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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“America’s Gatekeeper: The Story of Paul Kroegel” Begins Production

PRINCETON, KY and NAPLES, FL—May 14, 2013—

Marvo Entertainment Group LLC is excited to announce the newest project in its series on heroes of conservation, *America’s Gatekeeper: The Story of Paul Kroegel*, is in production. This one-hour documentary will tell the story of a young German immigrant who left his native Chemnitz to become the first Refuge Manager of America’s first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island, Florida. This is the story of a man whose deep and abiding love for nature still inspires us today—a man who truly proved one person can make a difference.

Filming began in March as videographer Mike Benton captured the celebration of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge’s 110th birthday, along with many gorgeous images of the island, its wildlife and the Paul Kroegel Homestead. We also caught up with “Theodore Roosevelt,” a.k.a. Jim Wiegand, and recorded some of his inspiring words about Kroegel. We extend special thanks to Kevin Lowry, Pelican Island NWR Visitor Services Manager, for his historical perspective and assistance with educational outreach. See the new promotional video for the project at: <http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/agpk-home>

In our archival research, Marvo has started on a new path of discovery with a treasure trove of documents and photographs that are being made available through the generosity of Kroegel’s granddaughter, Janice Timinski; Jim Culberson of Sea Bird Publishing; and the National Conservation Training Center Archives. You may view a sampling of these wonderful documents at: <http://www.marvoentertainmentgroup.com/agpk-home/paul-kroegel-2/agpk-updates-surprises-and-treasures/agpk-archival-treasures>

We have put together an extraordinary team for the project, including our host, Kroegel’s great-great grandson, Nicolas Rouco. “I am very excited at the prospect of being able to contribute to his legacy,” Rouco said. “When I was young I was amazed at the fact that there was a statue dedicated to him. Being so young I had not fully understood his impact. Several years later ... I finally began to understand and appreciate the importance and the impact my great-great grandfather had on America’s history.”

Pelican Island NWR Manager Charlie Pelizza feels Kroegel’s life is a real source of inspiration. “What started with Paul and a small five-acre protected island has grown to a nationwide network of 556 refuges totaling over 150 million acres,” he said. “Being only the third Refuge Manager in Pelican Island’s history, I am continually humbled to be in his company, but share in his dedication and passion. Knowing Paul and understanding the refuge management tradition that began with him is not only important for us to connect with today but also for the generations to come.”

The Cultural Council of Indian River County, Florida, has partnered with Marvo to help spearhead the multimedia project. It has recently been presented to the Sebastian City Council,

City of Sebastian, Florida, and the Board of County Commissioners, Indian River County, Florida.

Barbara Hoffman, Chairman of the Board of the Cultural Council of Indian River County, Florida, emphasized the importance of Kroegel's legacy. "Preserving our environment and its inhabitants is such a worthy endeavor," she said. "To learn how one person can make such a difference in this world is inspiring to all, but especially to the young. This is a story that needs to be told."

We look forward to telling the story of the immigrant who changed our landscapes with our first National Wildlife Refuge. For underwriting opportunities in bringing this extraordinary story to life, contact Samuel Koltinsky at sam@marvoentertainmentgroup.com.

Marvo Executive Producer Samuel Koltinsky's work is inspired by a passion for stories, history, preservation, and the environment. Over the past twenty years, he has produced numerous documentaries in Europe and the United States and has worked with PBS, the History Channel and the Documentary Channel.

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