

Nature Conservancy's Coastal Corporate Council Awards Event  
Thursday, May 17, 2001  
6:00 p.m.  
"Grasslawn", Gulfport

(Message: 10-15 minutes to recognize the corporate support for conservation)

Notes: Dan Grafton, CEO Raytheon, will introduce you.

### **Talking Points**

- Partnerships between public and private organizations in Mississippi make our state strong and successful.
- The Nature Conservancy is a prime example of that type of organization.
- Effective partnering with governmental entities, corporations and other non-governmental organizations is one of the biggest strengths of The Nature Conservancy.
- Corporate partners and members of the Corporate Council provide much needed support for The Nature Conservancy to do effective and highly valuable conservation work.

- Tonight's event is the first meeting of the newly formed Coastal Corporate Council, an offshoot of the statewide Corporate Council founded a decade ago.
- The international organization of The Nature Conservancy just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and has over a million members worldwide.
- They work to preserve and protect the important natural areas of the world.
- In Mississippi, The Nature Conservancy has protected nearly 120,000 acres of land.
- The Nature Conservancy has accomplished many projects on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and is working on numerous projects now.
- They are restoring 2,000 acres of wet-pine savanna in Jackson County and 3,300 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat on the upper Pascagoula River.
- They are also working with local residents to build consensus to protect our unique and irreplaceable natural heritage, while taking into

account the value and economic needs of local residents.

- The Nature Conservancy acts for future generations of Mississippians to protect our coastal lands through partnerships they have today.
- The partnerships that will form with the Coastal Corporate Council for the Environment.
- Mississippi's precious natural assets – these are our assets.
- As business men and women, as conservationists, as landowners, as Mississippians and as parents, we must help protect them.
- Supporting the Nature Conservancy is a smart way to do this.
- Companies that have already committed their support to the Nature Conservancy's Coastal Corporate Council for the Environment are to be applauded.

- Mississippians continuing to work together will make our state an even better place to live, to work and to raise your families.
- I'm thankful for the dedication and commitment of all Mississippians in creating a better atmosphere and life for our children.
- Thank you.