



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenny Keegan
225.578.6453 / jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu

Author of *Atchafalaya Houseboat* Brings the Bayou to Life in Debut Novel
LSU Press to Publish Gwen Roland's Postmark Bayou Chene in November 2015

Baton Rouge—Gwen Roland's debut novel, *Postmark Bayou Chene*, is set in 1907 in the heart of the Atchafalaya Basin. Scheduled to publish in November 2015, it follows young adults Loyce Snellgrove, her cousin Lafayette "Fate" Landry, and his friend Valzine Broussard as they navigate between revelations about the past and tensions in the present.

In a secluded area of Louisiana, a letter sent from an isolated settlement, addressed to Hautes-Pyrénées, France, and marked undeliverable, shows up at the Bayou Chene post office. That same day locals find a dog, nearly dead and tethered to an empty skiff. Odd yet seemingly trivial, the arrival of a masterless dog and a returned letter triggers a series of events that will dramatically change the lives of three friends and affect all of the residents of Bayou Chene. Forces large and small—the tragedies of the Civil War, the hardships of swamp life, family secrets, as well as unfailing humor—create a prismatic depiction of Louisiana folklife at the turn of the twentieth century and provide a realistic setting for this enchanting drama.

Roland anchors her work in historical fact and weaves a superb tale of vivid characters. In *Postmark Bayou Chene*, she uses the captivating voice that described the beauty and challenges of the swamp to legions of readers in her autobiographical *Atchafalaya Houseboat*. Her ear for dialogue and eye for detail bring the now-vanished community of Bayou Chene and the realities of love and loss on the river back to life in a well-crafted, bittersweet tribute.

Gwen Roland is the author of *Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Louisiana Swamp*, published by LSU Press. She continues to write about agriculture and self-sufficient lifestyles from her homestead in Georgia.

November 2015
272 pages, 5½ x 8½, 1 map
978-0-8071-6144-9
Cloth \$25.95
Fiction

To request a review copy or set up an interview with the author,
please contact Jenny Keegan at jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu.

###