



Diane Claughton
Real Food Gulf Coast
228-257-2496,
dclaughton@bellsouth.net
Lori Hutzler Eckert
Island View Casino Resort

Know Your Food, Know Your Farmer celebrates national food movement focusing on fresh and flavorful local fare at Island View Casino Resort

GULFPORT, Miss. (Aug. 22, 2013) – Real Food Gulf Coast and Island View Casino Resort are setting the table for an evening of culinary exploration and education with the Know Your Food, Know Your Farmer event on Sept. 25.

Hosted in the Gulfport resort's Carter Green Steakhouse from 6 to 8 p.m., the event follows the national "locavore" philosophy of purchasing and consuming local and sustainable foods. Featured will be produce, meats and seafood sourced from Gulf Coast farmers, fishermen and food producers, many of whom will be in attendance.

The dishes will be prepared and presented by Island View Casino's award-winning culinary team with ingredients including grass-fed beef, goat, lamb, free-range chicken, shrimp, handmade pasta and organic and naturally grown fruits and vegetables.

Real Food Gulf Coast, a nonprofit dedicated to creating a more sustainable local food economy, is organizing the walkabout-style event. The organization's co-founders, Diane Claughton and Dita McCarthy, have plans to ensure the food will be served with a side of education from featured guests Poppy Tooker, Gary Bachman, Ph.D., and Julian Brunt.

Tooker is a New Orleans-based chef, food journalist and cookbook author. She was named one of *Southern Living* magazine's 2012 Heroes of the New South for her work in local foodways. With her motto, "eat it to save it," Tooker has been instrumental in reviving many endangered foods and culinary traditions.

Bachman is a professor of horticultural at Mississippi State University and host of "Southern Gardening Television," a segment-style show broadcast within newscasts statewide. He is an advocate of creating opportunities for local and sustainable agriculture.

Brunt is a locally based food writer, photographer and food historian who is recognized for his love of Gulf Coast culture and heritage through his works.

"As a locally owned business, Island View Casino Resort is always pleased to support the area we call home," said Ed Layton. "Therefore, it is our privilege to partner with Real Food Gulf Coast as we invite local farmers and growers to share and showcase the bounty of foods that can be sourced right in our backyard with this unique culinary event."

Tickets, which are \$25 per person, can be purchased at Island View Casino Resort's The Gift Shop, Gulfport Harbor Market, Ocean Springs Fresh Market, Long Beach Farmers Market, or by calling 228-257-2496. Guests must be 21 or older.

About Real Food Gulf Coast:

The mission of Real Food Gulf Coast is to grow a sustainable food economy along the Mississippi Gulf Coast by increasing knowledge about links between food, agriculture, nutrition, health, and community strength, increasing sustainably produced food accessibility and affordability for the entire community and by seeking to foster interest in the skills and pleasures of growing food, cooking and eating. For more information: RealFoodGulfCoast.org.

About Island View Casino Resort:

Island View Casino Resort opened on Sept. 18, 2006 as the only casino in Gulfport, Miss. The land-based casino, located on 40 acres of waterfront property, currently offers an 80,000-plus-square-foot casino with approximately 2,000 slots and 46 table games. The 520,000-square-foot resort also features a 562-room hotel with a tropical pool and cabanas; Carter Green Steakhouse, the resort's signature restaurant; Beach Blvd. Steamer, a 180-seat restaurant focusing on freshly steamed seafood; C&G Grille, offering contemporary, casual dining; The Buffet, a 400-seat restaurant; The Coffee Shop, an upscale deli; Coast Candyakers, featuring handmade candies; and The View Showroom, a 550-seat entertainment venue. Island View Casino Resort is privately held by Rick Carter and Terry Green, two Gulfport natives and longtime casino executives committed to the post-Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. For more information: 877-774-8439 or IslandViewCasino.com.