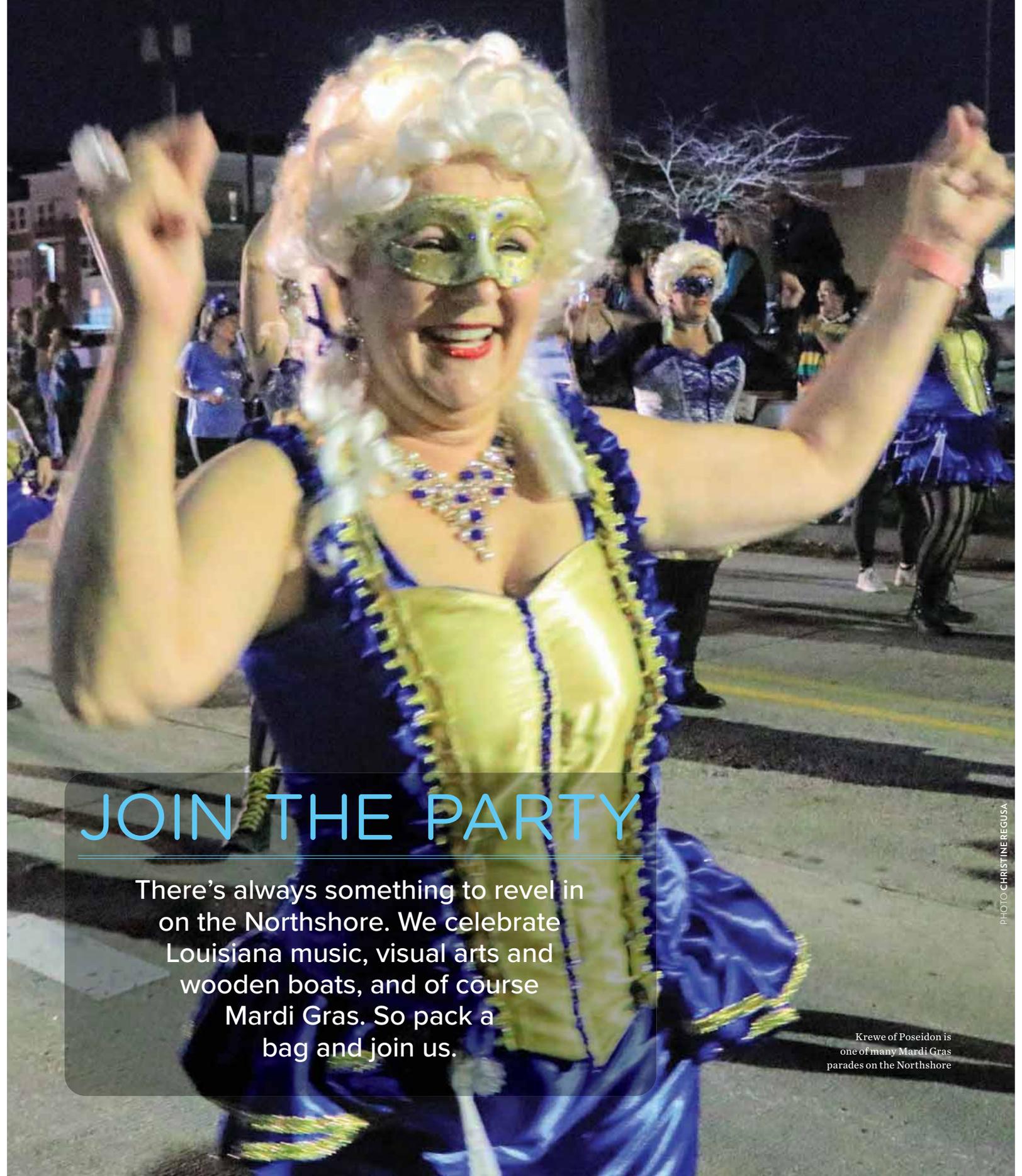
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The golden hour on the Mandeville lakefront.



PHOTO ERIC LINDBERG

NORTHSHORE CELEBRATE



JOIN THE PARTY

There's always something to revel in on the Northshore. We celebrate Louisiana music, visual arts and wooden boats, and of course Mardi Gras. So pack a bag and join us.

Krewe of Poseidon is one of many Mardi Gras parades on the Northshore



The Northshore planner

Head to LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/EVENTS to explore more

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO RESCHEDULING, CANCELLING OR POSTPONING DUE TO COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS.

OCT. 1-4

St. Tammany Parish Fair
Carnival rides, critters and food

OCT. 17-18

Ozone Songwriter Festival
100+ free performances in Mandeville

OCT. 24

Abita Fall Fest
Two stages, 10 bands and family fun

OCT. 24-25

Slidell Antique Street Fair
Hunt treasures in Olde Towne

NOV. 14-15

Three Rivers Art Festival
Juried outdoor art in Covington

DEC. 12 (DEC. 13 RAIN DATE)

A Christmas Past
Yuletide fun in Old Mandeville

JAN. 9, 2021 - FEBRUARY 21

Mardi Gras
Boats, floats, and pups on parade

MARCH 6

Bluesberry Festival
Hot music acts and artisans
in Bogue Falaya Park

APRIL 17-18, 2021

Wooden Boat Festival
Maritime fun in Madisonville

FAMILY-FRIENDLY MARDI GRAS IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Looking for a tamer version of The Big Easy? The Northshore's Mardi Gras celebrations are quirky, unforgettable and full of positive energy. If small-town family celebrations are what you're after, St. Tammany Parish will definitely fill your bag. Check out LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/MARDIGRAS. If you can't visit, experience a taste of Mardi Gras at home. See related story p. 16.

PHOTOS: WM LANG; ANTHONY CHOPPER; LEONE; MELANIE SOULES; RENEE KIENZT

The Dew Drop Jazz and Social Hall Turns 125

BY BETH D'ADDONO

Don Vappie, a renowned New Orleans-born banjo player, guitarist and vocalist, plays his beloved Creole jazz music all over the world. From Carnegie Hall to concert halls in France, Germany and the U.K., Vappie's music has sounded in the most storied venues around. But one of his most memorable places to play is not far from his Covington home, the Dew Drop Jazz and Social Hall in Mandeville. "There's a special vibe there, a natural reverb sound that you get because the building is all made of wood. That and the history combine to make it a really wonderful place."

Preservation Hall bass player Mitchell Player agrees. Player, who has worked the Dew Drop with Dr. Michael White, Leroy Jones and his own Ella and Louie Tribute show featuring Eileina Dennis, calls the venue a great performance hall for musicians. "You can feel the spirits of the ancestors in that place."

Of the myriad reasons to visit St. Tammany Parish and the Northshore, the Dew Drop Jazz and Social Hall is at the top the list. Founded by the Dew Drop Social and Benevolent Association and built in 1895—the same year scholars say jazz with born in New Orleans—the unpainted hall on Lamarque Street, nestled in a grove of ancient live oaks, is considered the world's oldest virtually unaltered rural jazz dance hall. In the early 1900s, Mandeville was developing as a lakefront resort village and Black musicians were playing at the Dew Drop most Saturday nights.

Celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, with a fall concert series kicking off September 26, the Dew Drop evolved as a major showcase for such seminal jazz musicians as Kid Ory, Bunk Johnson and Satchmo himself, who visited family nearby and would often take the stage when he was in the area.



Monk Boudreaux performs at the Dew Drop.



Live music beats at the heart of the Northshore. For more musical notes and concert events, go to LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/MUSIC



The Dew Drop is the oldest virtually unaltered jazz hall in the world.

PHOTO: BOBBY TALLEY

As important as the Dew Drop was to the development of jazz, its roots speak to the inequities that plague the Black community to this day. Like many of the social and benevolent associations that continue the tradition of Second Lines across the lake in New Orleans, the Dew Drop Social and Benevolent Association sought to take care of its own, to care for the sick, provide help with funeral arrangements and to supply food and housing for the needy—all during a time when Black residents couldn’t access insurance and other basic community services.

The Dew Drop continued as a community hub and entertainment venue into the mid 1940s, when a larger community hall was built around the corner. The building sat unused for decades until it was acquired by the City of Mandeville in 2000. With the formation of the non-profit Friends of the Dew Drop in 2006, the building was cared for and once again hosted live music on leafy Lamarque Street.

Lynn Mitchell, a local architect, was one of those original Friends and remains on the organization’s board. “I worked with the city to get the building taken care of as the first priority,” he says. Preserving its architectural integrity was paramount, as was once again giving music lovers the unique experience of hearing live music in such a historic setting.

Although the spring concert series was cancelled after the first

show due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those shows have been added to the fall lineup, which runs on Saturdays from mid-September through Christmas and includes blues, jazz and Cajun music performances by Doreen Ketchens Jazz New Orleans, Sarah Quintana & Miss River Band, Michael Doucet and Lâcher Prise, with Little Freddie King closing out the series. All ages concerts are family affairs that spill out onto the grounds of the Hall, folks sitting in lawn chairs eating homemade fried seafood and chicken platters and beverages prepared by members of the First Free Mission Baptist Church next door.

Proceeds from the \$10 ticket sales (kids and students get in free) benefit JazzKids, a free education program that pairs local musicians with St. Tammany Parish school music programs. From jazz master classes led by Jason Marsalis to music lessons and performances by Helen Gillet, Mark Mullens of Bonerama and Don Vappie aimed at middle and elementary school students, JazzKids brings the wonder of live music into the classroom.

“The Dew Drop attracts people from all over the world,” says Jamie Roche, a Friends board member who specializes in performance art marketing. “People trust that they’re going to hear great music. They come for the experience and our hope is that they walk away with a newfound appreciation of traditional Louisiana Music.” 🦩

“There’s a special vibe there, a natural reverb sound that you get because the building is all made of wood. That and the history combine to make it a really wonderful place.”

A DAY IN...

Charming Covington



On the National Register of Historic Places, the quaint and welcoming Division of St. John in Covington is thoughtfully laid out in a grid pattern, with free parking areas called Ox Lots centrally located throughout the town. This harkens back to days when schooners came down the Bogue Falaya River to trade goods from Covington and surrounding Northshore areas with New Orleans. Traders brought their wares and parked their oxen in the squares.

There are shops, galleries, little museums, nightspots and more than 25 restaurants in this walkable district, many of which are located in historic cottages. The town is nestled at the convergence of three scenic rivers, the Bogue Falaya, the Abita and the Tchefuncte. The elegantly restored boutique Southern Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1907, and the Blue Willow B&B and Camellia House B&B offer visitors comfortable accommodations in the walking district. For a complete list, visit LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

THIS IS A GOOD MORNING

Begin your day sunny side up in Covington at any number of delightful breakfast spots, where you'll find heavenly benedicts, crêpes, creamy grits, artisan roasts, beignets, and more.

ABITA ROASTING CO.

Buttermilk Beignets
and Princess Abita Coffee
1011 VILLAGE WALK
(985) 246-3345

ENGLISH TEA ROOM

Windsor High Tea
734 EAST RUTLAND ST.
(985) 898-3988

MATTINA BELLA

Blue Crab Benedict
421 E. GIBSON ST.
(985) 892-0708



STROLL THE SHOPS

Grab your girlfriend and shop the boutiques, antiques and art galleries along Lee Lane, E. Rutland and Columbia Street. This little stretch is home to a variety of shops in cute-as-can-be cottages and offering all kinds of shopping temptations. There's custom jewelry, boutique clothing and vintage finds. Don't miss **H.J. Smith and Sons**.



BE ARTSY

Check out Covington's art community around downtown and then create your own masterpiece at a **Hammer & Stain** workshop. Be sure to pick your project and make a reservation online at HAMMERANDSTAINCOVINGTON.COM for a workshop 72 hours in advance. You're welcome to bring your own wine or beer to sip while you work. Or, order a take-home art kit. 1027 VILLAGE WALK, (504) 645-1794

LINGER FOR LUNCH

Captivating cafes beckon for a respite after some serious shopping. Enjoy cheerful eateries with healthy options for a light lunch.

LOLA

Chicken Salad Vegas
517 N. NEW HAMPSHIRE ST
(985) 892-4992

COFFEE RANI

Cobb Club Salad
234 LEE LANE
(985) 893-6158

TOAD HOLLOW

Vegetable Curry
207 N. NEW HAMPSHIRE
(985) 893-8711



GET OUTSIDE

Rent bikes, paddleboards, or kayaks at **Brooks Bike Shop**, and pedal around downtown or along the 31-mile **Tammany Trace** (see related story p. 36) or launch from the paddler's launch at Bogue Falaya Park. **Canoe and Trail Adventures** offers canoe and kayak rentals from **The Chimes** restaurant. The Bogue Falaya's scenic waterway offers many sandy banks to pull up and splash around on, and clear water to spot schooling fish.



DECADENT DINNERS

Enjoy an evening out worth remembering, with elegant surroundings, craft cocktails, and impeccable service from some of Covington's charismatic chef/owners.

DEL PORTO RISTORANTE

CHEFS DAVID AND TORRE SOLAZZO
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Martini, Yellowfin Tuna Crudo, Tagliatelle, Tiramisu
501 E. BOSTON ST.
(985) 875-1006

MERIBO

CHEF GAVIN JOBE
Bee Sting Mule, Whipped Ricotta, Meridionale Pizza, Chocolate Chip Cookies
326 LEE LANE
(985) 302-5533

OXLOT 9

CHEF JEFFREY HANSELL
Caipirinha, Fried Frog Legs, Stuffed Rabbit, Campfire Dessert
428 E. BOSTON ST. IN THE SOUTHERN HOTEL
(985) 400-5663



A DAY IN... *Mandeville*



Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville founded the town of Mandeville in 1834 as a resort community for wealthy New Orleanians, a place of respite from the city in the summers. History still hangs in the air along the lakefront community, where ancient oaks dripping with Spanish moss and historic homes line glittering Lake Pontchartrain. Marigny designated public green space between the street and the lake, and at any time of day, you'll find residents and visitors luxuriating in a leisurely seawall stroll, bike ride, or jog with a view. There are

numerous bed and breakfasts in Old Mandeville located a short walk from the lake, including Blue Heron, de la Bleau, About Trace, MarVilla, Pontchartrain Winds and Cressy House. A bike ride east of the Mandeville Trailhead via the 31-mile Tammany Trace hike-and-bike path, you'll find Fontainebleau State Park, Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville's former sugar plantation and historic site. For a complete listing of accommodations, visit LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

RISE AND SHINE

Sure as the sun rises over Lake Pontchartrain, breakfast spots beckon to start your day off right with a strong cup of coffee and a smile.

LIZ'S WHERE Y'AT DINER

Banana Foster Waffles
2500 FLORIDA ST.
(985) 626-8477

LA LOU

Soft Shell Crab Benedict
200 GIROD ST.
(985) 231-7125

CRAZY PIG SOUTHERN KITCHEN

Booya Biscuit
4700 LA-22 STE. 1
(985) 792-7900



PHOTO ERIC LINDBERG; DAVID GALLET

RIDE A BRIKE

Cruise around Old Mandeville with ease with a bike rental from **Brooks' Bike Co-op**. There are plenty of shopping ops—you'll find ladies clothing, antiques, art and gifts galore in the quaint shops all along Girod Street. Score designer finds for a song from **Gran's Attic Thrift Shoppe**, boutique clothing from **Cameo**, unique gifts and art at **Wild Osprey Gallery**, antiques from **Mae's** and lovely Louisiana gifts from **Das Schulerhaus: A Christmas & Gift Gallery**.



CONTEMPORARY LOUISIANA CUISINE

OLD RAIL BREWING COMPANY

639 GIROD ST.
(985) 612-1828

Brewpub has outdoor seating right on the Tammany Trace, as well as Crawfish YAYA Pasta, Alligator Tempura and Chicken Andouille Gumbo.

THE LAKEHOUSE

2025 LAKESHORE DR.
(985) 626-3006

Indoor/outdoor dining, spectacular sunsets from the elegant former summer home of Bernard de Marigny.

RIP'S ON THE LAKE

1917 LAKESHORE DR.
(985) 727-2829

Trout Audrey, fried crab claws and fresh Gulf fish are popular, as is dining on the raised balcony.

HAMBONE

544 GIROD ST.
(985) 778-0531

Chef Luke Hidalgo takes an upscale approach to Gulf South comfort foods, in the middle of Girod St. shopping.



EXPLORE MANDEVILLE'S HERITAGE

For a glimpse into 19th century Mandeville, tour the lovingly restored **Jean Baptiste Lang Creole House and Museum**, one of the few "Anglo-Creole" structures still standing in Old Mandeville. Immerse yourself in Mandeville's resort history and see unique architectural elements such as a subterranean cave (believed to be used for storing wine), mortise and tenon construction and faux bois. Also, pick up a map here to begin the Mandeville Historic Walking tour. Just scan the QR code and go!



SIT A SPELL

Rest up and get your second wind with a sweet treat, cup of joe, snack or an ice cold beer.

THE BOOK & THE BEAN COFFEE SHOP

Flamjeaux Coffee and Pastries
235 GIROD ST. UNIT A
(985) 237-3655

RIEGER'S ON THE TRACE

Ice cold Abita Beer and Creole Creamery ice cream
2020 WOODROW ST.
(985) 778-2288

CANDY BANK

Cappuccino, ice cream sodas & house-made fudge
201 CARROLL ST.
(985) 778-2750

THE BARLEY OAK -

OLD WORLD DRAUGHT HOUSE
Soft-baked pretzel basket, Gator Sausage & Chafunkta Brews on tap
2101 LAKESHORE DR.
(985) 727-7420



A DAY IN...

Splendid Slidell



Olde Towne Slidell is a blast from the past, a small-town gem that channels the Northshore's version of Mayberry, where TV sheriff Andy doled out homespun wisdom like bags of penny candy. Here in Olde Towne, a 10-square-block district of historic buildings, specialty shops, restaurants and museums just steps from Bayou Bonfouca makes it possible to stroll and soak in the kind of Main Street hospitality that does a body good.

— Beth D'Addono.

But there's more to Slidell than Olde Towne; there are charter fishing trips that depart from the Rigolets Marina, flat-bottomed tours of the pristine Honey Island Swamp ecosystem and up close encounters with alligators in the wild (see related story p. 30-31), as well as glorious spots for nature walks and seafood straight off of the boat. More than 20 hotels are located in the Slidell area, so you're sure to find comfortable and convenient accommodations at LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

BREAK THE FAST

BEIGNET AU LAIT

Beignets and Café au Lait
1071 ROBERT BLVD.
(985) 643-4949

CREOLE BAGELRY

Cochon Benedict
1337 GAUSE BLVD., STE. 102
(985) 649-6151

LA PINES CAFÉ

Soft Shell Crab Benedict
1061 ROBERT BLVD.
(985) 641-6196

S&H GOOD EATS CAFÉ

Scrambled Mess
1830 HWY. 190 WEST
(985) 726-4900

TERRY LYNN'S CAFÉ

French Quarter Toast
1960 FIRST ST.
(985) 641-3500



PHOTOS: DEB BURST; KEVIN GARRETT

CATCH SOME FISH AND A GOOD TIME

A baker's dozen of charter fishing guides depart from the Slidell area at dawn, since there's great access to fishing hot spots like Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Catherine, the Rigolets Pass and the Biloxi Marsh. Expert guides know where to catch trophy trout, record redfish, fat flounder, sheepshead, black drum and more. Guides will provide gear and bait, and they'll clean your fish for you, too. FISHTHENORTHSHORE.COM



COMFORT FOOD AT ITS FINEST

MIDDENDORF'S SLIDELL

Thin Fried Catfish
1951 OAK HARBOR BLVD.
(985) 771-7777

KY'S OLDE TOWNE BICYCLE SHOP

Oyster Bordelaise Pasta
2267 CAREY ST.
(985) 641-1911

TACOS AND BEER

Lengua Tacos
2142 FIRST ST.
(985) 641-4969

MINNIE'S DAUGHTER

CATERING & CAFÉ
Fried Chicken Plate
3991 PONTCHARTRAIN DR.
(985) 326-8189

SOUTHSIDE CAFÉ

Peacemaker Poboy
3154 PONTCHARTRAIN DR.
(985) 643-6133

KENNEY'S SEAFOOD

Seafood Platter
400 PONTCHARTRAIN DR.
(985) 643-2717



OLDE TOWNE STROLL

Take some time to meander around Olde Towne. Admire the rows of natural herbs and essential oils from **Green Oaks Apothecary**. Get your fashion on at **Stella and Grace** and **Oh La Love** for your mini-me. Search a smattering of antiques shops including **Antiques & Art** and **Vintage Antiques**. Peruse art at the **City of Slidell Cultural Center** and make your own at **Lori's Art Depot**. Experience Slidell's history through the **Slidell Museum**.



CONTEMPORARY LOUISIANA CUISINE

RESTAURANT COTÉ

Prosciutto wrapped Scallops, Shrimp and Oyster Rustica, Banana Fosters Bread Pudding
2219 CAREY ST.
(985) 288-5440

PHIL'S MARINA CAFÉ

Fried Bowtie Pasta with Lump Crab Dip, Tuna Zachary, Key Lime Pie
1194 HARBOR DR.
(985) 641-0464

NATHAN'S

Coconut Shrimp, Trout Amandine, and Sweet Potato Hash
36440 OLD BAYOU LIBERTY RD.
(985) 643-0443

PALMETTOS ON THE BAYOU

Boudin Eggroll, Catch Pontchartrain, Creole Bread Pudding
1901 BAYOU LANE
(985) 643-0050



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

INDULGE

PHOTO: KEVIN GARRETT

TAKE A BITE

Life's a feast on the Northshore, where the culinary perspective has been shaped by the area's diverse cultures as well as the bounty of the bayou. Whether you choose poboys from a mom-and-pop or Gulf-inspired fare from talented chefs, there's a great meal waiting for you.

Fried fish taco with guacamole and jalapeño apple slaw from The Shack in Covington.



You'll Eat Our Words

Confused by some of the items on the menu? Here's a Louisiana lexicon to interpret for you

One glance at a menu and you know you're in Louisiana, even if you aren't familiar with the dishes. Here's a brief primer to help you decipher local menus and speak like us.

ANDOUILLE: This flavorful, spicy sausage is a favorite in chicken and sausage gumbo. (Pron. AHN-doo-ee)

BBQ SHRIMP: Not what you think. It means shrimp left in the shell and served almost submerged in a garlicky, peppery butter sauce. Crisp French bread helps you lap up the butter. It's messy. It's fattening. It's okay; live a little.

BOUDIN: A regional specialty sausage made with pork, rice and seasonings. It's often found in restaurants in the form of fried boudin balls. (Pron. Boo-DAN)

GUMBO: A dark, flavorful soup, real gumbo takes a long time to cook and requires a little voodoo to do properly. Most gumbos are variations on two themes: seafood or chicken and sausage. Served with rice, it can be light brown or dark as swamp water.

MUFFULETTA: This traditional sandwich takes its name from the crusty round Italian bread it's made with. Stuffed inside are several layers of ham, Genoa sausage, Provolone cheese and chopped olive salad. Eaten warm or cold, the giant sandwich usually serves two or more people.

POBOY: A long sandwich on crusty French bread, a poboy really isn't the same as a submarine or a hoagie. It can be ordered with a variety of fillings, including the most popular: fried shrimp or oysters or long-simmered roast beef slathered in gravy.

PRALINES: A simple candy that's nevertheless hard to make well. Most pralines are made with sugar, butter, vanilla (or other flavoring like rum) and nuts. (Pron. PRAW-leen)

RED BEANS AND RICE: You'll often see this as a Monday special at restaurants hearking back to the days when south Louisiana women traditionally did the wash on Mondays and needed something slow and easy to ignore on the stove. Red beans are kidney beans and here they're slow-cooked with seasoning meat till almost creamy, then served with white rice. 🦋



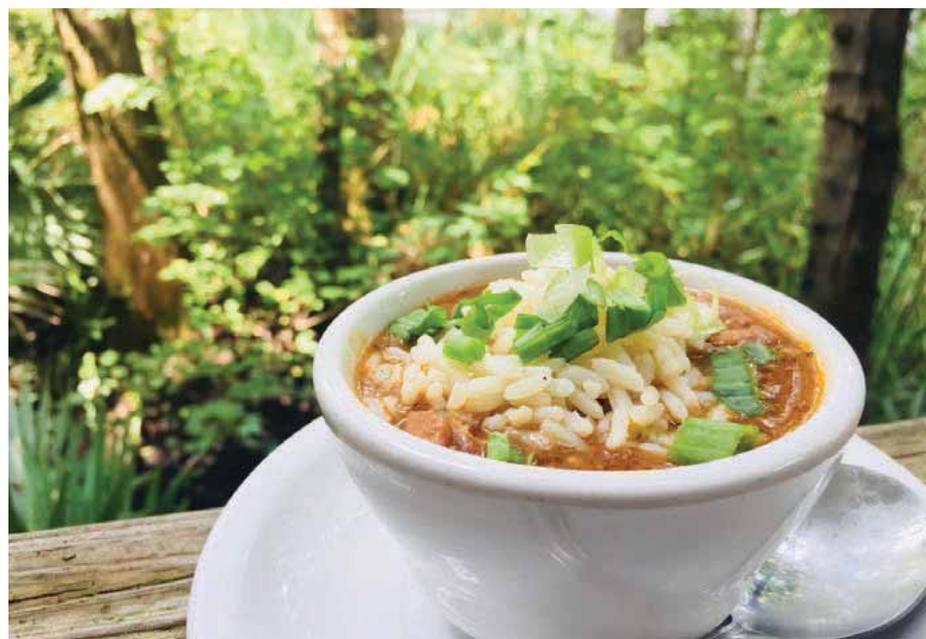
Dining on the River

A NEW DUAL-CONCEPT DINING EXPERIENCE from award-winning (James Beard Foundation, AAA Diamond) Chef Michael Gottlieb opened with a splash in Madisonville over the summer, with Tchefuncte's and The Anchor offering both upscale and casual waterfront dining overlooking the scenic Tchefuncte River.

The Anchor's open-air, family-friendly restaurant invites come-as-you-are attire, features a playground for the kids and boats of all sizes are welcome to dock at the on-premise slips. The Gulf-inspired menu is rooted in classic Louisiana cooking, highlighting the region's oysters, shellfish and seasonal catches (like shrimp po-boys with brown butter, deviled crab with jambalaya and broiled or fried seafood platters). Also on the menu are burgers, smoked beef short ribs, salads, hot wings and more.

Tchefuncte's is decidedly more refined and features a rotating upscale menu, rooted in French and American regional cuisine with a worldly influence and a nod to Louisiana. Among the featured dishes: prime and dry aged meats, jumbo lump crab cake in jalapeño honey, BBQ shrimp, Louisiana sweet potato ravioli gratin and mac and cheese. Desserts include family recipes passed down to Gottlieb, who ran the famous family-owned Gottlieb's Bakery in his hometown of Savannah, Georgia.

Handcrafted cocktails, house baked breads, homemade desserts and spectacular sunsets round out a memorable meal at both restaurants. 407 SAINT TAMMANY STREET, MADISONVILLE 🦋



A Mardi Gras Taste of Tradition

BY POPPY TOOKER

In south Louisiana, since 1965, the Randazzo name has been synonymous with king cake. That was the year three brothers, Manuel Sr., Lawrence and Tony, opened Hi-Lan Bakery in what used to be a dance hall attached to their St. Bernard Parish restaurant and bar, the Camellia Club. Together, the former tomato farmers developed a king cake whose fame would outgrow the parish.

Hi-Lan Bakery was among the very first to transform the traditional, simple, braided ring of dough with unique fillings of cream cheese and fruit.

In 1971, Manny moved Hi-Lan Bakery to Chalmette. After suffering a heart attack, he persuaded his son-in-law, Lou Zornes, a former construction worker, to take his place at the helm of the bakery's ovens. He carefully schooled Zornes in all the family secrets, including his special technique with king cake dough. Manny believed the more you handle the dough, the more tender and flavorful it would become.

When Manny retired in 1996, the Chalmette family bakery was closed, but daughter Tricia and son-in-law Lou Zornes decided to continue the family tradition. The couple opened their own bakery in Slidell soon after. In a nod to both the family's original St. Bernard Parish Camellia Club and a popular nickname for Slidell, they christened their business "Camellia City Bakery."

After graduating from college, third generation baker Zach Zornes proudly joined the family business. Despite an incredible increase in production, Zach ensures that each king cake is still made the way his grandfather did, all by hand.

The Zornes continue to develop new king cake flavors and shapes. At Christmas, king cakes shaped like candy canes, holiday trees and wreaths are decorated with red and green sprinkles. Innovation is a hallmark of Camellia City Bakery. In addition to being the first to offer individual mini king cakes and cakes shaped like fleur-de-lis, they also regularly offer new flavors like pecan praline and other delectable creations.



As shipping demand grew, the Zornes developed their own patented design to keep the cakes secure no matter how far they traveled. Each year, with the help of Operation We Care and the Slidell Ladies of Liberty, thousands of donated king cakes are delivered to U.S. soldiers stationed abroad.

In hopes the family tradition will continue, Zach's young son, Luke, has been named "Chief Tasting Officer," a job the second grader clearly relishes. You can taste tradition when the season begins in December by ordering a Camellia City king cake at KINGCAKES.COM. 🐛

Listen to Poppy's interview with the Zornes family at LouisianaNorthshore.com/Poppy



"It has been my lifelong dream to bring my great-grandmother's favorite saying to life. When I was a little girl, she would never tell me to clean my plate. Instead, she'd say, 'Poppy, eat it to save it!' " - Poppy Tooker

POPPY TOOKER, NATIVE NEW ORLEANIAN, LIGHTS UP A ROOM with her beatific smile. You know you're in the presence of greatness by the way she instantly infuses a room with positive energy and commands attention. The vivacious, quick-witted and larger-than-life author, radio and television host has made it her mission to preserve Louisiana culinary culture and history and share it with the world.

Poppy's award-winning NPR affiliated radio show and podcast, *Louisiana Eats!* features Tammany Taste: Quick Bites. Get to know some of the Northshore's dynamic chefs, bakers, brewers and ice cream makers that make up the Northshore's deep and delicious culinary scene through Poppy's engaging mini-interviews. Go to LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/POPPY and have a listen.



Fresh Food and Fresh Air

Casual outdoor dining amplifies the atmosphere for every type of fare on the Northshore

There's no better time than now for al fresco dining (translation: eating outside), especially in the communities in St. Tammany Parish. You know those special dining experiences—where Mother Nature's beauty, temperate climates and memorable meals electrify you in the moment. Find your happy place—and happy meal—at any number of these outdoor dining spots.

THE SHACK

1204 W. 21ST AVE., COVINGTON

The secret is the ShackYard, a welcoming, fenced-in, open-air patio for al fresco dining. With its tin roof, brightly painted picnic tables, and twinkling lights, it looks like it's been transplanted from the islands. Live music and inventive cocktails keep the convivial atmosphere going, and outdoor play is encouraged for the littlest patrons. With Latin and Caribbean influences, the menu is impeccable, beautifully presented and bursting with fresh flavors to satisfy the most discerning palates, despite its casual setting. Can't miss dishes include marinated skirt steak and lump crabmeat guacamole.

NOLA SOUTHERN GRILL

1375 GAUSE BLVD., SLIDELL

You know you're in for a good time when you see the large crawfish statue waving a claw from the street. It belies the wide array of Louisiana regional specialties served on the patio and upstairs balcony at NOLA Southern Grill. Find char-grilled oysters, gator bites, zydeco shrimp, Gulf shrimp and grits, shrimp étouffée, soft shell crab and red beans and rice on the menu, and much more.

HABANERO'S 190

1331 N. HWY 190 #100, COVINGTON

White twinkle lights, a waterfall fountain and lush outdoor patio create a festive scene as you sip a jalapeño-cilantro margarita and listen to live music. Dine on Mexican urban cuisine including equities, nopalitos and street tacos.

THE CHIMES

19130 ROGERS LANE, COVINGTON

A raw oyster bar, alligator, seafood gumbo, red beans and rice, po'boys and more can be found at this lively spot serving Louisiana specialties. Sweeping decks and boardwalks meander around massive cypress trees down to the Bogue Falaya River. Kids love to spot the resident goats, and big fish swimming in the clear water below.

MIDDENDORF'S SLIDELL

1951 OAK HARBOR BLVD., SLIDELL

The new Slidell location of Middendorf's is grand and whimsically outfitted. Known for their Thin Fried Catfish and outstanding seafood, Middendorf's has a wrap-around dining porch overlooking an expansive sandy beach, fenced and ideal for playing among tiki huts, palm trees and fountains.

ABITA BREW PUB

72011 HOLLY ST., ABITA SPRINGS

The original home of Abita beer, the Brew Pub serves Abita seasonal and flagship beers and has growlers to go. The Brew Pub's happening patio with outdoor checkers, Giant Jenga, corn hole, horseshoes and more is located adjacent to the Tammany Trace and charming Abita Springs Trailhead Plaza. Also known for Andygator crab cakes, catfish étouffée, killer burgers and gyros, and Brewer's BBQ crab claws. 🦀

Sample Liquid Louisiana

Northshore breweries give you something to cheers to

Louisiana's first and largest craft brewery, Abita Brewing Company, started in 1986 as a tiny operation in a little pub in Abita Springs. In 1994, it officially outgrew its humble beginnings and moved up the road to a new state-of-the-art green facility, which produces more than 151,000 barrels of Abita beer a year. Along the way, it's also become one of the Northshore's most popular tourist attractions. Abita beer now is found in all 50 states and beyond, expanding its fan base and attracting visitors from across the planet.

Imbibers come by car and by tour bus (and sometimes by bike, arriving via the nearby Tammany Trace bike path) to taste favorites like Purple Haze and Turbodog at the source. Loyal fans can help determine the fate of the craft brewery's next releases – all new concoctions by Abita's brew master Mark Wilson are first tested for popularity in the tap room.

Self-guided tours are free; guided tours with tastings are \$8. The visitor center and gift shop are open seven days a week and the welcoming taproom makes it easy for anyone to belly up and taste what master brewers, Artesian water and three decades of experience can produce. Craft soda tours are also available seasonally, for sampling Abita Root Beer, Vanilla Cream Soda, and King Cake Soda. Be sure and try The Boot while you're in Abita's tap room. This Louisiana-exclusive beer is one you won't find outside of the Pelican State.

Over in Mandeville, nano brewery Chafunkta Brewing Company is open Wednesday-Sunday, and turning out beer with names like Kingfish Ale, Bayou Blaze and Old 504 porter. Though they are on the opposite ends of the spectrum, both breweries boast loyal followings and fun events like trivia nights and regular visits from food trucks.

Old Rail Brewing Company's microbrewery, adjacent to Mandeville's Tammany Trace Trailhead, has a stout and smooth Cow Catcher Chocolate Milk Stout, Hobo Helles lager and others on tap. The family-friendly restaurant also offers a full menu of savory Louisiana specialties like shrimp and grits and chicken and alligator sauce piquant.

The Barley Oak Biergarten on Lakeshore drive serves up many of these St. Tammany brews all in the same spot, along with terrific sunsets over Lake Pontchartrain and a convivial vibe. 🦩



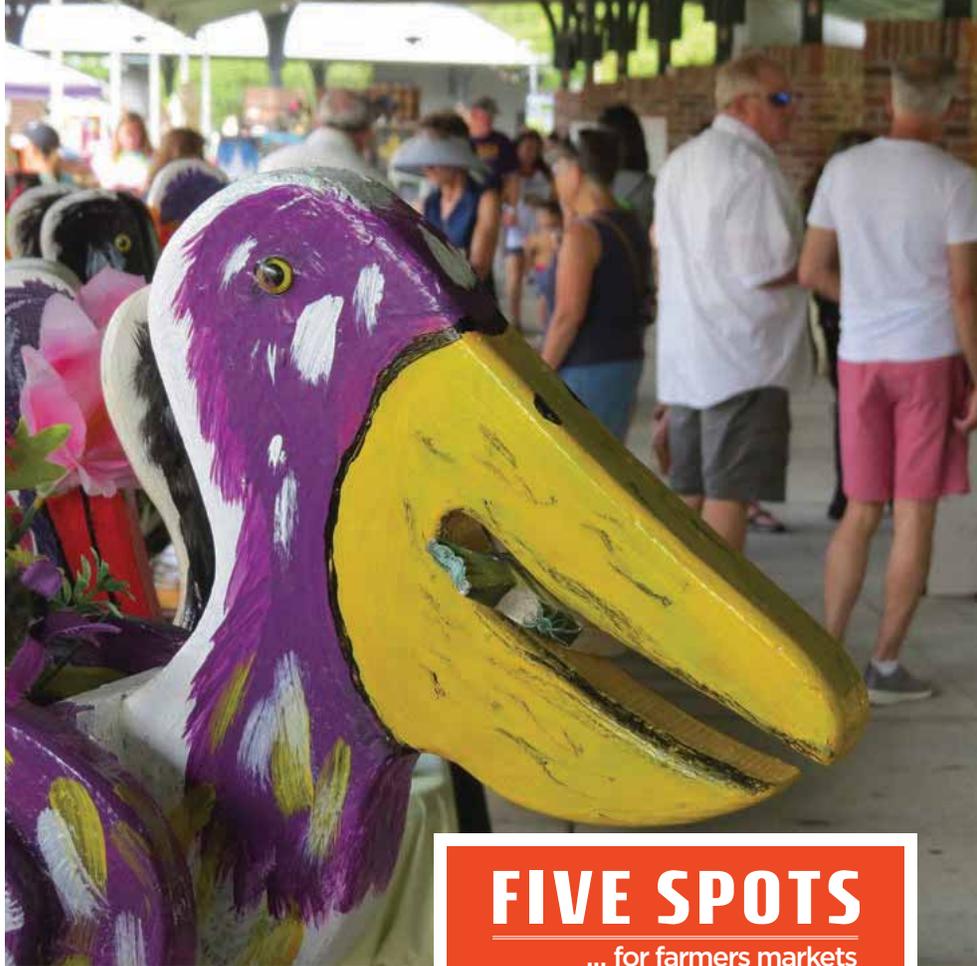
Pontchartrain Vineyards

EXPERIENCE SOME OF PONTCHARTRAIN VINEYARD'S award-winning wines in its classic tasting room adjacent to acres of vines. For \$5 per person, sample a flight of wines made right there, including zinfandel, cab/syrah and blanc du bois. Founded in 1991, PV produces about 2,500 cases of wine a year.

Wine, music and warm starry nights make for magical moments at Pontchartrain Vineyards' popular Jazz'n the Vines concerts. Performers like Don Vappie, Charmaine Neville and local girl-done good Amanda Shaw take the small stage outside the tasting room and play for the audience before them, on blankets and in lawn chairs. The greening vines form the backdrop as afternoon turns to a starry evening. 80158 LA 1082, BUSH 🦩



PHOTO: KEVIN GARRETT



Pottery and other wares are a small vignette into the offerings at the Mandeville Trailhead Market.

The Tie That Binds

Mandeville Trailhead Market receives worldwide attention and visitors from across the globe **BY MARLAINE PEACHEY**

For the past 20 years, the Mandeville Trailhead at 675 Lafitte Street in Old Mandeville has been a local hub of activity serving citizens, visitors and users of the Tammany Trace as a cultural interpretive center while providing an arena for special events.

One of those special events happens every Saturday morning, rain or shine, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is the Mandeville Community Market, which hosts 65 vendors every week and last year attracted 26,000 visitors. Since its inception, people have come from every state in the country as well as 10 foreign countries.

On any given Saturday, shoppers enjoy a wide variety of unique goods and services. The selection includes foods of all types and ethnicities, wood crafted items, artwork, pottery, quilts, children toys and clothing, women and men accessories, candles, soaps, lotions, trees, plants, swings, furniture and much more. Seedlings and bulbs are also available during special seasons.

“Some of our vendors have been rec-

ognized worldwide,” explained Donna Beakley, the Market Coordinator. “One of our photographers was named National Geographic Young Photographer of the Year.” Decorative wooden bowls that originated at the Mandeville Trailhead Community Market are now being used in bars in every Marriott Hotel in the country. Vendors ship their products to Europe and other countries around the world. John Paul Duet, a well-known wildlife photographer, has shipped his photos to every continent except Antarctica.

The market buzzes with enterprise and entertainment as live music onstage consists of Bluegrass, Gospel, Jazz, Country, Rock and everything in between. Tables are set up for shoppers to sit, eat and enjoy, while children play in the interactive water fountains.

“It’s truly a great place to share local talent,” Beakley says. “Everyone enjoys our market.”

Stop by this Saturday and see for yourself! 🦋

FIVE SPOTS

... for farmers markets

ABITA SPRINGS ART AND FARMERS MARKET

Sundays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Artisans, vegetables, wild caught seafood

22049 MAIN ST., ABITA SPRINGS

MANDEVILLE TRAILHEAD COMMUNITY MARKET

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Arts and crafts, prepared foodstuffs, fresh produce

675 LAFITTE ST., MANDEVILLE

PEARL RIVER HONEY ISLAND ART AND FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Produce, local honey, prepared foods and arts and crafts

64378 HWY. 41, PEARL RIVER

CAMELLIA CITY MARKET

Saturday mornings 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Prepared foods, tons of fresh produce, live music

333 ERLANGER ST., SLIDELL

COVINGTON FARMERS MARKET

Saturday mornings and Wednesdays 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Creole cream cheese, Kombucha, organic meats & produce and live music

609 N. COLUMBIA, COVINGTON

(ON SATURDAYS)

419 N. NEW HAMPSHIRE, COVINGTON

(ON WEDNESDAYS)

Tammany Taste

The Northshore's diverse and deep restaurant scene feeds your hunger for authentic culinary experiences



OXLOT 9

428 W. BOSTON, COVINGTON

Chef Jeffrey Hansell's lovely dining space in downtown Covington's Southern Hotel is a great showcase for the Gulf-inspired contemporary Southern food. Try the sumptuous fried frog legs in hot sauce butter or the venison meat pies. Another fan favorite is the heritage pork chops. Hansell's creativity and his deft touch with seafood and with meat make his ever-changing menu a culinary adventure.

THE SHACK

1204 W. 21ST AVENUE, COVINGTON

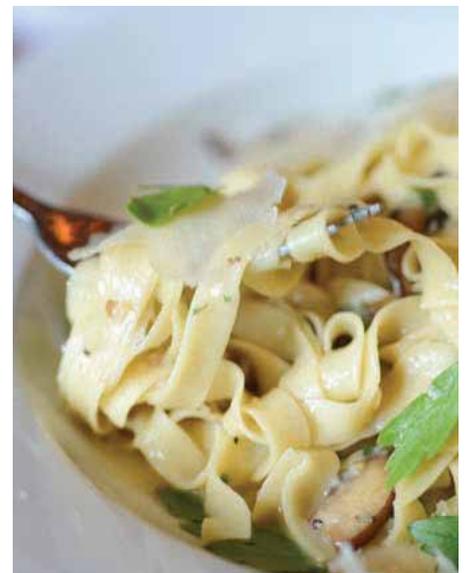
Chef Thomas "LoLo" LoPresti's artful presentation has a colorful Caribbean kick, just like the fun and funky restaurant he operates with wife, Christine Clouatre. With Latin influences and a comfortable, family-friendly vibe, The Shack offers a rare combination. While their kids can run around and play, the parents enjoy outstanding offerings like bacon lump crabmeat guacamole, marinated skirt steak or pan-seared mahi over coconut rice and asparagus.



RIEGER'S ON THE TRACE

2020 WOODROW ST., MANDEVILLE

This cheerful new eatery across from the Mandeville Trailhead is getting a lot of buzz for its surprising menu with items like grilled turnip cakes with andouille and shrimp, buffalo chicken dip, fried pork chop sandwiches and "bahn mi-style" po-boys. Kid-and-pup friendly, indoor and outdoor seating.



DEL PORTO RISTORANTE

501 E. BOSTON, COVINGTON

Included in New Orleans food critics' lists of top 10 restaurants in the New Orleans area, Del Porto is a local favorite for its emphasis on locally sourced ingredients and contemporary Italian fare. Husband-and-wife chef team David and Torre Solazzo are three-time semifinalists for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: South award. One bite of their stellar crudo or one spoon of risotto and you'll know why.



SOUTHSIDE CAFÉ

3154 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE, SLIDELL

Lively, bright and busy, this Slidell staple serves up soulful Louisiana comfort food in the form of New Orleans' style muffalettas, fried seafood platters, burgers and steak specials. Try Dan's Favorite (named after owner Dan LeBlanc): two fried eggs, applewood smoked bacon and melted American cheese with lettuce and tomato on toasted French bread.



GALLAGHER'S

LOCATIONS IN COVINGTON,
MANDEVILLE AND SLIDELL

Longtime local favorite chef Pat Gallagher knows his way around a steak. You may never have a better filet served in sizzling butter. Expect divine crab cakes and the perfect preparation of Louisiana seafood like pompano and redfish, as well as Colorado rack of lamb and chargrilled quail.



PALMETTOS ON THE BAYOU

1901 BAYOU LANE, SLIDELL

The name describes the place, a large Acadian cabin on the banks of historic Bayou Bonfouca, lush with palmettos and iconic Louisiana greenery enjoyed from the decks. Enjoy gumbo, shrimp and grits, crawfish beignets, trout amandine, balsamic duck, and on Sundays, a live jazz brunch.

CRABBY SHACK

305 LA-21, MADISONVILLE

With its lived-in ambience, The Crabby Shack is a typical South Louisiana neighborhood spot. There's dark-roux gumbo, steaming platters of boiled crabs and crawfish in season, fried seafood platters and poboys. Join the locals for some serious seafood.



THE LAKEHOUSE

2025 LAKESHORE DRIVE, MANDEVILLE

Spectacular sunsets over Lake Pontchartrain are on the menu at Cayman Sinclair's restaurant in the historic Bechac building in Mandeville, as are the melt-in-your-mouth pan seared scallops with bourbon brown butter. Fresh Louisiana seafood plucked from nearby waters is impeccably presented in the form of Gulf fish amandine, fried soft-shelled crab, or a bouillabaisse (traditional French fish stew).



HAMBONE

544 GIROD ST., MANDEVILLE

Chef Luke Hidalgo takes an upscale approach to Gulf South comfort foods, taking them to new heights. Think fried boudin with crab boil mozzarella, decadent char-broiled oysters and a rockin' gumbo, all prepared in a cute-as-can-be cottage.

LIZ'S WHERE Y'AT DINER

2500 FLORIDA ST., MANDEVILLE

Lovely Liz Munson and her sunny servers are as welcoming as her fluffy pancakes, oh-so-creamy grits, and perfectly executed eggs benedict. The St. Charles Scrambler with lump crabmeat, green onions, mushrooms and Swiss cheese topped with homemade hollandaise, is popular around town. In the mood for something sweeter? Try the bananas foster French toast.



SAL & JUDY'S

27491 HIGHWAY 190, LACOMBE

Chef Sal Impastato's Lacombe institution is where Italy meets Louisiana. There's pasta, like veal cannelloni and lasagna, even Bruciolini and Cappelletti (pasta stuffed with chicken and mortadella). But also trout Meuniere and crabmeat au gratin.



SPLURGE

Manderline
HOME SWEET HOME

ELEVEN
Point
Eleven Point Home Fragrances
are inspired by the beauty of The Eleven Point area
to allow, inspire, comfort and
engage.

It has been a relief for our
Summer, a place for
renewal, relaxation, and
our goal is all of our handcrafted
products, from bath, to
kitchen, to living that is your
perfect space for home.

SALE

TREAT YOURSELF

Some of us just need to shop.
You'll find plenty of shopping
opportunities on the
Northshore, so let's go!



FIVE SPOTS

... to shop

FREMAUX TOWN CENTER, SLIDELL
Tenants at this sprawling center include Best Buy, Dillards, Dick's Sporting Goods, TJ Maxx and numerous restaurants. Located off the Fremaux exit. (If you're looking for antiques, head to Olde Towne Slidell, a few minutes away.)

DOWNTOWN COVINGTON
The town's historic district is a walkable feast for shopaholics, with quaint streets, cottage boutiques, restaurants, galleries and so much more. Check out Lee Lane, Rutland and Columbia streets for sure. You'll find antiques, art, jewelry, gift items, clothing and free parking, too.

PREMIER SHOPPING CENTERS, MANDEVILLE
The Gap, Old Navy, Banana Republic and Anne Taylor Loft are among the shops at this large center on Highway 190.

RIVER CHASE SHOPPING CENTER, COVINGTON
Located at I-12 and Highway 21, the center beckons with Best Buy, Marshall's, Target, Lane Bryant and more. (Restaurants and a multiplex movie theater, too.)

PINNACLE NORD DU LAC, COVINGTON
Find Kohl's, Kirkland's and Academy here, as well as specialty shops like Ban Soleil and Bra Genie. I-12 at Pinnacle Parkway.

Browse; You'll Buy

Boutique and antique shops are sprinkled all around the Northshore. You'll see them on your way to the large shopping plazas, so be sure to stop and browse and meet a friendly local shopkeeper. You'll find all sorts of treasures you'll want to take home. Looking for something out of the ordinary?

ST. TAMMANY SOUVENIRS

JOSE BALLI

Sterling silver Spanish Moss pendant
3424 US-190, MANDEVILLE

ABITA BREWERY

Abita Cooking
Louisiana True Cookbook
166 BARBEE RD., ABITA SPRINGS

MISS EMMA'S FAMOUS PRALINES

Pralines
705 OLD SPANISH TRAIL, SLIDELL

KENNEY SEAFOOD

Schwings SOS Oystershells
400 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE, SLIDELL

REDOUX

Coasters from local artist
Christina Pappion
2983 US-190, MANDEVILLE

Consider monk-made soaps and candles from the St. Joseph Abbey Gift Shop; Abita Beer cookbooks, growlers, t-shirts and other merch from the Abita Brewery Gift Shop; and for delicious, melt-in-your-mouth pralines, Miss Emma's can't be beat. You'll find the smiles come free with your sweet treat. 🐌

AQUISTAPACE'S SUPERMARKET

Sal & Judy's Creole
Italian sauces, dressings
125 E 21ST AVE., COVINGTON

ST. JOSEPH ABBEY GIFT STORE

Monk soap
75376 RIVER RD., COVINGTON
(985) 867-2227





Seven generations of Smiths have worked in this cornerstone of Covington.

Old World, New Charm

H.J. Smith and Sons endures through the ages
—with a contemporary alteration BY JYL BENSON

Change has come to H.J. Smith and Sons, a Covington hardware store that originally opened on the 300 block of Columbia Street in 1876. H.J. Smith founded the business even though his son, John L. Smith, was there at the beginning and shaped the enterprise into one that has endured almost a century and a half.

On past occasions when I have visited this fascinating place, often just to soak in the atmosphere, I was acutely aware of my surroundings and planned my visit according to temperature outside, as the place, true to its 19th century roots, has no A/C. I was unable to plan my most recent visit to coincide with ideal atmospheric conditions so I braced myself as I prepared to enter and work up a sweat from the Louisiana summer heat.

Upon opening the door, I was greeted by refreshingly cool air. Air conditioning, a modern comfort H.J. Smith's descendants had long resisted, now leaves the store's vast array of cast iron cookery, animal pelts, colorful metal yard birds, camouflage

hunters' clothing and thousands of other items (as well as those within the adjacent museum) cool to the touch. Cool air now permeates this space.

Change does not come easily or readily to H.J. Smith and Sons. That's a historic truth.

When H.J. Smith founded the general store, he did so with a massive warehouse at the back. Cotton farmers would travel to Covington from as far away as south-central Mississippi to sell their crops, which were bound into 700-pound bales and weighed with the assistance of a massive metal hook on a Fairbanks 700 scale. Cash rarely exchanged hands. Instead, the seller was offered fair trade of around 13 cents for each pound of cotton to acquire flour, chickens, sugar, household goods, clothing and whatever else they needed to maintain their largely subsistence lifestyles on the farm. Every transaction was recorded in ledgers, a practice that continues today though monthly invoices to customers have replaced the act of trade.

Schooners, steamboats, steamships and ferries made regular trips across Lake Pontchartrain to deliver goods as well as people seeking a holiday away from the city, and vice versa. The schooners docked at the foot of Columbia Street. When the price was right—about 20 cents per pound—H.J. Smith ordered that warehoused bales be loaded onto the schooners and shipped across the “big pond” for sale in New Orleans. H.J. Smith moved about 50,000 bales of cotton through his warehouse annually.

The original Fairbanks 700 cotton scale still holds its place of 144 years in the hardware store. Also enduring is the practice of closing for the day at noon on a Wednesday.

For many years, the streets of Covington were of packed soil, and oxen used for trade were tied up in designated ox lots around the town’s District of St. John. If the streets were damp from rain, the cloven-footed oxen the farmers used to pull the heaviest of their wagonloads were not allowed in town and farmers were obliged to tie up their animals at the fairgrounds, located about a mile from the hardware store. More surefooted horses were allowed on the streets at all times, but they and the wagons they pulled still tore up the streets. Hence, businesses would close early on Wednesdays and business owners and city workers would join together to repair streets, buildings and bridges. A sheepfoot roller would likely have been utilized to compact the soil after a week of wear and tear.

“When people ask why we still close early on Wednesdays, I tell them, ‘It’s so we can just go home and drink beer,’” says Larry Smith, the great grandson of H.J. Smith. He and his brothers, Henry and Kevin, currently own and operate the business that now spans seven generations. Larry Smith’s son, Christopher, a financial advisor, puts in a few hours each week on Tuesdays. The brothers’ grandchildren are frequently pressed into service as well. All generations adhere to the traditions of the family business.

“We have tried to leave things as untouched and authentic as possible,” Larry says, “but our customers let us know the time had come for air conditioning. We held out as long as we could.”



The addition of this creature comfort compels my lily-livered, heat-averse self to linger longer over the artifacts to be found in the museum. Every corner, every shelf—the worn wooden floors, ceiling and walls, every inch of space—compels investigation. It is an enthralling mishmash of odds and ends of household items such as hand-painted porcelain serve ware, pharmacy bottles, carpenters’ tools—that may have been on the shelves more than a century ago to things less familiar to us today—oxen collars, a spiraled cypress auger, a rattlesnake hide, a long-ago vacated hornets’ nest, a cast iron coffin, a stuffed sturgeon in a glass box bearing a metal placard that informs of its provenance. Clemons Fontan caught it in the nearby Tchefuncte River in 1935.

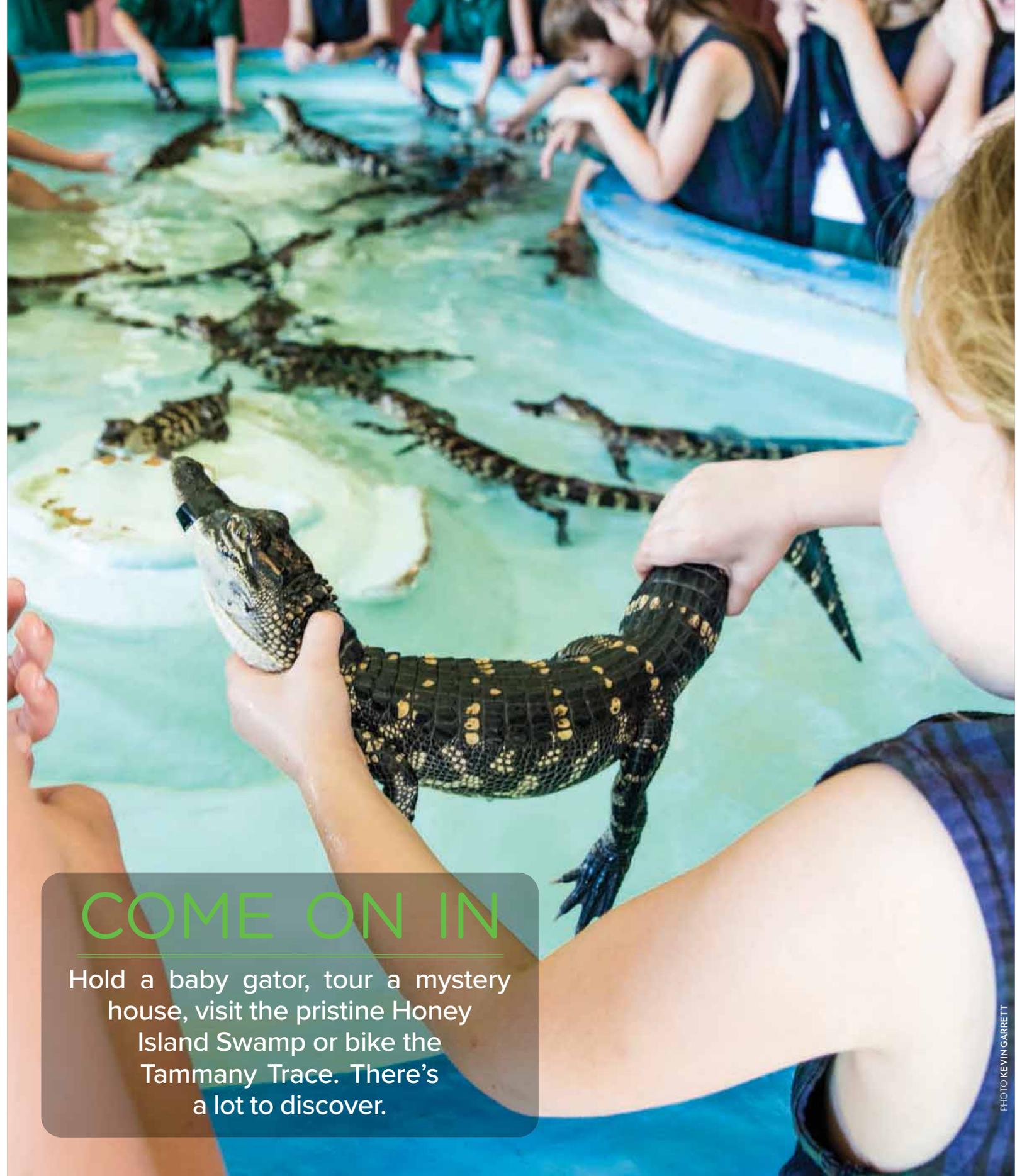
Fontan’s immortalized fish is several feet away from the item that most delights the many schoolchildren that visit on fieldtrips: a petrified rat. Unlike that of Fontan’s sturgeon, the provenance of the rat is uncertain, though its final resting place on a metal tray adjacent to a bottle of Hot Foot rodent poison once purchased for 50 cents.

“My great grandfather, my grandpa, they wouldn’t throw anything away,” Larry says. “If there was a wagon and the wheel broke, they’d save the wagon for parts.”

To explore the ways of the past on one side of the building while shopping the newly comfortable environs of a very well-stocked contemporary hardware store on the other is to cross a bridge between two very different worlds. Plan to set some time aside for this most worthwhile journey. 308 N COLUMBIA ST, COVINGTON 🐜

NOBLES POINT SHORE

EXPLORE



COME ON IN

Hold a baby gator, tour a mystery house, visit the pristine Honey Island Swamp or bike the Tammany Trace. There's a lot to discover.




GATOR FACTS

- The American alligator averages about 800 pounds and can be 10-15 feet long, though the largest ever recorded was found here in Louisiana and measured 19.2 feet.
- Alligators can run about 20 miles per hour in short bursts.
- The state's alligator population is around two million, the most of any state. After population declines by the mid-20th century, harvest quotas were put into place. Populations now are at sustainable levels.
- Diet consists mostly of fish, turtles, small mammals and birds, though alligators have been known to attack dogs, deer and on rare occasions, humans.
- Alligators today represent a \$50 million industry for Louisiana. Shoes, purses and other items of alligator skin fetch high prices and the meat, which is classified as seafood (but, yes, tastes like chicken), is increasingly offered in restaurants.
- Mating season is April to May. Females build a nest and lay 20-60 eggs, then cover the nest with vegetation and hang out til August when eggs begin to hatch.
- As a species, alligators have been around for about 37 million years.

Alligators, Everywhere

Get your reptilian fix at Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery and learn everything there is to know

It's not a visit to Louisiana without an alligator interaction, right? We've got just the place for you. Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery in Covington is home to more than 2,000 alligators (and a few humans who interact with them). Insta-Gator offers fun and educational tours and programs that will teach you all about the prehistoric reptiles and even give you a chance to hold one.

Kids (and their parents, too) love to visit the touch pool, where smaller alligators swim in crystal clear water and you can scoop them up as they glide by for a fantastic photo-op.

Visitors hear all about the harvesting of gator eggs, often from area waterways like Bayou Castine, and watch a video before visiting huge alligators in tanks in their covered barns. Guides explain the indus-

try that actually helps preserve the species in the wild. There's a gift shop at Insta-gator, too, where they like to say you'll learn everything about the American alligator from "hatchling to handbag." 23440 LOWE DAVIS ROAD, COVINGTON 🐊





Meet the animals up close and personal at the Global Wildlife Center.

Eye to Eye with Giraffes

On safari at Global Wildlife Center in Folsom

The excitement builds on the approach. Scenery along rural, tree-lined Highway 40, as it ribbons through the northwestern corner of St. Tammany Parish, begins to subtly change. Suddenly open grassland resembles an African savanna — and in more ways than one. The sight of zebras and Father David deer, giraffes and elands signal that you are about to enter a special place.

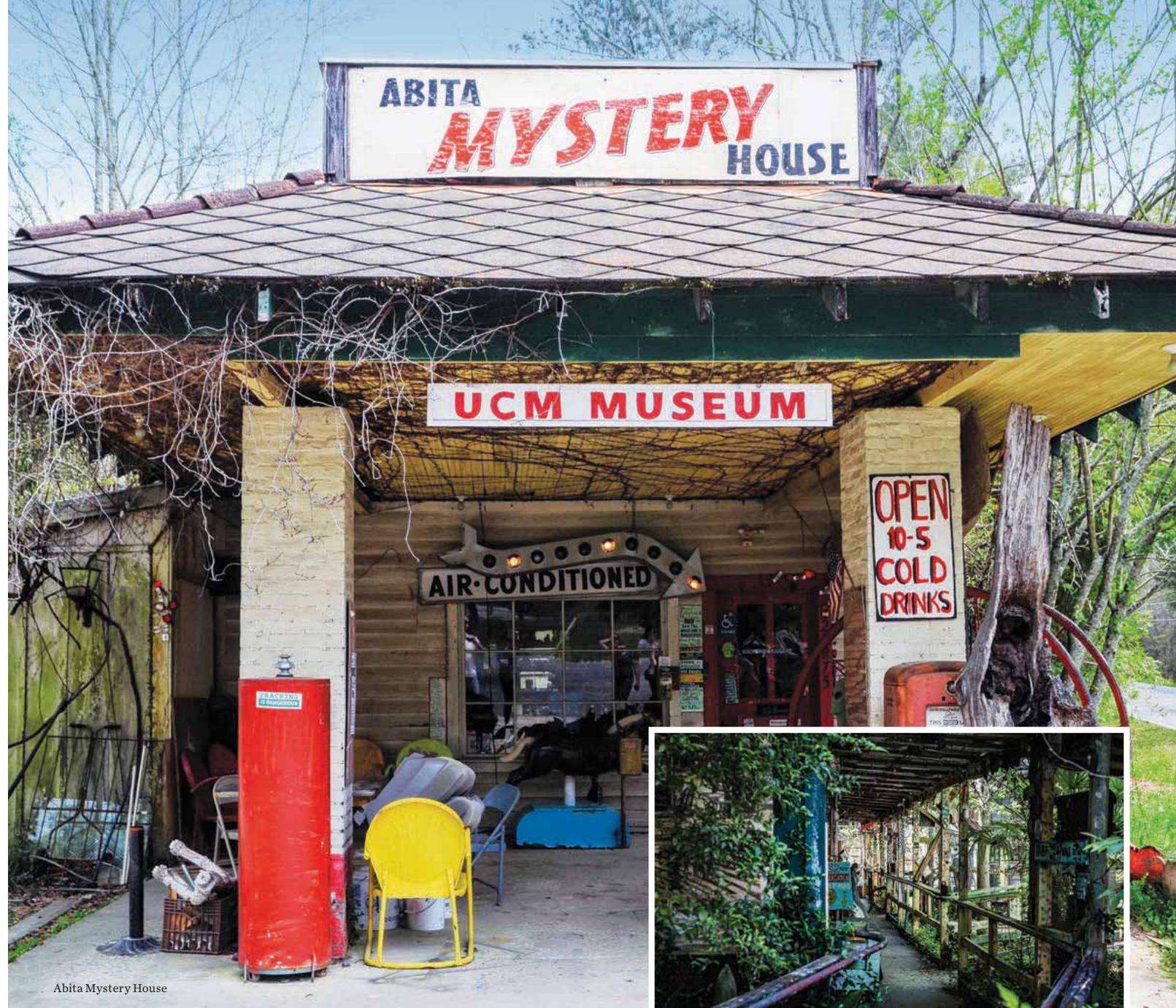
Global Wildlife Center is the largest free-roaming wildlife preserve of its kind in the U.S., home to more than 4,000 exotic and endangered animals living on 900 scenic acres. Visitors have a few options to explore Global. Many opt for the safari tours in large motorized wagons that travel the grounds, providing on-high views and the opportunity to toss feed to many of the animals as they approach the wagon.

The private Pinzgauer tours are a great choice for families and

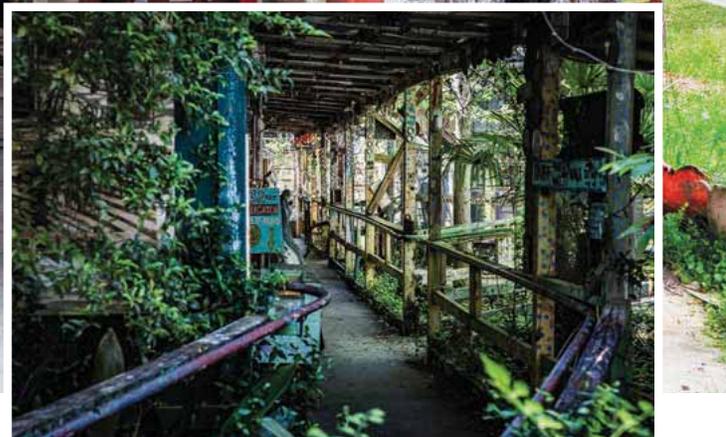
animal lovers who want a unique and once-in-a-lifetime encounter. Seating up to 8 people, the 4x4 vehicles put guests eye level with Global's inhabitants who often follow or surround the vehicle. Stroke a giraffe's neck as she leans over your shoulder. Amazingly beautiful up close, the giraffes are persistent — they want that food! — but they're gentle. Touch the massive, wooly head of an American bison, or the horns of Watusi cattle as they feed from your hand. Deer, llamas and zebras come up close, and gaggles of fat geese waddle at top speed behind the Pinz as it pulls away.

Safari tours are given several times daily; Pinzgauer tours require reservations. There's also a relatively recent addition; a Can Am Defender Tour. All make unforgettable memories for kids of all ages. Call (985) 796-3585 for tour availability.

26389 HIGHWAY 40, FOLSOM 🦋



Abita Mystery House



Abita Mystery House

It's creepy and it's kooky, mysterious and spooky, and it's located right in the heart of Abita Springs

The Abita Mystery House celebrates itself as Louisiana's "most eccentric museum." The funky-licious little place, cool and goofy at the same time, is a short stroll from Abita Springs Town Hall and has welcomed the curious from all over the world. Sprung from the brain of Abita impresario/artist John Preble, the Mystery House is a roadside attraction-like emporium crammed with outsider art, Southern wit and the flotsam and jetsam of modern life. Fun for all ages,

the Mystery House has hands-on exhibits, mythical creatures like the Bassigator (half fish, half gator) and the Dogigator (half dog, half ... you know), and what may be the state's best gift shop. Enjoy the place at face value or cogitate on the Nature of Art, just not too hard. Bring your sense of humor and \$5 because that's what it costs to get in at the Mystery House, where "everyone is welcome, even your family." 22275 HIGHWAY 36, ABITA SPRINGS 🦎



JEFF ROGERS BUILDS A BRIDGE OF HOSPITALITY

to the Honey Island Swamp while
Cajun Encounters brings Louisiana's
bayou experience to the world

BY BETH D'ADDONO



Finding comfort and inspiration in the Honey Island Swamp and the sloughs and bayous along the West Pearl River is something Jeff Rogers has been doing all his life. Rogers is passionate about sharing that experience with guests through his tour company, Cajun Encounters, which he founded more than 25 years ago.

Rogers moved with his family from New Orleans East to Slidell when he was 4 and he grew up on the water about two miles from where his company is based, just off of Route 90 (less than an hour outside of New Orleans). By the time he was 9, Rogers was navigating his own boat through the swamp, “hunting and fishing, doing all the things kids do,” he recalls. Rogers, who now lives in Madisonville with his wife and company CFO Mary Anna and their three children, finds himself in uncharted waters as the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges to all sectors of the hospitality industry.

LESSONS LEARNED

Rogers recently expanded his operation, purchasing Pearl River Eco Tours from his friend Neal Benson, thereby making his company a resource-heavy standout in the Honey Island Swamp. As he's grown the business, the idea was to always deliver a full range of hospitality experiences to guests. Beyond the boundaries of the swamp, plantation tours and New Orleans tours are offered, with transportation

from hotels for guests who prefer not to drive. Smaller groups can book VIP tours for up to eight people, adding another level of personal service to the experience.

A few years ago, Rogers added a spacious Cajun pavilion used by guests waiting on

tours and groups of up to 300 people for crawfish or seafood boils and parties. A gift shop welcomes patrons with swamp-inspired goods, and an extended boardwalk stretches through the cypress trees and gives guests the chance to mosey on their own.

An entrepreneur at heart, Rogers worked for a canoe tour company in high school, and later at Outback Steakhouse while putting himself through college at Southeastern for marketing.

“I liked hospitality, taking care of people, giving them an experience,” he says. “I figured why not just go into business for myself?”

When he couldn't get a business loan, Rogers maxed out his credit cards and used his savings to start Cajun Encounters. When he finally did get money from the bank to expand, 9/11 happened. “My business was shut town,” he recalls. “I came close to going bankrupt. That taught me to never leverage myself again.”



Jeff Rogers and his youngest son, Cooper



Whether it is out on the water, in the gift shop or on the boardwalk, Cajun Encounters is full of excitement.



Not long after, Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. This time, Rogers was in a good position to hunker down and wait while travel recovered. “Travel is a luxury. Now again, we have to figure out what our business is going to look like as we move forward in the next few years.”

With safety of team members and guests paramount, Rogers and his crew increased sanitation protocol and outfitted all boats with Plexiglas shields, with social distance a given, as boats run at less than the 22-passenger capacity. “We are finding that people really want to be outside. Our company culture sets us apart, the way we all seek to go above and beyond and get to know our guests. We want to surprise and delight our guests, which is why we have so many repeat customers.”



A BETTER TOUR, BECAUSE SIZE MATTERS

The Cajun Encounters experience on the Pearl River and Honey Island Swamp doesn't feel like a mass produced tour. While some companies use boats that seat 60 and run airboats that require headphones to hear the tour, Rogers is proud to offer a more intimate experience, with knowledgeable captain-guides that full of inside info, guaranteeing an authentic eco-tour of one of America's most unique ecosystems. You are just about guaranteed to see alligators, wild boar, raccoons, snakes, owls, egrets and more, all in their natural habitat (and just a few feet from the boat).

Captains like Captain Luka, a first generation Croat whose family is in the oyster fishing business, bring first-hand experience, an insider's perspective and wonderful warmth to the swamp tour adventure.

A proud member of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy, Cajun Encounters prides itself on being vigilant stewards of the Pearl River and the Honey Island Swamp, which covers over 70,000 pristine acres in St. Tammany Parish. “Sharing this amazing place with our guests is our passion,” Rogers says. “We are doing whatever it takes to keep our experiences safe for all concerned. As the world changes, we will meet those challenges. My feeling is, now more than ever, we need the peace and serenity that is found in our beautiful Honey Island Swamp.” 🦋

For a complete listing of St. Tammany Parish operators offering swamp tour experiences, visit LouisianaNorthshore.com/swamp

NORTHSHORE

ADVENTURE



EXPERIENCES

Get in touch with your inner adventurer on the Northshore, where you can go hiking, fishing, camping and paddling all year long. Rent gear or take a charter, but get out there and play.

Fishing at Fairview-Riverside State Park (left); relaxing at Fontainebleau State Park (below)

FONTAINEBLEAU STATE PARK
62883 HWY. 1089, MANDEVILLE
(985) 624-4443

FAIRVIEW-RIVERSIDE STATE PARK
119 FAIRVIEW DR., MADISONVILLE
(985) 845-3318

Playing Under the Sun and Stars

Northshore state parks inspire campers to get out **BY BETH D'ADDONO**

On days when Susan Pearson gets run ragged at her hospital human resources job, she closes her eyes and pictures the ancient live oaks and great blue herons she sees when camping with her family at Fontainebleau State Park. “What I love most about camping in the park is that it takes me away from my busy life,” she says. “Being there helps me regroup, slow down and enjoy life with my family.”

Pearson, who camps regularly with her husband, Louis, and their 10 grandkids ages two months to 17 years, isn't alone. Camping is hot and getting hotter.

According to the 2019 North American Camping Report, the number of camping households in the U.S. grew by 1.4 million in 2018. Ideal for families as well as young professionals eager to de-stress, camping delivers quality time with friends and family, a natural context for physical activity and a real world reset for overall well-being and health. On the beautiful Northshore, Fontainebleau and Fairview-Riverside State Parks deliver all kinds of options.

RETREAT TO FAIRVIEW-RIVERSIDE STATE PARK

Situated just two miles east of Madisonville, Fairview-Riverside State Park sprawls over 99 scenic acres along the banks of the bucolic Tchefuncte River. Campers and day visitors can take pontoon tours of the river, wander the park's nature trail, troll for crabs or fish or just relax under a canopy of live oaks.

If you're staying overnight, the park offers 81 sites perfect for RVers, all with electricity and water hook-ups, nearby bathrooms and showers as well as the necessary dump station.

Campers interested in hanging out under the stars will love the designated tent camping section of the park with bathrooms nearby, but the rest of the scene is all Mother Nature. Yes, you can bring Fido with you: Behaved doggies-on-leashes are welcome.

The onsite Otis House Museum, built in 1885, is an interesting tour. Tours are offered by appointment. Call ahead to schedule (985) 792-4652.

However you use your outdoor time, there's one thing you're sure to bring home with you after your experience. “Camping makes memories that will last a lifetime,” Pearson says. “That's something money just can't buy.”

DISCOVER FONTAINEBLEAU

At Fontainebleau in Mandeville, Louisiana's most-visited state park, accommodations for campers of all tastes abound. If your idea of roughing it is staying in a hotel without a pool, reserve one of 12 deluxe cabins that stretch out over the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Cabins may sound rustic, but these beautiful cottages, equipped with amenities like AC, Wi-Fi, cable TV and barbecue

grills, are ideal for friends and family reunions. Sit a spell on the back porch overlooking the lake, and life is good. Bring bikes to ride on the nearby Tammany Trace and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife—birdlife abounds; you'll most likely see deer and yes, there are gators in the park's bayous.

Get even closer to nature at one of the park's campsites, 106 improved with water, electricity, grills and picnic tables, situated close to a bathhouse and dump station for RVers. Pearson and her family park their camper in this section of the grounds. “We bought it three years ago when my husband retired and it's opened up a new world for us. Everybody is so friendly—it's really like a big family.”

The rest of the park's sites are more primitive, ideal for getting away from it all. Camping groups from 25 to 150 can meet up at the park's two primitive group camping areas and enjoy park amenities like beachfront access and fishing piers. Set up for socializing and ideal for reunion groups, Group Camp I and Group Camp III feature dormitory sleeping areas, fully equipped kitchens and AC, most necessary during Louisiana's steamy summers.

Just across U.S. Highway 190 from the main section of the park is the Fontainebleau State Park Lodge, equipped with a full kitchen, two bathrooms and sleeping space for 10-to-12. Wherever you land in the park, bring your fishing pole (don't forget a license!) for trolling fresh and salt water in the ponds, bayous and the brackish water of Lake Pontchartrain. 🦋



GOT YOUR OWN KAYAK?

Got to
LouisianaNorthshore.com/launch
for a list of sites.



A sunset paddle with Bayou Adventure

A Peaceful Paddle

Outfitters make it easy with canoe and kayak rentals

With scenic rivers, bayous and Lake Pontchartrain to explore, the Northshore is a great spot for paddlers.

There are a number of easily accessible launch spots across the area. You can bring your own gear but you don't have to. Kayaks, canoes and paddleboards are available for rent at several locations for paddling at your own pace, and there are tour operators happy to take you out for a day on the water.

Step inside Bayou Adventure in Lacombe, an outpost for all things outdoors, and immerse yourself in authentic Louisiana. Visitors from all over the world have strolled through the doors and stood among the displays of shrimp boots and rods, lures and live bait tanks. Campers at Fontainebleau State Park in nearby Mandeville are happy that Bayou Adventure is now servicing the state park in a public-private partnership with the Louisiana Office of Tourism.

You can find bikes for exploring the nearby Tammany Trace, as well as kayaks and paddleboards available for rent for adventures on nearby Lake Pontchartrain or Cane Bayou. Bayou Adventure also has its Bayou Kitchen serving Louisiana specialties like alligator sausage, boiled crawfish, poboys, boudin, crawfish pies, fried okra and more. There's a plethora of locally-made products too, like honey, "cracklins" (fried pork skin), and Louisiana craft beer.

Bayou Adventure also offers sunset paddles down Cane Bayou to the lake just in time to catch the glorious pink, purple and gold

sunsets we have come to expect here but never tire of seeing. Enjoy the scenery — watch for osprey and eagles, boar on the banks and alligators in the reeds under moss-draped branches — or try your luck fishing from your kayak.

Northshore Hydro Sports offers kayak or paddleboarding and tandem kayak or canoes launching from Bogue Falaya Park paddler's launch.

Canoe and Trail Adventures' guides are Louisiana Master Naturalist certified, and are great for pointing out the wildlife along the way and sharing knowledge about the waterways and its flora and fauna. They also offer rentals of paddleboards, family canoes, and kayaks launching from the popular Chimes Restaurant on the scenic Bogue Falaya River.

Wade in the shallows and spot fish schooling in its clear waters or play on the sandy river banks as you go. Or, paddle to nearby Bogue Falaya Park and use the new paddler's launch to moor up and explore.

After you work up an appetite paddling with Canoe and Trail, slurp some fresh Gulf oysters shucked on site at The Chimes, or enjoy Louisiana specialties like alligator, crawfish étouffée, BBQ shrimp, or red beans and rice. The kids will love playing on the boardwalks and meeting the Chimes' resident goats. Their parents will appreciate the extensive collection of beer on tap. 🍷

Take a Hike

A leisurely stroll or a power walk will recharge your batteries on any one of our nature trails

The Northshore has miles of peaceful hiking trails in accessible outdoors. Pack a backpack and commune with nature. In this part of Louisiana, you'll find the terrain easy to navigate and the elevation no more than a gentle slope. Let the fresh air of the Northshore's piney woods rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit.

Lovely Northlake Nature Center is a 400-acre preserve located along the banks of Bayou Castine. There are about seven miles of trails taking you through three different ecosystems. Among the sights: A grove of giant magnolias, boardwalk overlooking a beaver lodge and, if you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the center's flock of wild turkeys.

Over in Lacombe, Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Reserve offers 15,000 acres of south Louisiana ecosystems. Visitors enjoy hiking, fishing and birding along its waterways and trails. The two-mile Boy Scout Road Interpretive Trail includes a boardwalk and overlook at Bayou Lacombe, and birders will likely spot the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker here.

The state park trails at Fairview-Riverside in Madisonville and Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville also offer boardwalks and plenty of opportunities for wildlife spotting and birding (over 400 species have been recorded at Fontainebleau).

Other spots to check out are the Lake Ramsey Savannah WMA and the Nature Conservancy's Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve which features the Pitcher Plant Boardwalk.

If a leisurely stroll is more your speed, walk along Lakeshore Drive's paved path in Mandeville. The cool breezes off Lake Pontchartrain and the shimmering sunlight on the water will make your heart sing. 🌸



Fish On!

Great fishing abounds year-round in St. Tammany Parish

Fishing is a favorite pastime on the Northshore and a fun activity year-round for families who can throw out a line from Mandeville's free fishing pier at Sunset Point, along Lake Road's marshy banks in Lacombe, or from the St. Tammany Parish Fishing Pier in Slidell. But there's action for serious anglers, too, thanks to the many charter captains launching out of Northshore marinas.

With easy access to Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, the Rigolets Pass and the Biloxi Marsh, charters are a great way to spend the day on the water. Area captains know where to go for trophy trout, record redfish, largemouth bass, sheepshead, tripletail, flounder and drum. Some, like Mike Gallo of Angling Adventures of Louisiana and Dudley Vandenborre, famous for his Deadly Dudley lures, make regular appearances on Louisiana fishing shows, sharing expertise and tips on where fish are biting.

Basic info: Charters often start just before daylight and end in the early afternoon. Most charters can carry five-to-six people. You don't need to know the difference between spinnerbait and jigging spoons; most welcome anglers of all skill levels and all ages, too. You'll need to make a reservation. You won't have to clean your fish; your captain does that for you. 🌸

For more information, visit fishthenorthshore.com and download our new Fish On! guide to fishing the Northshore.

Welcome Aboard

CAPTAIN MIKE JONES IS THE CHARMING, SUN-KISSED HOST of Louisiana Tours and Adventures, and he's eager to introduce his guests to the waterways he grew up on. Mostly, he's happy to deliver a private pontoon tour with a tailor-made itinerary. Navigating the scenic Tchefuncte River is his specialty, and tours often depart from the lovely dock at Fairview-Riverside State Park, with an osprey nest standing sentinel as the entrance to the river.

Wildlife spotting is abundant, with alligators, bald eagles, great blue herons and more consistently visible, especially this time of year. Trips to the 1837 Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, best seen by boat, are always memorable and even more so at sunset. It's also fun to moor up for a waterfront meal and cocktails at the new Tchefuncte's or The Anchor (see story on page 15), or to groove to live music at T-Rivers Bar and Grill. Three-and-five-hour tours available. Call Captain Mike at 985-789-9602. LOUISIANATOURSANDADVENTURES.COM 🌸





The wide path of the Tammany Trace makes riding a breeze

Trace a Trail

Explore the Northshore from the winding Tammany Trace hike-bike trail **STORY AND PHOTOS BY KEVIN GARRETT**

The Tammany Trace, Louisiana's first rail-trail pathway, is the perfect way to explore St. Tammany Parish. Adapted from a former Illinois Central Railroad corridor, this flat asphalt ribbon – a favorite with cyclists and hikers – winds its way for almost 31 miles through piney woods and moss-draped live oaks from Covington, to Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe, and on to Slidell.

The Trace is a magic carpet ride through a place rich with natural beauty and residents happy to share their vibrant heritage with visitors. All skill-level bike riders will find the Trace a comfort zone. (No motorized vehicles are allowed.) Between towns, you may be accompanied by red-shouldered hawks and ospreys flying overhead and herons and egrets hunting in the marsh. If the silence is broken, it's by a chorus of bullfrogs croaking in the bayou. Bikers range from compression-pant-clad Tour de France dreamers whizzing by on racing bikes to families leisurely pedaling on their cruisers.

Visitors can rent bikes at Brooks' Bike Shop, conveniently located at the start of

the Trace in downtown Covington. You might want to explore the historic district before hitting the Trace. Dotted with boutiques, galleries, restaurants, coffee shops and little museums (check out HJ Smith & Sons General Store & Museum), Covington also has a fun farmers market twice a week, great for picking up snacks for the Trace and mingling with the locals.

Several breweries and brew pubs are found along or near the Trace, including Abita Beer, Chafunkta Brewery and the Old Rail Brewing Company. Also adjacent to the Trace and just 3.5 miles from Covington, the Abita Brew Pub in Abita Springs offers patio seating with views of the trail, pub food and tasting flights of Abita Beer. While in Abita, park and check out the Abita Mystery House, a quirky folk museum housed in an old gas station. (See pg 29.)

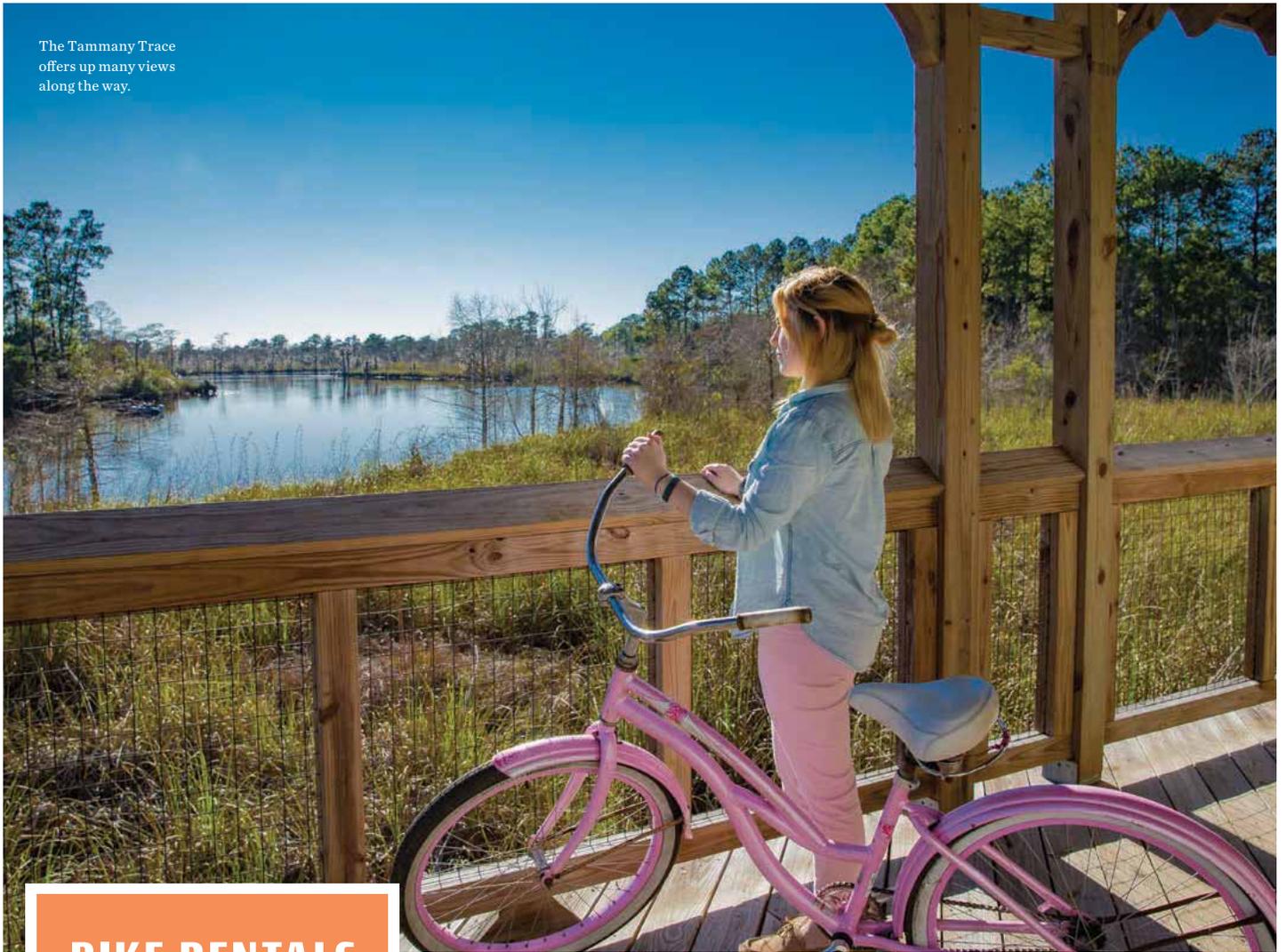
Continuing south from Abita toward Lake Pontchartrain and Mandeville, you'll pass through lovely green spaces and see the Trace's official trailhead just north of Interstate 12. Riding on, pass through a

Brooks' Bike Shop in Covington



PHOTO KEVIN GARRETT (3)

The Tammany Trace offers up many views along the way.



BIKE RENTALS

BROOKS' BIKE SHOP

Patrick Brooks operates three bike shops on the Northshore, one near the Mandeville lakefront, one in Slidell and another in downtown Covington at the start of the Tammany Trace bike path. Guided tours of Old Mandeville, Covington and the Trace can be scheduled with as few as three people, and there's even a brewery tour by bike.

You can pick out your bike online in advance.
BROOKSBIKESHOP.COM

BAYOU ADVENTURE

Located near the scenic Lacombe drawbridge of the Tammany Trace, this outpost has tons of Louisiana snacks, great food and souvenirs to stock up on for your ride. Kayak rentals and guided paddling tours, too.

BAYOUADVENTURE.COM

tunnel under I-12 to Mandeville's Trailhead, now a little park with museum, amphitheater, splash fountain and Saturday community market. At the site of the town's old train depot, the Trailhead has become the heart of the historic district.

Leave the Trace for a short jaunt on the Trace's spur along the Mandeville lakefront which takes riders past elegant 19th-century homes and old moss-hung oaks before connecting with the main trail again and heading toward Fontainebleau State Park. Look for photo ops at the 2,800-acre park's sandy beach, brick ruins of an 1829 sugar mill or among the majestic moss-draped live oaks.

Rolling on, between the park and the small fishing town of Lacombe, bikers find the peaceful stretch of the wetlands of Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Encompassing 18,000 acres along the Northshore between Mandeville and Slidell, the Refuge's freshwater and brackish marshes, bayous, and cypress tupelo forest

offer shelter to creatures such as red-cockaded woodpecker, wood ducks, deer, mink, otter, and alligators.

Break for refreshments at Lacombe's Bayou Adventure, a short hop from the Trace. The one-stop shop serves as outpost and outfitter, with bait, cold drinks, hot pizza and even gear rentals, including bikes, as well as advice for your ride.

Leaving Lacombe, you'll continue on toward Slidell and the end of the Trace. Though the path currently stops short of the city's historic district, there are plans to eventually extend the Trace all the way into Olde Towne Slidell's Heritage Park.

Some things to know: The Trace is open dawn to dusk. Travel from one end to the other and cross 31 bridges built over the old railroad trestles. In 2017, the Trace was inducted into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Hall of Fame. The Conservancy declared the Trace had "scenic beauty, historical significance, exemplary management and plentiful trailside amenities." 🌸

NOCTURNAL CONNECT

LOOKING BACK

Northshore residents live among the ghosts of St. Tammany's past. Experience history at places like scenic Camp Salmen in Slidell, the Bayou Lacombe Museum or on a self-guided walking tour of Old Mandeville.



PHOTO ERIC LINDBERG

St. Tammany timeline

Originally home to Choctaw and other tribes, the Parish has been shaped by various cultures and events

1600 B.C.

The Choctaw inhabit the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain, which they called Ok-wa'ta (meaning “wide water”).

1699

Explorers Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d’Iberville and Jean Baptiste LeMoyne Sieur de Bienville check out the Northshore.

1803

The U.S. acquires 828,000 square miles of territory in the Louisiana Purchase, which does not include St. Tammany Parish.

1810

The Republic of West Florida is formed to revolt against Spanish authority in the area — and lasts 74 days.

1812

Louisiana admitted to the Union in April. West Florida resists but becomes part of the state five months later.

1830

Bernard de Marigny builds sugar plantation (now Fontainebleau State Park), then founds Mandeville a few miles west.

1887

Tourism boom begins in Abita Springs when a doctor declares the area’s local springs have restorative qualities.

1956

First span of the 24-mile Pontchartrain Causeway is built, creating the longest continuous bridge over water in the world.



Historic Camp Salmen

Camp Salmen is a lovely 130-acre nature park maintained by St. Tammany Parish for visitors to enjoy.

The peaceful respite has 3.3 miles of trail system in various stages of development, a boundless Kids Unlimited playground, boardwalks and an accessible amphitheater located on Bayou Liberty, with plenty of opportunities for exploration. Budding botanists appreciate the Camp Salmen Live Oak, accessed via the Camp Ridge Trail and listed on the Live Oak Society Registry, as well as the presence of pitcher plants sprinkled through the boggy areas of the

park. Hikers and bikers are thrilled with the recent extension of the Tammany Trace into the park.

Camp Salmen’s scenic setting along Bayou Liberty in Slidell is also a site of significant historical interest in St. Tammany. In the late 1700s, the property of Camp Salmen was awarded as a land grant by Spanish governor Esteban Miró. In the early 1800s, Joseph Laurent acquired the land and is thought to have built one of the oldest trading posts in the Bayou Liberty Region there. Go to CAMPALMENNATUREPARK.ORG for hours. 35122 PARISH PARKWAY, SLIDELL 🦋

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum

IT’S HARD NOT TO IMAGINE THE NEARBY TCHFUNCTE RIVER filled with schooners, war ships and steamers when you visit the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum in picturesque Madisonville. The museum tells the story of the Northshore’s seaport roots through well-done exhibits, artifacts (a Civil War submarine!), video and events like wooden boat building classes and the Wooden Boat Festival held each October.

The museum is custodian of the nearby Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, built in 1837 and still standing but put at risk by storms and shoreline erosion. You can’t tour the lighthouse but you can visit the lightkeeper’s cottage, moved from the mouth of the Tchefuncte where it long stood next to the lighthouse.

133 MABEL DRIVE, MADISONVILLE 🦋



St. Tammany Time Machine

The past is accurately and delicately preserved on the Northshore



OTIS HOUSE MUSEUM

119 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, MADISONVILLE

This late 19th century lumber baron's home includes memorabilia and photographs from the area. The Queen Anne-style home is on the grounds of Fairview-Riverside State Park.



BAYOU LACOMBE MUSEUM

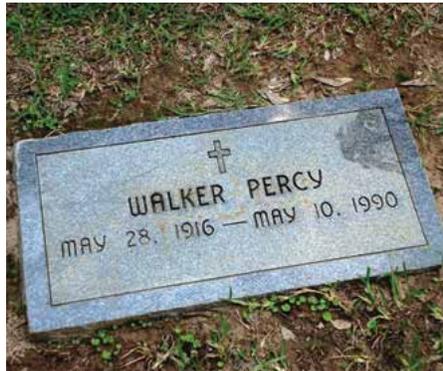
61115 S ST MARY ST, LACOMBE

History and culture meet in the Bayou Lacombe Museum, housed in the oldest existing wooden schoolhouse in St. Tammany Parish. Museum exhibits explore 18th, 19th and 20th century life in Lacombe.

OLD MANDEVILLE HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

CITYOFMANDEVILLE.COM

Start at the Mandeville Trailhead, located at 675 Lafitte Street (the old rail depot) and look for the QR (Quick Response) Code. Scan it with your mobile smart device to bring history to life. From there, visit 20 points of interest around Mandeville.



WALKER PERCY TRAIL

LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/WALKERPERCY

The noted author and Covington resident moved to the Northshore in 1948. It was here that he wrote his most famous books, including the National Book Award-winning *The Moviegoer*.



FONTAINEBLEAU SUGAR MILL RUINS

62883 HIGHWAY 1089, MANDEVILLE

Dating to 1829, the old brick ruins are all that is left of the sugar plantation and mill built by Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville, founder of the town that would take his name. Located on the lovely grounds of Fontainebleau State Park.

THE LANG HOUSE

605 CARROLL ST., MANDEVILLE

Tour the Jean Baptiste Lang House, one of the few "Anglo-Creole" structures still standing in Old Mandeville and hear the history of Mandeville as a resort community for antebellum New Orleans.



SLIDELL MUSEUM

2020 FIRST ST., SLIDELL

Housed in the town's old jail, the museum displays two floors of photos and memorabilia from Slidell's history as well as the South's role in the Civil War.

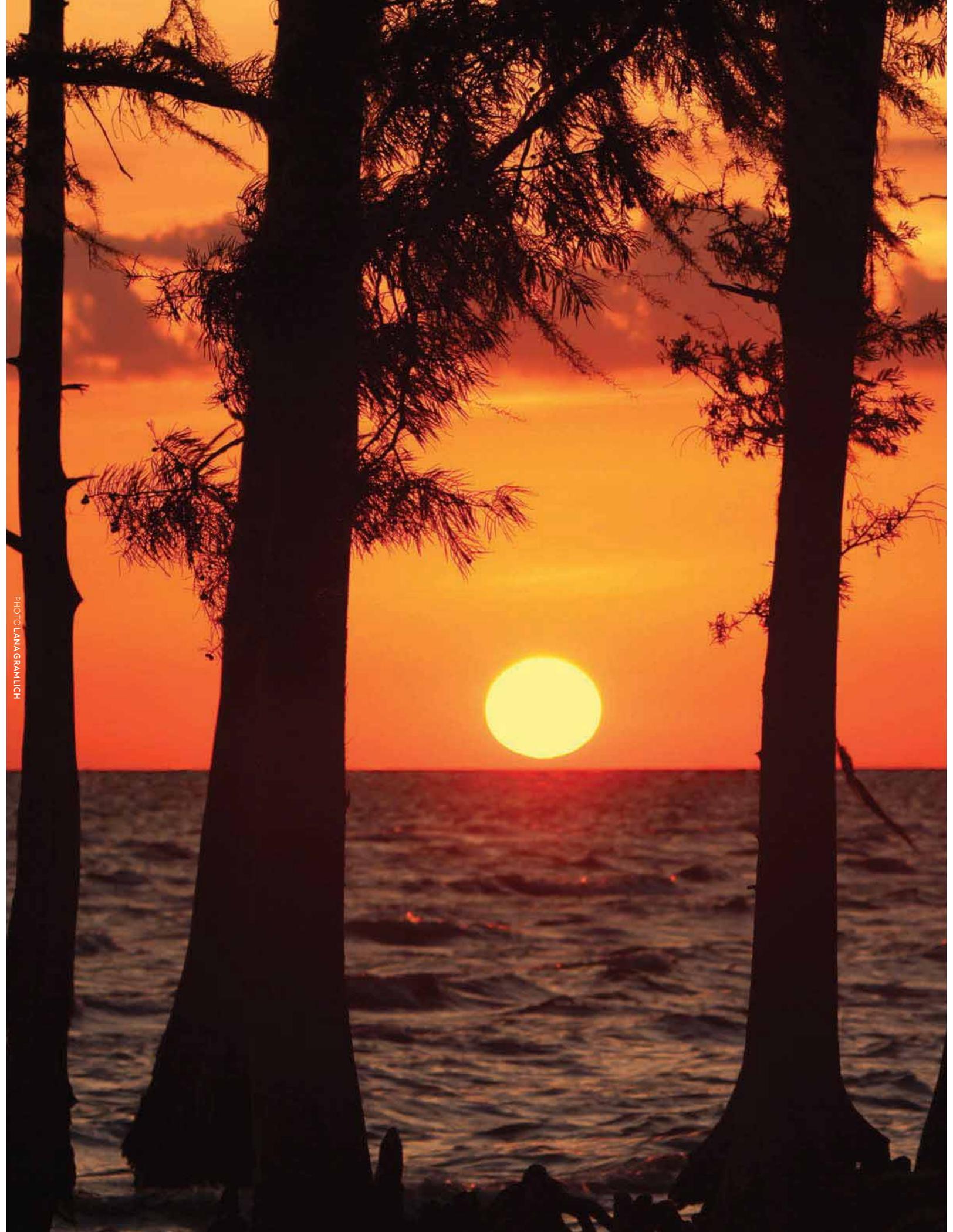


PHOTO: LANA GRAMLICH

Cabins along Lake Pontchartrain
at Fontainebleau State Park.

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Permit No. 253

Enter to Win A Northshore Getaway

Go to www.LouisianaNorthshore.com/getaway, sign up to receive emails,
and you'll automatically be entered to win a trip for two!

THE GETAWAY

Two-night stay at the Fontainebleau State Park cabins
Sunset kayak paddle with Bayou Adventure
Tour with Cajun Encounters
Dinner at Hambone in Mandeville
Dinner at Oxlot 9 in the Southern Hotel
Breakfast at Liz's Where Y'at Diner
Lunch at Palmettos on the Bayou
Northshore culinary & brewery basket

GO TO LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/THINGS-TO-DO/TOP-TEN FOR MORE VACATION IDEAS.