



## Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano

December 10, 1935 - July 17, 2020

Dr. Sherwood M. “Woody” Gagliano of Baton Rouge, LA passed away on Friday, July 17, 2020. He was born on December 10, 1935 in New Orleans, LA to the late James F. and Olivia (Hahn) Gagliano.

Woody is survived by his beloved wife, Betty Ann (Huxen) Gagliano, his son Mark Huxen Gagliano, his daughter-in-law Kristie Gagliano, and his granddaughter Marguerite Lucy Gagliano.

Woody grew up in New Orleans, LA and graduated from Fortier High School. He later went on to Louisiana State University to earn his Bachelor’s in Geography, a Master’s and his PhD in Physical Geography from the Department of Geography and Anthropology. Before earning his Master’s, Woody proudly served in the United States Army. In 1967, Woody founded Coastal Environments, Inc., (CEI) an archeological and applied sciences firm which he successfully ran for over 50 years. He was extremely proud of being able to grow the company’s reach from Baton Rouge, LA to offices in New Orleans, Biloxi, MS, Corpus Christi, TX, and Houston, TX. He was coined “The Father of Coastal Erosion” making a lifelong dedication to studying the coast of Louisiana; he has received numerous awards and recognition for his contributions to the state of Louisiana’s ongoing battle against coastal erosion. Together with his son, they invented and patented an artificial oyster reef device called Reef Blk. His study of River Deltas brought him and his wife Betty all over the world. Dedicated husband, father, and grandfather; he was loved and respected by many.

Due to current circumstances, funeral services are private. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the graveside services, to be held at St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery, Saint Benedict, LA on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at approximately 1:15 PM. Those in attendance must wear masks and practice social distancing. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Dr. Gagliano may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Donations may be either mailed to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or can be made at <https://www.stjude.org/>.



# Cemetery

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## St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery

75376 River Rd.

Benedict, LA,

# Events

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**JUL** **Graveside Service** 01:15PM

**21**

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St. Joseph Abbey Cemetery

75376 River Rd., Benedict, LA, US

# Comments

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“ I have memories of my mother Frances Saucier Crozat speaking very fondly of Woody when I was a child growing up in New Orleans in the 1950's and 60's. My cousin Roger Saucier and Wood used to spend a lot of time excavating Native American mounds in Jefferson Parish. I was always fascinated by Roger's collection of things he had found while with Woody. I finally met Woody in Vicksburg, Mississippi immediately following Roger's early death in the 1990's. He told us some stories about Roger, their adventures, and his own work. I greatly admire the work Woody has done. He has contributed immensely to saving the Louisiana Delta and as an environmental advocate, I am most grateful. This world needs more people like Woody. I offer my condolences on your loss.

And I thank you for posting the photos of Woody and Roger. I have never seen those and have none from that long ago!

**Madeleine Crozat-Williams** - November 28, 2020 at 09:16 PM

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“ Gerald F Hahn (Deceased) 1st cousin of Woody loved him all his life. Gerald was proud of his life works. Joel Hahn

**joel Hahn** - August 01, 2020 at 12:39 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



**Karen Wicker** - July 24, 2020 at 05:06 PM



“ Thanks Karen for sharing the pics. As a wetland geography student at LSU in the early 1970s, I will always remember the importance that Woody played in recognizing the importance and value of Louisiana's wetlands. And of course I will remember the field work and research that we shared.

**Judith A Monte** - July 24, 2020 at 08:31 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



**Karen Wicker** - July 24, 2020 at 05:05 PM

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“ My friend and loyal professional for over 40 years. My firm Krebs, LaSalle, Lemieux joint venture many projects with Woody's firm. A well educated, expert, wise, honorable individual.  
Rest In Peace my friend. You are irreplaceable and will be missed by all.

**Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr.** - July 22, 2020 at 10:45 AM

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“ Dr. Gagliano was truly a visionary and leader in the science and common sense in Louisiana's ongoing coastal restoration saga. He was an inspiration to me in my work at the S&WB on our various wetlands restoration projects. A truly humble man. You could sense his greatness. He will be missed. God Bless him.

**Charles Austin** - July 21, 2020 at 02:45 PM

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“ I was saddened to learn that Woody had passed away. He was an important part of the restoration of coastal Louisiana. Woody and I worked together on mapping the coastal wetlands of south Louisiana - he produced the very first maps of coastal wetlands that covered the entire coast. We also worked together to keep reminding the public and politicians that the loss of wetlands was large and continuing over many years. The first maps depicted the loss between 1956 and the 1970's. He continued to work on coastal loss for the rest of his life and often provided new and unique ideas to deal with the loss and how to restore wetlands. He was a giant in his field!  
Bob Stewart, PhD, former Director, National Wetlands Research Center, USGS

**Bob Stewart** - July 21, 2020 at 10:18 AM

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“ I too am sad that we have lost one of the greatest proponents of coastal restoration in Louisiana. Woody Gagliano was a scientist, a mentor, and an advocate. I had the great pleasure of working with him on the late 1970s U.S. Fish and Wildlife habitat mapping study in which the magnitude of land loss in Louisiana was first recognized. We co-authored (with Dr. Karen Wicker) the seminal 1981 article that started the whole process of recognizing, analyzing, politicking, and pro-actively restoring the wetlands and shorelines of Louisiana. I enjoyed the class that Woody Gagliano taught at LSU, and I enjoyed working--and learning a lot--at Woody's company Coastal Environments, Inc. for several years in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Woody was a great scientist, a great boss, and a friend. No matter how busy he was, he always made time to listen...and to provoke thought.

**Klaus J Meyer-Arendt** - July 21, 2020 at 07:29 AM

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“ I am very saddened to hear of Mr. Woody's death. He and Betty were my neighbors in Oak Hills. I remember Betty telling me about his life long dream of restoring Louisiana's coast line. My condolences to his family. It breaks my heart. I'll always remember him and Betty, always

**Jo-Louise Cashio** - July 20, 2020 at 10:07 PM

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“ "Form-Process Relationships of the Coastal Environment:" one of the best courses I've ever taken and one of the best professors I've ever had. Still have and refer to my class notebook from 1975. Louisiana has lost one of it's best. In addition to being brilliant, Dr. Gagliano was always friendly and approachable, and I count myself lucky to have known him albeit briefly. My condolences to his family and close friends on his passing. William M. Brenneman, Ph.D.

**William M. Brenneman** - July 20, 2020 at 07:36 PM

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“ Woody was a great friend with an amazing intellect. I join many who will miss him. God Bless all the family.

**jeff schneider** - July 20, 2020 at 01:07 PM

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“ Dr. Gagliano was an incredible teacher. I was very privileged to have him for a professor when I was a student at LSU in 1974. All of us who were in his class knew that we were in the presence of greatness. Thank you Dr. Gagliano!

**Michael Tritico** - July 20, 2020 at 09:26 AM

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“ When this polite but intense scientist discussed his research findings with The States-Item editorial board back in the early 1970s my eyes were opened, even as my heart sank. Beginning then the name "Woody" became synonymous with using science to tell truth to powerful interests in Louisiana who did not want to hear. He inspired a whole generation to care about the future of our coast, and to use facts to make their case. They are his legacy of a life that mattered. - Bob Marshall

**Bob Marshall** - July 20, 2020 at 09:18 AM

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“ Honored to have worked with Woody (and Monty) on the proposed St. Charles International Airport. He remains a superb project Mentor. Always optimistic.  
Lee P. Gary, Jr.

**Lee P. Gary, Jr.** - July 20, 2020 at 08:52 AM

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“ I was very lucky to work for and with Woody at CEI ...he was a wonderful teacher, I learned a ton and we had a grand time on a number of memorable trips out into the marshes. He had a ready smile and laugh and was always interested in new ideas. A real scientist and gentleman. It was a real pleasure to know him.  
Julia Hawkins Battle

**Julia Battle** - July 19, 2020 at 11:28 PM

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“ I was honored to care for Mr Woody for many years. He was a gentleman and a scholar to say the least. His knowledge of coastal erosion and the power of the Mississippi River was immense. I know that he will be missed by so many. Prayers to Betty, Mark and the kids.

**Louis R Minsky, MD** - July 19, 2020 at 09:05 PM

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“ Woody was a scholar and a gentleman. Also a great teacher and scientist. He will be missed.

**Ivor van Heerden** - July 19, 2020 at 04:34 PM

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“ I had the great privilege of knowing and working with Woody professionally and the greater privilege of calling him my friend. He will be sorely missed but we can all take comfort in knowing that his was a life well lived.

**David Loeb** - July 19, 2020 at 03:06 PM

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“ Woody was the foremost coastal Louisiana Delta restoration strategist and thinker. He thought big with his third Delta proposal as an example. Eventually we will have a third Delta or the central coast will wither away. Woody was responsible for my getting involved in Delta issues when I met him in April 1974. He therefore had a huge impact in my professional career at EDF and my life.

**Jim Tripp** - July 19, 2020 at 01:02 PM

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“ My famous first cousin Woody was loved and admired by many. He led an extraordinary life of uncommon achievements and wide acclaim.

I have many priceless childhood memories of Woody. Our families were very close and we saw each other frequently as we were growing up..

We also had a memorable encounter in Malaysia where we both happened to find ourselves on research projects.

I have followed his stellar career with affection and admiration.. He was a good and decent man.

My deepest condolences to Betty and Mark and to the entire family.

**Felix Gagliano** - July 19, 2020 at 12:14 PM

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“ As a freshman archeology student at LSU in 1965 I looked up to Woody as for his active contribution to Louisiana archeology and, equally important, the study of man-land relationships in coastal Louisiana. Woody made us all aware of just how fragile our coast is and how it changes over time. Thank you Woody Gagliano for we owe you so much. You made a difference.

**Thomas M Ryan** - July 19, 2020 at 11:10 AM

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“ Dr.Gaglianos family  
A few years ago I had the honor to sit on a panel and choose Dr.Gagliano as a CRCL Coastal Steward! Louisiana has truly lost a icon and champion for Our Coast! Many prayers and may you find some comfort knowing he left an indelible mark Louisiana for the Good of Our State! God Bless. Polly Glover

**Polly Glover** - July 19, 2020 at 08:27 AM

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“ I ws 18 years old when Woody married my sister (Betty Ann). I remember accompanying him in a Dodge Power Wagon going off road looking for historical artifacts. Sixty years later, I still have several indian arrowheads that we uncovered that day. When I look at these arrowheads, I remember that field trip like it was yesterday. God bless you Woody.

**Bob Huxen**

**Bob Huxen** - July 19, 2020 at 07:30 AM