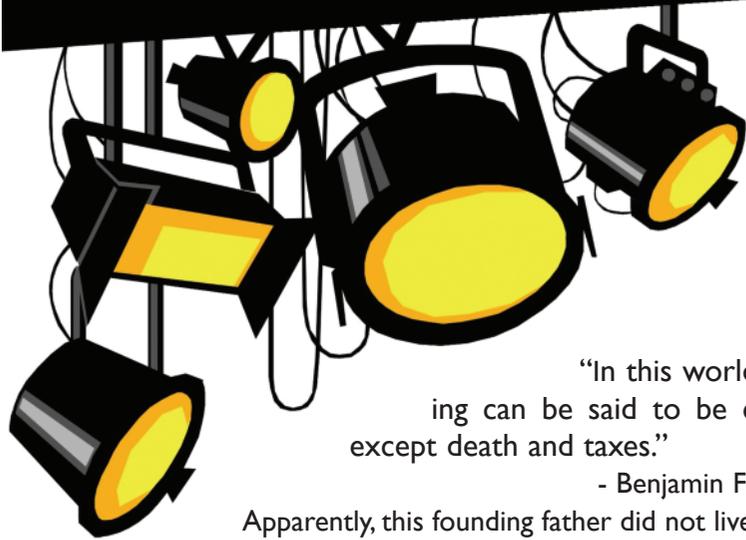


# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:



“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

- Benjamin Franklin.

Apparently, this founding father did not live on the water. Had he, “piling rot” would’ve certainly been added to this famous quote.

As we all know, it’s just a matter of time before our beautiful green pilings start to deteriorate right before our eyes. Before now, there hasn’t been a solution, however, the Johns brothers with Deep South Dock & Piling Restoration have developed a remedy for this age old problem. We caught up with them on the job to see exactly how their process works.

**M&B:** What’s your background & how did you and your brothers get started in this business?

**DEEP SOUTH:** Eric Johns (oldest of the 3 brothers) started diving commercially in 1981 for a small dive company in Chalmette, called Frolich Brothers.

Al (middle brother) started working for Frolich a couple of years later, most of the diving was in the oil fields in the Gulf.

Archie (youngest brother) started diving in the mid 90’s.

We started with a family member, repairing the dock piling that was broken (under water) after a sail boat hit it. We spliced the broken piling together then encapsulated it in concrete.

As commercial divers, we often replaced, repaired, or protected piling and structures for oil companies and plants in the petrol chemical industry. All we did was downsize the operations for residential properties. Long story, short... the dive industry was slow and neighbors noticed our repairs to the piling and it took off from there.

**M&B:** What exactly is happening to pilings when they appear to rot?

**DEEP SOUTH:** The pilings are being attacked by wood-boring worms which are like termites. You end up with the piling taking an hour glass shape which obviously compromises the structural integrity.

**M&B:** What is your process to repair deteriorating pilings?

**DEEP SOUTH:** The first process is for pilings with less than 25% damage. First, we scrape and clear any existing marine growth.

Next, an inner barrier will be wrapped with a low density polyethylene around the piling in a barber pole fashion. This procedure eliminates the remaining wood boring worms in the piling and prevents further damage. For the final step, a high density polyethylene is used to wrap around

the inner barrier to protect the inner layer by cutting off light and oxygenated water to the wood-boring worms. This is then secured to the piling with stainless steel nails.

For more severely damaged pilings we do a concrete encapsulation. To achieve this - after the piling is scraped and cleaned we construct a form made from high density polyethylene around the piling extending roughly one foot below the natural mud line to approximately one foot above the high tide mark. This form is secured with heavy duty zip ties and then the form is filled with 5000 PSI concrete.



**M&B:** How long does the average job take?

**DEEP SOUTH:** From start to finish, this process takes one to three days for an average job. It just depends how many (if any) pilings we have to encase in concrete, which requires the most time.

**M&B:** Would it be in the best interest of the homeowner to get this service done on new builds? Is it cost effective to prevent damage, initially?

# DEEP SOUTH DOCK & PILING RESTORATION



**DEEP SOUTH:** Yes, it’s in the best interest of the homeowner to do this to new structures. If done properly, it will extend the life of the piling by 30 plus years!

**M&B:** When is a piling TOO far gone for repair?

**DEEP SOUTH:** Technically, no piling is ever too far gone.

**M&B:** What other services do you offer?

**DEEP SOUTH:** We do all dock and bulkhead repairs, bulkhead reinforcing, dock builds, piling installation, boat-house constructions and repair... Basically everything!

**M&B:** What areas do you cover outside southeast Louisiana?

**DEEP SOUTH:** We cover the entire Gulf Coast.

**M&B:** What is the best part about your job/company?

**DEEP SOUTH:** Most people that live on the water love to live on the water... they love their boats, their docks, and their way of life.

The fact that we can repair and preserve these structures for them is very satisfying. We are a local, family company who understands the challenges and rewards of working, living, and playing on the water.

*For more info or to schedule a FREE estimate, give Al a call at (985)774-5788 or come meet the whole crew at the 4th Annual Northshore Boat-N-Fishing Show, March 20-22 at the Harbor Center in Slidell.*