

Baton Rouge Uncorked

Seven great minds and a good bottle of wine – mixed together for the purpose of improving the Baton Rouge community.

Baton Rouge Uncorked began when local business owner Pete Bush read an article in a Louisville, Ky., social magazine about Louisville Uncorked. With this idea in mind, Bush wanted to bring a similar organization to Baton Rouge.

He made the vision a reality by pooling together six like-minded acquaintances in Doug Allen, Doug Cochran, Patrick Coogan, Miles Higgins, Edmund Giering and Luke Williamson. The men wanted young professionals to “pass a good time” while giving smaller charities their time in the spotlight by exposing participants to their causes and donating event proceeds.

Uncorked events remain unique through three key components of rotation – different venue, different wine varieties and different charity. Charities previously highlighted include the LSU Rural Life Museum, Foundation for Historical Louisiana, the Louisiana Art and Science Museum, and Playmakers.

Event attendees can also participate in

the wine tasting competitions where teams bring three matching bottles of wine to the event. Two bottles are bagged and tagged (to keep the tasting “blind”) and the third is set aside for prize giveaways. During the event, guests mingle with an average of 500 others, enjoy great food and music, and participate in the self-pour “blind” wine tasting. Score cards are provided and guests are welcome to comment on the wine. The team that brings the winning bottle to the event takes home a prize of nearly 50 bottles of wine!

“We have a crew of volunteers called the host committee that helps us out with the events. Without these fine folks, there would be no event,” explains Jennifer Guillot, event planner and member. “They graciously donate their time to Uncorked and the benefiting charity to help put on the show, so to speak. Volunteers help with checking people in at the door, event set up and break down, keeping a constant flow of wine on the tasting tables, uncorking and bagging the wine, selling official Baton Rouge Un-



Team Cabernators, Spring 2009 first-place crew



Pete Bush, Miss Louisiana Lacey Minchew, Doug Allen, Doug Cochran, Jennifer Guillot, Edmund Giering, Luke Williamson, Miles Higgins & Bob Jacobs with the YMCA

corked t-shirts and wine glasses, and many other tasks.”

Baton Rouge Uncorked will continue to “pass a good time” with its wine tasting events while pouring out support and awareness of local charitable organizations.

For more information, visit www.BatonRougeUncorked.com.