



11-43-LDJ
April 8, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Real Estate Agents and Appraisers Can Earn Continuing Education Credits by Attending Smart Growth Conference May 11-12

BILOXI, Miss.— Real estate agents can earn 10 hours of continuing education credit, and appraisers can earn six classroom hours of continuing education by attending the 12th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held May 11-12 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi. The conference is hosted by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Office of Coastal Management and Planning and conference partners, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and Gulf Coast Business Council.

The Mississippi Real Estate Commission has approved this conference as an elective Real Estate Course for 10 continuing education hours, and the Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board has approved this conference for six classroom hours of continuing education. Receipts will be provided to all other professions—such as, engineers, teachers and architects—to submit for credit to their respective organizations.

This year's conference features two full days of speakers and breakout sessions. The first day of the conference will feature keynote speaker, author Carolyn Haines. Haines is a Lucedale, Miss., native and worked for nearly a decade as a photojournalist before writing fiction. Known as "the original Mississippi Delta Mystery Author," she has written the Them Bones mystery series, featuring fictional private investigator Sarah Booth Delaney. Other works include Delta Blues, Growing Up in Mississippi, Summer of the Redeemers and Summer of Fear. Haines will talk about how our heritage and landscape are intertwined with the lives we live and the stories we tell.

Other topics will include climate change, energy and resiliency; implementing Smart Growth; infrastructure; financing, real estate and development; and redevelopment. A preliminary agenda is available for download at www.dmr.ms.gov.

Registration is \$155 (\$80 for students), and on-site registration is \$175. Conference fees include two breakfasts, refreshment breaks, two lunches, field trip and conference materials. Scholarships are available.

For more information or to register for this year's conference, contact Susan Perkins at 228-523-4124, or visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.