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*Conservation Awards*

*Hunter Survey Results*

*Legislative Recap*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*E.R. "Smitty"  
Smith III*



Since my last column, winter has turned to spring and spring to summer. Not only has mother nature been busy, but we at the Federation have also been on the move. Last February we had our first formal meeting with the leaders of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries since the new administration of Governor Blanco took office. We had a frank and cordial discussion with LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau and staff concerning a number of issues important to the sportsmen and women of our state. The upshot of the meeting was to rekindle and grow a positive working relationship with the agency and to support our mutual efforts to conserve our natural resources and the right to enjoy them. I am impressed with the open, "can do" posture of the secretary and his assistants at LDWF. Over the past months there has been ample evidence of the new energy at the depart-

ment as it reaches out to its constituencies and applies innovative thinking to providing service and recruiting new hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. It is a wonderful change that bodes well for the future. If you get the opportunity, please don't hesitate to thank Secretary Landreneau and encourage his efforts.

On the weekend of March 4th through the 6th LWF's annual convention was held in Monroe. Our host affiliate, Friends of Black Bayou, and our convention planning committee headed by LWF past president Joe Herring, put on an enjoyable and productive affair. Twelve resolutions were adopted by the voting delegates. The resolved portions of these resolutions are found on pages 34-36 of this magazine. At the Conservation Awards



*LWF President "Smitty" Smith presents the LWF President's Cup to Joe L. Herring (R) for his help during the past year.*

banquet on the Saturday night of convention, I was honored to present the President's cup to the individual that helped me the most throughout my first term — Mr. Joe L. Herring. Joe's accomplishments over the years are many, but he was especially helpful to me in carrying out the Federation's work last year. He chaired the convention and the conservation awards committees, visited the LWF office on 68 occasions to make calls and do committee work, served on the executive committee, and was always there when I needed him for his leadership or his guidance. He is truly a one of a kind gentleman and a true steward of nature. At the meeting, LWF also recognized him for consecutive attendance at convention with a plaque dubbed the "old plodding mule" award. More about that in the convention story on page 33. Overall, the convention was a success on the conservation end and on the financial end. With the auction and raffle, and the generosity of sponsors and donors, we were able to raise some funds to continue doing the work of the Federation. Next year's convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Covington on March 3-5. I hope to see you there.

During the first weekend in April, the

*Continued on page 16*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Randy  
Lanctot*



I hope you will enjoy this issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine. It has been longer than anticipated since the last issue, but we hope to get back on schedule now that one of our busiest times of the year has passed. A lot of those activities are covered on these pages.

Please join me in congratulating the Governor's Conservation Award Program

winners. After reviewing their accomplishments, I think you'll agree that they all have made outstanding contributions to conserving our natural resources and the right to enjoy them and have earned the honor bestowed upon them at the LWF's convention last March.

You will see from the coverage of LWF's convention that it was a very productive meeting, yielding important policy resolutions that have given direction to the LWF's leadership in the intervening months. To reference just a couple of those, LWF is collaborating with the Arkansas Wildlife Federation to encourage the US Fish and Wildlife Service to prohibit the use of spinning-wing motorized mechanical decoys for waterfowl hunting nationwide. The

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has already taken the bold move of prohibiting their use in that state. And pursuant to the resolution on wind energy development, LWF is leading the effort here to secure a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts on neotropical migratory birds and seabirds from the siting and operation of wind farms in the Northern Gulf of Mexico prior to the commercial scale development of that energy source. We have provided testimony at the state capital and are in contact with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to help move this important study forward.

Before I forget, I want to thank the pre-

*Continued on page 23*

# McPherson Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners

Louisiana State Senator Joe McPherson of Woodworth was honored with the Governor's Award, a handsome statuette of a bald eagle, at the 41st Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Holiday Inn in Monroe where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) convened for its 66th Annual Meeting last March. The award is presented annually to the person or organization deemed to have made the



State Senator Joe McPherson with the Governor's Award for outstanding conservation achievement presented by Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau (L) representing Governor Blanco and Jerome Ringo, Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation.

most outstanding contribution toward the protection and wise use of the state's natural resources – air, soil and minerals, forests, waters, fish and wildlife during the previous year. McPherson was among 8 honorees cited for their work in 2004. Award nominations are made by the public and winners selected by a panel of independent judges with expertise in a wide range of conservation fields. The awards were presented by Dwight Landreneau, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, representing Governor Kathleen Blanco and Jerome Ringo, Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation.

McPherson was cited for his legislative achievements in support of sportsmen and conservationists including the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" constitutional amendment, securing state management of the 71,000 acre White Lake Preserve, protecting scenic rivers, pre-

venting the marketing of black bass and crappie raised in aquaculture, pursuing a resolution to the problem of loss of public access to public waters, and securing additional funding for the enforcement of fish and wildlife conservation laws, among others. A testament to his dedication and perseverance, McPherson, now serving his 5th term in the Louisiana Senate, has been recognized on 3 previous occasions as the top conservationist in the elected official category of the Governor's Conservation Achievement Program.

Four individuals, two organizations and a company were also recognized for their outstanding conservation achievements in 2004. They are:

**Professional Category** - Chad James Courville of Carencro, Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited (DU), for outstanding achievement in delivering on the ground conservation programs and regrouping support among waterfowlers for DU's wetland conservation efforts through development and delivery of educational outreach programming;

**Volunteer Category** - Ann Bloxom Smith of Monroe, president of Friends of Black Bayou, for her outstanding leadership of the nation's top Friends (of National Wildlife Refuges) organization;

**Youth** - Boy Scout Troop 405, Evangeline Area Council, Lafayette for its energetic program of community service through conservation projects;

**Business** - Shell Pipeline Company, LP for its initiative and leadership in the effort to save and restore Louisiana's eroding coast;

**Educator** - Barry Joseph Guillot of Luling, Hurst Middle School instructor, for innovating an award-winning service-learning program, LaBranche Wetland Watchers, reaching 1200 students annually with lessons about wetland conservation;

**Communicator** - Philip J. Timothy, Jr. of Deville, former outdoor writer for the Alexandria daily *Town Talk* and editor of the bi-weekly *Louisiana Hunting &*

*Fishing* section that was formerly featured in 5 Gannett daily newspapers, for bringing outdoor and conservation news to an eager but under-served readership in central and north Louisiana;

**Organization** - The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program for its comprehensive program of educational outreach and projects to restore and conserve Louisiana's largest estuary.

**Chad James Courville** – Professional Conservationist of the Year Ducks. Seems like everybody, but especially duck hunters, wants to know about ducks these days. Where were the ducks? Have you heard that question lately?

In an age when instant gratification is sought and instant communication is available, it's a real challenge to meet the goals of waterfowl conservation while maintaining the allegiance of waterfowlers — an allegiance crucial to conservation success. But even as expectation, disappointment, uncertainty and change continue to fuel the sometimes rancorous debate about the ducks, Chad Courville has been steadily looking to the future, and working to make it a bright one for our waterfowl resources.

Courville is a Regional Biologist with Ducks Unlimited. In that capacity he has played a key role in regrouping support among waterfowlers for the organization's wetland conservation efforts through development and delivery of educational



Ducks Unlimited biologist Chad Courville receives the Professional Conservationist of the Year Award from LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau and NWF Chairman of the Board, Jerome Ringo.

outreach programming. He has melded a strong working relationship with farmers and marshland owners, particularly in South Louisiana, that has led to thousands of acres being managed for the benefit of ducks and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Restoration of coastal wetlands in conjunction with creating and enhancing duck habitat gets special emphasis in Courville's work, and the relationships he has developed with state and federal agencies, landowners and industry has led to millions of dollars in North American Wetland Conservation Act funds applied to habitat restoration and enhancement in Louisiana, and additional major corporate gifts in support of DU's wetland conservation work.

For his accomplishments last year, Courville was recognized with Ducks Unlimited's Top Flight Award, an award presented annually to a DU staffer for outstanding achievement in delivering on-the-ground conservation programs.

**Ann Bloxom Smith –**

**Volunteer Conservationist of the Year**

Everybody needs a friend, and in the case of our land and water and wildlife resources, the more the better. A few years ago, after an intriguing round of land swaps and acquisitions, the vision of Monroe-area conservation leaders became a reality with the establishment of the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, one of the few "urban" refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) system. In addition to their natural resource conservation services, urban refuges present a unique opportunity for conserva-



*Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Ann B. Smith with her award presented by NWF's Jerome Ringo (L) and LDWF's Dwight Landreneau.*

tion education and outreach; precisely what community refuge advocates had in mind. But success requires support, and

shortly after the refuge was established, so was Friends of Black Bayou (FoBB). In its seven years of existence FoBB has achieved extraordinary results and set the standard for citizen support of NWRs.

Energetic leadership and a strong supporting cast have been the key to FoBB's success. But Ann Smith, the group's president for the past two years, has "kicked it up a notch." Under Smith's wing, support for the refuge has skyrocketed. During 2004, she spearheaded the capital campaign that has raised over \$400,000 in mostly private funds for the Wetlands Learning Center now under construction near the refuge headquarters. When completed, the Center will provide a large classroom/lab facility for students' use as well as an exhibit of live native animals including a 20-foot floor to ceiling aquarium and other exhibits to complement the already-existing Refuge Visitor's Center. With her support and guidance, over \$25,000 in grant funds have been secured to construct a photo blind in a remote refuge area and an exhibit about bird watching and environmental art.

In April of 2004, Smith organized the first Southeast Regional Refuge Friends Conference, a 3-day meeting held in Monroe and attended by over 150 friends group volunteers and refuge staff. The conference is being used as a model for such regional conferences throughout the country. She was selected to give a keynote presentation at the National Conservation Summit held last May at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia and returned for a repeat performance in November. On a more recent trip to Washington, DC, Smith led a delegation of FoBBers to receive the Refuge Friends Group of the Year award at the National Friends Conference where she was once again a featured speaker. Her plans for 2005 reveal no slack in FoBB's pace to support the community and the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

**Boy Scout Troop 405,  
Evangeline Area Council –**

**Youth Conservationists of the Year**

There's a world of things for youngsters to do these days, some of which we couldn't have imagined 30, or even 20 years ago. And some of it's not so good.

But the old, traditional things, spiced with learning opportunities using modern technology, are still available as they have been for over 100 years through Scouting. Scouting, the outdoors and conservation are synonymous, so it's no surprise that the members of Evangeline Area Council Troop 405 have gotten their



*The scouts of Troop 405 (Lafayette) were named Youth Conservationists of the year for 2004. Receiving their award from LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau and NWF Chairman Jerome Ringo were Scouts Mark Andries, Robby Andries, Tyler Begneaud, Kenny Kingston, Keith Cangelosi, John Cairns, Coret Donahue and Brian Murphy.*

hands dirty, feet wet, eyes widened and hearts opened as they marched through 2004 serving their community and conservation.

BSA Troop 405 is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1286 based at St. Johns Catholic Church in Lafayette. The Troop has 25 Scouts age 10 to 17, and 10 adult leaders. It meets weekly, camps out once a month and is involved with 3 long-term camping events. One of the projects the Troop completed last year was marking storm drains in the downtown Lafayette area with the logo "Dump No Waste — Drains To Bayou." Over 400 storm drains were marked, reminding citizens that protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility, and that storm drains are not the place to get rid of old paint, pesticides, motor oil and other pollutants. In a swap of labor for fun, the Troop spent a weekend doing cleanup chores on the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, and got to camp and do a little fishing on the refuge in return.

Bayou Vermillion, running through Lafayette, received a lot of the Troop's efforts last year. In addition to hauling out several boatloads of litter during the annual "Trash Bash," the scouts made

several outings to the Bayou to plant willow trees and native Louisiana irises to prevent erosion and beautify the Bayou's banks. The Troop helped organize the first Vermilion Paddle Fest, employing 15 unmotorized watercraft to plant and clean up along a 3-mile stretch of the Bayou. The Bayou Vermilion District has purchased 12 new canoes in support of the event and over 60 watercraft are expected to participate this year. Individual Scouts and leaders performed other conservation services for the community including planting irises and baldcypress trees near the Acadian Memorial near St. Martinville, and conducting hunter education and winter survival courses. The Troop, in cooperation with the Sierra Club, directs and produces "Ecologic," a live one-hour call-in television program about conservation and the environment that appears on the 3rd Friday of each month on the Acadiana Open Channel. The Scouts operate the cameras, arrange the set and gather photos from the field as they earn credits for service hours and work toward the Cinematography Merit Badge. In addition to all their hard work for conservation, the Scouts (and Scout Leaders) got to have some big fun last year, taking a road trip through 10 Western states where they rafted wild rivers, hiked wild mountain ranges and generally wore themselves out as they expanded their appreciation for the wonders of nature, the wilderness and their stewardship responsibilities.

#### Shell Pipeline Company, LP –

#### Conservation Corporation of the Year

It's widely acknowledged that the loss of coastal wetlands is the most dramatic fish and wildlife habitat conservation challenge facing Louisiana. The impacts extend well beyond our state's borders, and are economic as well as ecologic in their reach. Although a lot has been learned and much accomplished in the 30 or so years since efforts have been applied to stem the loss, the rate of loss has far outpaced progress in abating it. The problem is daunting, and likely insurmountable without a unified effort by all those affected, both near and far, to pursue the awareness, funding, projects, programs and policies that are essential to saving the coast. That's why it's so



*Representing Shell Pipeline Company in receiving the Conservation Corporation of the Year Award from NWF Chair Jerome Ringo (L) and LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau (R) were (L-R) Barney Callahan, Marty Tripp, David Brignac and Tina Brignac.*

important for the business community to step up and lend its support.

Shell Pipeline Company has set the example for corporate participation in Louisiana's coastal restoration effort. Because of the nature of its business — transporting crude oil through Louisiana's sensitive coastal wetlands — it has firsthand experience with coastal erosion and the risk posed to its pipeline infrastructure. Many of Shell Pipeline's employees live and recreate in the areas threatened, so its involvement is grassroots as much as it is business. The company is prominently represented on the Management Conference of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the Governor's Coastal Advisory Commission. Through its participation in national and international conferences, it brought the story of and the need for coastal restoration to audiences at over 30 events last year. Its Community Council, which informs and educates the communities where it operates about pipelines and safety, incorporated information on coastal restoration in its outreach programming. It has been active in recruiting other members of the business community to join the effort to save the coast.

Last year Shell Pipeline Company officials joined a delegation from the state in testifying before a congressional committee in support of expanding the federal role in coastal restoration. It contributed 2 separate grants of \$100,000 each to restore habitat on the Fourchon Ridge and at Pass a Loutre, and donated new pipe to Ducks Unlimited for a habitat restoration project. It has participated in developing the promising prospect

of using pipelines to transport dredged sediment from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers to replenish wetlands too far from the rivers to receive sediment from diversions. And as a business unit of Shell Oil Company, it shares in the major support provided by Shell to the America's WETLAND Campaign.

#### Barry Joseph Guillot –

#### Conservation Educator of the Year

Service-learning. What's that, you say? Well, it's different than what kids normally get in the classroom. And it's extremely effective. It's learning to give, and giving to learn; sort of learning twice from two different sides of understanding. And it's experiential, so it's compelling — an antidote for A D D. Hurst Middle School educator, Barry Guillot has innovated a service-learning program themed on the wetland habitat in his home region and the need to restore and preserve it. LaBranche Wetland Watchers, the name of the program, is now in its 6th year and has received national and international acclaim for its innovation and success.

Wetland Watchers involves 1200 5th through 7th grade students and has over 30 partners who provide funds, materials,



*Conservation Educator of the Year Barry Guillot was joined by his two boys to receive the award from LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau (L) and NWF Chair Jerome Ringo.*

expertise, and other needs of the program. It is primarily sponsored by the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor's Office. Students adopt a wetland site near the Bonnet Carre Spillway and make frequent field trips to observe and undertake projects to improve the habitat. Participating in LSU SeaGrant's Coastal Roots Program, students plant seeds and nurture seedlings for the following year's students to plant in the wetlands in an ongoing cycle of restoration. Guillot, along with local conservationist Milton

Cambre, helped secure the donation of 28 acres to St. Charles Parish for the LaBranche Wetlands Scenic Area. The students are helping to design nature trails on the area. Guillot has written \$23,000 in grants to fund the acquisition of special computers to help the students analyze and understand water quality data derived from the samples they take. Students perform litter clean-ups 11 times during the year and host 2 weekend community litter collection events. Last year they were recognized with a 1st Place award from Keep America Beautiful for their efforts. Guillot has integrated environmental education into the curriculum by aligning all of the student service activities with required state standards so they can apply math, science, social studies and language arts to real-life situations. The Wetland Watchers lead over 800 elementary students from 4 other schools on field trips, sharing their knowledge with the younger students who are particularly receptive to this new form of instruction. Wetland Watchers make presentations at numerous outreach events like Earth Day. At the end of each project year, Guillot's students organize, facilitate and host a Wetland Celebration for nearly 400 5th graders who will one day participate, as 7th grade presenters. Last year the event included 40 interactive stations, 7 tents, the Zoomobile, Bugmobile, and numerous other features emphasizing the ecology and culture of the coastal wetland region.

Last year Guillot received a Gulf Guardian Award sponsored by the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, and Wetland Watchers was awarded first place in the Youth Education category. As a result of that recognition, the Gulf of Mexico Foundation sponsored the production of a documentary on Wetland Watchers that has been distributed around the country. The George Lucas Education Foundation also chose Guillot and Wetland Watchers to feature in a video to demonstrate exemplary innovative education programming. The Corporation of National and Community Service has also selected Guillot's Wetland Watchers Program to be filmed for an upcoming video featuring the nation's best service-learning projects. In addition, Guillot launched <http://wetlandwatchers.org> to highlight student activities and share information

and resources concerning Louisiana wetlands and service-learning.

#### Philip J. Timothy, Jr. – Conservation Communicator of the Year

In a state like Louisiana where so many citizens spend leisure time hunting and fishing, birding and boating, the outdoor press plays a major role in keeping us informed, not only about where the fish are biting, or what youngster took his first deer, but about important conservation issues. Even though there are outdoor-oriented websites a-plenty, and enough slick magazines sporting covers with fish, game and colorful birds to clog the mailbox, we look forward to the daily paper and the outdoor page to keep up with the latest.

For organizations like the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the outdoor page is a necessary compliment to our conservation efforts.



*Conservation Communicator of the Year for 2004, Philip Timothy receives the award from Jerome Ringo, NWF Chairman (L) and LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau.*

There we find out about the rules being proposed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, what's going on down at the Legislature, and about events like National Hunting and Fishing Day and National Wildlife Week. The outdoor page is also a focal point for rallying support on conservation issues.

For the past several years, Philip Timothy has been the voice (or pen) of the outdoors in Central Louisiana, taking over from Chuck Buckley as outdoor writer for *The Town Talk* in Alexandria. In that capacity, Timothy covered a wide range of issues and events. Recognizing the status of the LWF annual convention as a forum for cutting edge conservation issues, Timothy made a point of attend-

ing each year, reporting on the debates and outcomes to his readers. Last year he devoted a full page of coverage to the convention, highlighting the panel discussion on "Where the Ducks Were."

To provide a wider reach of outdoor coverage, Timothy edited the popular "Louisiana Hunting and Fishing – your guide to the Sportsman's Paradise," appearing as a bi-weekly supplement in 5 of the state's daily newspapers – Alexandria, Opelousas, Lafayette, Monroe and Shreveport. Although very popular, the publication was discontinued last June. Since then, *The Town Talk* has also discontinued its routine outdoor coverage. With such a large and avid readership, and with a greater per capita percentage of hunters and anglers above I-10 than below, that's hard to figure.

#### Barataria - Terrebonne National Estuary Program - Conservation Organization of the Year

An estuary is Mother Nature's cornucopia – a place of incomparable abundance where sweet river water meets the sea. An estuary is a place where you can make your living off the land and water, and still have time to share and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Understandably, such places, though fragile and soggy, are popular places to live. Add to that their use for waterborne commerce, and in Louisiana, energy development, and they present a real management challenge: how to use them, but not lose them.

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, comprising 4.2 million acres between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in south central Louisiana, is one of the



*Sandra Helmuth and Richard DeMay accept the Conservation Organization of the Year Award from National Wildlife Federation Chairman Jerome Ringo (L) and Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Dwight Landreneau.*

richest in the world, and the challenge of its conservation is being met by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). Established in 1991, BTNEP is one of 28 National Estuary Programs administered by the EPA under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. BTNEP is guided by a Management Conference of representatives of the various stakeholders in the estuary, from chambers of commerce, landholders and oil companies to environmental groups and commercial fishermen. Using a collaborative, consensus-building approach, the Management Conference drives implementation of plans to address wetland loss, water quality, habitat protection, invasive species and the preservation of the culture of the region.

Some of BTNEP's projects last year included restoration of maritime forest ridges and marsh habitat, and the evaluation of herbaceous and woody plants for use in stemming coastal erosion. BTNEP has an exceptionally strong education and outreach component and is well known for producing high quality educational materials including both print and video. BTNEP is a partner with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in its campaign to acquire, conserve and reopen Elmer's Island to the public, and maintains a website <http://www.eltersisland.org> to garner public support for the campaign.

Last year, BTNEP provided funding, logistical support and technical expertise for the Jason Project, focusing on Louisiana's disappearing wetlands, which will reach 2 million students and teachers across the country. It also publishes an extremely popular and educational tidal graph calendar that is eagerly awaited by coastal anglers and educators alike. BTNEP was a primary collaborator in the first derelict crab trap cleanup effort in Terrebonne Parish which this year has expanded to include 5 areas along the coast. It annually organizes and sponsors the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, a highly popular and educational field day exploring and learning about this barrier island and the importance of chenier forests to migratory birds. Other annual educational outreach programs include La Fete d'Ecologie, celebrating the region's culture with a focus on creating a sustainable estuary, and the 4-day excursion, "Paddle

Bayou LaFourche," attracting hundreds of paddlers and featuring evening lessons in history, culture and the ecology of Bayou LaFourche. BTNEP financially supports the efforts of many other conservation education projects such as C. C. Lockwood's "Marsh Mission," the LSU AgCenter's "Marsh Maneuvers," the "Wetlands Summer Camp," and "Students and Teachers as Educational Partners in Science."

Senator W. Joe McPherson, Jr. –  
Governor's Award  
Conservationist of the Year

To say that 2004 was a big year for Louisiana State Senator, Joe McPherson, is certainly an understatement. His conservation record is long and began over 25 years ago, even before winning a seat in the Louisiana State Senate. In fact, the story has it that his conservation activism as a private citizen, those many years ago, was what provoked him to run for public service – to cut through the bureaucracy and get something done to protect our water quality, conserve our wildlife habitat, and look out for the public's interest in conserving our natural resources and the right to use them.

Now in his 5th term in the Louisiana Senate, McPherson is the legislator who all of his colleagues respect for his depth of knowledge on conservation issues, and who they can turn to for leadership when these issues come before the Senate. He mostly plays offense, carrying important conservation bills through the process, but he is well known for his ability to spot, and kill, a "crappy" bill when he sees one, which he did once again last year.

Tops on the list of McPherson's accomplishments last year was the adoption of the bill that placed the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap" constitutional amendment on last November's general election ballot. It's all history now, but 81 percent of the largest voter turnout in Louisiana history agreed that it was time to acknowledge these time-honored traditions in the Declaration of Rights of our constitution. With that kind of support, you'd think the Legislature would have adopted McPherson's bill the first time around. Not so. It took 3 tries to let the people have their say on protecting this important part of our conservation her-

itage. And judging from the onslaught of anti-hunting, anti-fishing and animal rights legislation being proposed in other states, Louisiana voters acted just in the nick of time.

Most folks have heard of White Lake: 71,000 acres of freshwater wetlands and wildlife habitat donated to the state almost 3 years ago by oil giant BP. The problem, as McPherson immediately recognized, was that the state was left holding the liability, but did not have management authority for the property — an unprecedented, unusual, and some would say, stinky deal. While others acquiesced to the power of the Governor, McPherson said no. It took a couple of years, but he prevailed, passing legislation to right the White Lake donation and set the stage for management of this wonderful resource for the benefit of wildlife and the people of the state.

Something was mentioned earlier about a "crappy" bill. Well, it really was a bill that would have allowed the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry to authorize the aquaculture of native and exotic species of fish in Louisiana, including black bass and crappie, species that otherwise cannot be sold because they are game fish. McPherson smelled something fishy and took the mic on the floor of the Senate to expose the legislation not only as a crappie bill, but a "crappy" bill. Black bass and crappie were promptly amended out of the legislation which ultimately passed with adequate safeguards for our game fish.

McPherson's other accomplishments last year included legislation protecting several creeks in Southwest Louisiana by designating them Scenic Streams; working to resolve the problem of loss of public access to coastal waters; restoring habitat on his own private property; and leading the organization of the Louisiana Legislative Sportsman's Caucus. McPherson has been named Legislative Conservationist of the Year by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation on 3 previous occasions and has received the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement, among other recognitions of his commitment to conservation.



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Tensas Parishes)

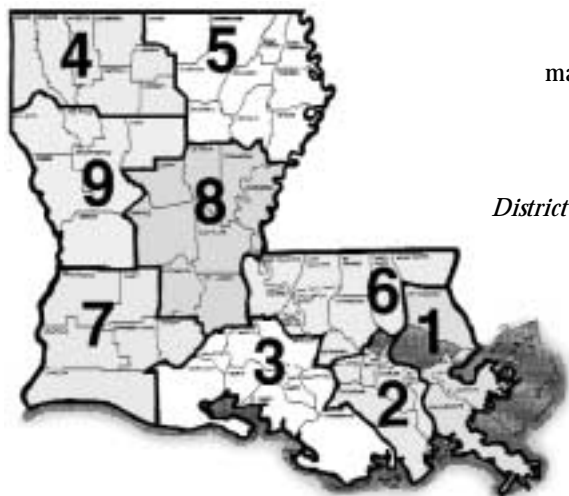
**District 6** Ivor van Heerden PhD, 29787  
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Cameron, Jefferson Davis,  
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Parishes)

**District 9** Sharon Miller, 345 Point 3  
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Natchitoches, Winn, Vernon  
Parishes)



# LWF Position on Development of LNG Processing Facilities in Gulf and Coastal Waters

The Gulf of Mexico has become a favored region for the proposed location and operation of facilities/ports to receive and regasify liquefied natural gas (LNG). The potential economic benefits and handsome profits expected from investment in this method of supplying feedstock for the manufacture of chemicals as well as relatively clean and economical energy have compelled a "gold rush" to implementation. It has been reported that up to 22 LNG terminals have been proposed for location in the Gulf of Mexico, even though experts predict that current and reasonably foreseeable markets for natural gas will not support so many suppliers.

Most of the LNG facilities already licensed, or that are currently being evaluated for licenses, propose to employ an open system that uses ambient seawater to regasify the liquid before pumping it ashore through pipelines. Such a process will suck millions of gallons of seawater each day through the system, causing the mortality of millions of eggs and larvae of economically-important fish and shellfish, and planktonic organisms at the base of the marine food chain. Estimates of the impacts of open system LNG regasification on species' populations range widely, and at best are guesses. Extrapolations of the expected egg/larvae mortality to economic impact at the fishery level, such as predicting a decrease in the annual recreational redfish harvest or the annual harvest of red snapper, are also simply guesses. Unfortunately, due to the state of marine fisheries science in the Gulf of Mexico and the short time period (365 days) provided by law to gather sufficient empirical data to accurately characterize the impacts of an open LNG regasification facility on natural resources, the public, resource managers and resource users are left without the answers they need to determine whether or not the impacts from the development of LNG processing facilities in the Gulf of Mexico will be negligible to fisheries, or unacceptably high.

Fisheries concerns may not have been anticipated when the Deepwater Port Act was amended in 2002 to stimulate develop-

ment of LNG processing capacity. That was an oversight that Congress should correct by further amendment to expand the evaluation and licensing process for Gulf LNG terminals, in time and collaboration, to allow for adequate deliberation and data-gathering, and to involve shared decision-making with those agencies responsible for the management and conservation of public trust resources. Licensing, if appropriate, should come after, not before, that evaluation. Congress failed on that score in 2002, but has the opportunity to correct that failing. Therefore, these are the recommendations of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation pertaining to the siting and operation of LNG processing facilities in the Gulf of Mexico and coastal waters.

1. Congress should amend the Deep Water Port Act to provide for a process for evaluating and permitting LNG terminals sufficient to understand, measure and minimize adverse impacts to the environment, including fish and wildlife resources, prior to the issuance of a license to operate.

2. Those businesses already licensed and permitted to operate LNG terminals should commit to undertaking a scientifically-sound monitoring and assessment program evaluated and approved by the National Research Council, and executed in collaboration with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to determine the impacts to marine organisms, the food chain, the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and ultimately, to the economic value of Gulf fisheries and other renewable natural resource-based activities in the Gulf of Mexico. Those businesses should fund the necessary monitoring and assessment program, including support for the participation of NMFS and LDWF personnel. Most importantly, those businesses should commit to the employment of alternative technologies, including a closed loop regasification process as appropriate, considering the practicality of implementation with respect to specific prevailing conditions at the site of operation, if the monitoring and assessment program reveals unacceptable sustained impacts to natural resources as

defined by the National Research Council in collaboration with LDWF and NMFS.

3. All pending and future applications for licenses for LNG terminals in the Gulf of Mexico and coastal waters proposing to employ an open process for regasification should be held in abeyance pending an analysis of the cumulative impacts of the operation of all potential economically viable LNG terminals in the Gulf.

4. Damages to natural resources must be mitigated. Mitigation requirements for these facilities should focus on reduction of impact through application of alternative technologies. If it is found that impacts are significant, they must be reduced to acceptable levels. Mitigation for losses in terms of funding for hatcheries, stocking, agency research and management (outside of what is necessary for the monitoring and assessment of impacts), coastal restoration, acquiring and donating habitat to the state, etc. is not acceptable mitigation.

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*From the President: Continued from page 24*

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the LWF's annual convention or submitting a nomination for one of our conservation awards are important ways to be involved. If you are interested, please contact me or the LWF office. We will help you fight for what is right when it comes to our natural resources. As long as I have been with this organization, we have never been afraid to fight the good fight, no matter the difficulty. I am proud to be a member of such an organization, and I hope you are, too. So please, get involved in conservation. I hope to see you at LWF's Fall Board Meeting on the evening of Wednesday, September 28 at the LDWF Conservation Education Center in Woodworth. Until then, keep her between the buoys.

Yours in conservation,

E. R. "Smitty" Smith  
President

# LNG's and Our Fisheries: Another Perspective

by Bill Herke, Ph. D.  
AFS Certified Fisheries Scientist

In case you are unsure what LNG (liquid natural gas) facilities are, and why they are being proposed to be built in the Gulf of Mexico, let me briefly explain. Natural gas is in demand because it is cleaner burning than coal and diesel, and it is also used as a feed-stock for industrial products. A shortage of natural gas is causing rapid increases in price for it in the US. It is impractical to ship natural gas, in the form of gas, from overseas countries with an abundant supply. However, for some time natural gas has been compressed into liquid form, at very low temperature, and shipped to countries with little natural gas of their own. Once the liquid natural gas arrives at its destination it must be warmed enough to convert it back into gaseous form before it can be put into pipelines. Companies seeking permits to operate in the Gulf would like to use seawater as the heat source for warming the LNG. To do this, they would use an open rack vaporizer (ORV). The LNG would flow through a radiator-like series of pipes while seawater would be pumped over the pipes. (This is called the "open loop" method.) The cooled water would be discharged back into the Gulf and the warmed LNG (now in gaseous rather than liquid form) would be sent onshore through a pipeline. Another way to warm the LNG is to use the "closed loop" method. In this method the same water is used over and over as in a liquid cooled automobile cooling system. In this case, 1 to 2% of the imported LNG is burned to heat the water to regasify the remainder.

A great deal of concern has been voiced that if LNG facilities are established in the Gulf our fisheries will be damaged if the "open loop" method is used. This concern was greatly heightened when the original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gulf Landing facility estimated that it would destroy about 11% of the red-fish in the Gulf. (Gulf Landing is a subsidiary of Shell Oil and the facility is proposed to be located about 38 miles offshore of Cameron, Louisiana.) The EIS authors

later said they had made an error and revised their estimate downward, reflecting a lesser but still unacceptable impact. These estimates scared the bejanners out of everyone interested in our fisheries, including me. Therefore, I decided to look into the actual documents involved in the permit request for the Gulf Landing facility, rather than rely on newspaper accounts.

There are over 90 documents on the docket for the Gulf Landing permit request. I read all those that sounded pertinent to our area of concern, and it took me over a day. The following are my comments and conclusions, based on that review.

First, I read the section of the EIS detailing how the estimates were made for loss of eggs and larvae. I could not follow all their modeling effort, but the authors seemed to be trying to make the best estimates they could with what data were available. But models are only as good as the data that are fed into the model, and the data they had were not very useful. They had only 75 samples for larvae and 36 for eggs, taken for other purposes, miles from where the Gulf Landing facility would be located. The number of larvae in the individual samples varied from 421 to over 578,000. It was the best available data, but the modelers point out many deficiencies in it. The data gave no information on distribution of ichthyoplankton (eggs, larvae and other tiny organisms) throughout the water column. Because of mesh size and regurgitation from the net, not all eggs and larvae were sampled. The samples were only taken from April through November. Invertebrate data are not included even though white and brown shrimp have essential habitat in the area. Eggs are not identified for any species. Not all larvae were identified to species. And the data are highly variable. For all these problems the data had to be adjusted or assumptions made. Then, to estimate how many killed eggs and larvae would have otherwise survived until one year old, formulas were used that required values for percent dying naturally each day. Unfortunately, no one knows what these values are in nature. Estimates made from laboratory experiments vary and may have no

relevance, and very tiny differences in the values at various life stages can make huge differences in estimated survival at one year old. For example, depending on the assumptions and values used in the EIS, red drum annual loss estimates ranged from 165 fish to 404,000 fish.

With so many "guesstimates" involved I cannot understand why the authors did not realize their results made no sense. I think little faith can be put in the EIS loss estimates. Consequently, I think it is fruitless to look at the situation in terms of numbers of eggs and larvae killed. This is especially true since we have no way of knowing how the losses compare to the astronomical numbers in the total population of eggs and larvae in the Gulf.

This much we do know. The temperature change as the warming water passes over the open rack vaporizer (ORV) will be sufficient to essentially kill all living ichthyoplankton organisms in it. The cooled water will be discharged back into the Gulf through an outfall located near the seabed. According to the EIS, in the worst case scenario, the temperature difference between the outfall water, and ambient Gulf water, would only be 1.5 degrees F at the edge of a 5-acre area surrounding the outfall. Thus, bottom-dwelling organisms in this 5-acre area may be replaced by organisms having a greater tolerance to cooler water. I do think the engineers have much better hydrological data than the biologists had biological data, so we can probably put more faith in their projections of water pumped, temperatures of cooled water, and area of outfall plume, than in the estimates of eggs and larvae killed.

If we can't trust the EIS estimates of eggs and larvae killed, or understand the relevance of the estimates, let's look at it in a common sense way. The engineers estimate they will pump an average of 136,000,000 gallons of water a day. That sounds like an awful lot, but let's look at it in terms of the Gulf.

An acre-foot equals a volume one acre in area one foot deep.

136,000,000 gallons equals 417 acre-feet.

Depth at the proposed LNG structure is about 55 feet.

417 acre-feet is equivalent to a 7.6-acre area 55 feet deep.

There are 640 acres in one square mile. 7.6 acres / 640 acres equals 0.012 or 1.2% of the square mile surrounding the LNG facility. That is how much water the LNG facility would be drawing in daily. (Unless the facility is located in a spawning hot spot, the number of organisms drawn in should be about proportional to the volume of water drawn in.) Now, consider that daily intake in relation to the thousands of square miles of the Northern Gulf that are about 55 feet deep. The water that Gulf Landing will be drawing in is similar to drawing water from an Olympic pool with an eye dropper! The opponents of Gulf Landing say that you have to consider that this water withdrawal will go on killing the young of a species 365 days a year, but that is not accurate. The spawning season of most species lasts only a fraction of a year, and it is generally agreed that only eggs and larvae, not juveniles and adults, will be drawn into the water intake. Moreover, spawning is a continual process during the spawning season. Therefore, daily water intakes will be affecting only that portion of the spawn that has already been spawned, not the entire spawn, and also not that portion that has already grown to a size large enough to evade the intake.

There is at least one environmental benefit to the ORV method over the closed loop method. When the natural gas was liquified, a lot of energy was consumed and this produced heat and green house gases. If the closed loop system is used, more greenhouse-gas-producing energy will be burned to reheat the water in the closed vessel, and more heat produced, adding to global climate change. Some of this will add to warming of the sea, which we are trying to avoid. Power to run the ORV pumps would produce a minor amount of green house gases in comparison, and the ORV method would actually work to reduce sea temperatures, not by an appreciable amount of course, but it might come close to negating the heating effect from the previous liquefaction of the natural gas. By the way, I have no connection to Shell Oil other than to occasionally buy Shell gasoline.

The Gulf Landing permit has been issued, but perhaps because of all the concerns that have been voiced, it contains some pretty good requirements. Some of the requirements are:

1. Gulf Landing must develop and

implement a monitoring plan to establish baseline information on fish eggs & larvae. The monitoring will start at least 36 months prior to installation of the port structure. The Maritime Administrator may request review for scientific adequacy & completeness by the National Research Council. A qualified third party will manage and implement the plan.

2. Gulf Landing must also develop & implement a plan to monitor the effects on fish eggs & larvae after operations start. This may also be reviewed for adequacy by the National Research Council. A qualified third party will manage & implement the plan.

3. The intake structures will be designed to allow the level of intake water to be adjusted, based on the results of the ichthyoplankton monitoring program.

4. Gulf Landing will pursue & implement practical & reasonable ways to minimize water utilization & ichthyoplankton entrainment.

Note that the permit only says that the Maritime Administrator may request review by the National Research Council of the monitoring plans for scientific adequacy and completeness. I think it is critical that we see that he does request these reviews. If adequate monitoring is done, the results should give really good biological information for evaluation of future similar permit requests. Many permit requests for facilities similar to Gulf Landing have been, or are expected to be, submitted but only about a half dozen are actually expected to be built. I doubt the cumulative effect will be particularly damaging to our fisheries unless a facility is located in a hot spot for spawning of a particular species. That is why preconstruction ichthyoplankton monitoring is so critical. Also, before a permit is granted, the company requesting it should commit to doing whatever is necessary to avoid harming the fisheries, including abandoning the project if necessary.

By now you have probably decided I am in favor of importing LNG. Well, I am NOT. I think this country is horribly wasteful of natural resources. If we would be more conservation minded, using energy efficiently, and investing in renewable energy sources, we would not need to be importing LNG. Instead we rush headlong on, using up non-renewable resources, heedless of what will be left to our grandchildren to sustain themselves.

## State Duck and Goose Calling Contest August 28 in Gueydan

The 37th Annual State Duck and Goose Calling Contest will be held on Sunday, August 28, 2005 at the Gueydan Civic Center in conjunction with the 29th Gueydan Duck Festival. The contest is sanctioned by the World Championship Duck Calling Contest Committee of Stuttgart, Arkansas. The winning duck callers will be eligible to represent Louisiana in the World Contest on November 25-26 in Stuttgart.

Registration opens at 8:00 AM; no late registration permitted. All goose callers must be registered by 10:30 AM, and duck callers by 12:00 Noon. The competition will begin at 11:00 AM with the Junior Division of the Blue/Snow Goose category. Duck calling competition begins at 1:00 PM. All callers registering for the contest(s) will be eligible to draw for 2 shotguns, 2 combo duck and goose hunts for 2, and other valuable merchandise prizes donated by contest sponsors. Fees are \$15 per contest or \$35 for all three competitions. Only Louisiana residents are eligible to compete in the duck calling contest.

Contest categories are Blue/Snow Goose, Specklebelly, and Duck. There are 2 age divisions for the goose calling categories: Junior (16 yrs and younger) and Senior (17 yrs and older). There are 3 divisions in the duck calling competition: Junior (under 14 yrs); Intermediate (14-16 yrs); Senior (17 yrs and older). Girls and boys and men and women will compete together.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques will be awarded in each division. All winners will receive state champion jackets. The winner of each division in the duck calling category will be eligible to receive an expense aid of up to \$400 to cover some of the costs to compete in the 2005 World Championship Duck Calling Contest upon verification of participation and submission of receipts to confirm expenses.

Preregistration is available by faxing or emailing: full name, birth date, home address and phone #, contest category/categories entered (duck, blue/snow, specklebelly) to 225/344-6707; <mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org> or <mailto:pmcdaz71@aol.com> prior to August 24. For faxed or emailed preregistrations, the entry fee must be paid at the contest registration table to confirm registration. Mailed preregistrations should include the above information per each contestant and

*Continued on page 24*

# '05 Legislative Session Mostly Uneventful

The 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature adjourned on June 23, enacting a short and relatively light list of bills and resolutions affecting the interests of sportsmen and women, conservation and the environment. The light agenda was expected, since, as required by the Louisiana Constitution, legislative sessions in odd-numbered years are limited to considering laws pertaining to fiscal matters, and, implementing a new constitutional provision for the first time this year, up to 5 additional bills per legislator on any subject matter as long as the legislation was filed timely and, if required, advertised prior to introduction. Most legislators filed their quota of 5 extra bills, which made for a much more interesting session than if restricted to fiscal-only measures.

As often is the case, legislation that failed to pass was of more interest than bills that were finally adopted; and concurrent resolutions addressed issues of more "popular" concern than measures proposing to enact statutory law. Probably the most important (to conservation) legislation of the '05 Session is a proposed constitutional amendment to dedicate the major portion of any revenue sharing by the federal government of offshore mineral revenue to coastal restoration. Other good but less significant measures that were adopted: provide for the sale of motorboat registrations by boat dealers and other vendors certified by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, prohibit the placement of permanent hunting stands on state land, provide for allocation of additional mineral revenues produced from state land to the Conservation Fund, expand tax incentives for businesses involved with the recycling of nonhazardous waste and the restoration of brownfield property, and increase the penalty for criminal violations of water pollution control laws.

Bills that failed, but will very likely receive attention next time around would have: established a "bounty" for the collection and recycling of switches containing mercury when vehicles are junked and salvaged, clarified the right of public access from

the Mississippi River to Gassoway Lake in East Carroll Parish, and provided for a process for the landowner to clean up and restore contaminated oilfield sites on his property and receive reimbursement of the costs from the parties responsible for the mess. Other failures of interest included a bill to create the crime of hunting trespass that would have made LDWF enforcement agents the primary responders to trespass complaints and a measure that would have allowed recreational fishing licenses to be valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

Concurrent Resolutions of the House or Senate are frequently used to express the sense of the Legislature, get the attention of a government agency, draw attention to an issue, and sometimes to set the stage for future legislation or other action to address a problem or take advantage of an opportunity. One such resolution that achieved its objective without having to finally pass was directed at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Commission's proposal to restrict the use of dogs for deer hunting in one of the deer hunting areas of the state (Area 6) based on the amount of land available to the hunters wishing to hunt with dogs. The Commission rethought its proposal and agreed to sustain the same rules applied during the previous hunting season and establish a task force of deer hunters to review the rules for hunting deer with dogs and make recommendations to the Commission prior to the initiation of the process for setting the '06/'07 hunting season regulations. A resolution was adopted providing guidance to the State Land Office in providing notification of its determinations of waterbottom ownership. Another urged that cumulative impacts to marine resources be assessed prior to the licensing of any more LNG facilities proposing to use the open regassification system in offshore waters. One of the more controversial resolutions asks Congress to direct the Corps of Engineers to cease using Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act to regulate sustainable forestry operations in swamps when such operations have no impact on navigation.

Several new acts establish or modify the powers of reservoir commissions, and the state construction budget (HB 2 - Capital Outlay Bill) authorizes over \$40 million in various funding priorities for various stages of reservoir development in the state. This is a continuing and growing trend that has ramifications for water supply and fish and wildlife habitat that are not necessarily good. Efforts during the session to include statutory language to prioritize state funding of reservoir development based on the extent to which a proposed reservoir would meet current and future water supply needs fell short. This idea will likely receive attention in the months ahead.

As always, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation provides comprehensive monitoring of the legislative session each year and publishes a listing of those measures pertaining to natural resource conservation, environmental quality and outdoor recreation that finally passed. That listing follows. Details on funding of the agencies and programs that have an impact on and are of interest to sportsmen and women and conservationists that are contained in the Appropriations and Capital Outlay Bills are included.

## House Bills and Resolutions

HB 1 (Act 16) *by Alario*. APPROPRIATIONS. Governor's executive budget - \$55,396,763 (\$24,120,276 general fund [GF]), 123 positions; Dept of Agriculture & Forestry - \$96,149,528 (\$31,673,563 GF), 819 positions; Office of State Parks - \$24,396,604 (\$22,534,894 GF), 410 positions; Dept. of Natural Resources: Atchafalaya Basin Program - \$761,678 GF, 4 positions; Office of Coastal Restoration & Management - \$68,702,644, 148 positions; Dept. of Environmental Quality - \$149,273,100 (\$7,099,513 GF), 1,044 positions; Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - \$91,094,779, (\$200,000 GF), 797 positions / 260 Enforcement Division (\$20,817,055), 216 Office of Wildlife (\$34,035,219), 226 Office of Fisheries (\$22,346,081).

HB 2 (Act 26) *by Hammet*. CAPITAL

OUTLAY. Provides for the capital spending of state government; includes \$39,525,000 in Priority 1 (P1), \$8,325,000 in Priority 2 (P2), \$2,237,500 in Priority 3 (P3), \$2,237,500 in Priority 4 (P4) and 31,325,000 in Priority 5 (P5) bond funding for various acquisition, planning and construction projects (AP&C) for parks and other facilities administered by the Office of State Parks; \$825,000 in P1, \$575,000 in P2, \$1,250,000 in P3, \$1,250,000 in P4 and \$1,325,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Washington Parish Reservoir; \$100,000 in P1, \$400,000 in P2, \$1,000,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir in LaSalle Parish; \$500,000 direct GF, \$1,500,000 in P1, \$500,000 P2, \$1,000,000 P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Poverty Point Reservoir in Richland Parish; \$250,000 P2 and \$500,000 in P5 for AP&C for the New Morehouse Reservoir; \$400,000 in P1, \$100,000 in P2, \$200,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir; \$800,000 in P1, 500,000 in P2, \$1,000,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Allen Parish Reservoir; \$1,415,000 in P1, \$500,000 in P2, \$3,900,000 in P3, \$4,000,000 in P4 and \$500,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Bayou Duchene Reservoir in Caldwell Parish; \$200,000 in P2, \$9,900,000 in P3, \$9,900,000 in P4 bond funding for AP&C for the Chalk Hills Reservoir in Catahoula Parish; \$4,500,000 in P1, \$1,500,000 in P2, \$5,987,500 in P3, \$5,987,500 in P4 and \$4,500,000 in P5 bond funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Protection and Enhancement Program; \$7,500,000 in P5 bond funding and \$500,000 in state duck stamp funding, \$500,000 in Rockefeller Funds and \$1,500,000 in Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Trust funds for wildlife habitat acquisition by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

HB 123 (Act 40) *by Downs and Gallot.*  
**LINCOLN PARISH**

RESERVOIR. Establishes the Lincoln Parish Reservoir Authority within DOTD as an agency of the State of Louisiana with the authority to develop one or more reservoirs in Lincoln Parish along with various related developments for recreation, retirement, soil and water conservation, water supply and sanitary treatment and economic development. Authorizes the Authority to take land by expropriation and to own, manage and sell the water impounded by the reservoir(s).

Establishes a 7-member reservoir commission appointed by the governor with broad regulatory authority over activities that might impact the developments of the Authority.

HB 124 (Act 195) *by Wooten, et al.* SHRIMPING GEAR FEES/TRADE PETITION. For the 2005/'06 license year, requires an additional recreational shrimping gear fee of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents to be deposited to the Shrimp Trade Petition Account, and an additional \$15 for resident and \$60 for nonresident commercial shrimping gear licenses, also to be deposited to this account.

HB 197 (Act 202) *by Dove.* COASTAL PASSES STABILIZATION. Establishes a Coastal Passes Stabilization & Restoration Program within the Department of Natural Resources and a fund in the State Treasury to stabilize coastal passes on a priority basis per the nomination of coastal parishes and further requires that coastal pass stabilization be a component of coastal restoration projects where public bids are held for project contracts, consistent with the state's coastal restoration program.

HB 238 (Act 206) *by St. Germain.* LIFETIME LICENSE ENDOWMENT. Adjusts the amount of the Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License fees that are deposited in the Conservation Fund from \$50 per license to 50% of the fee; further authorizes the investment of up to 35% of the Lifetime License Endowment Fund in the same manner allowed for the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust Fund with respect to investment in securities.

HB 245 (Act 172) *by Powell.* CRAB PROMOTION & TRAP CLEANUP. Establishes the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Account (DCTRPA) in the Conservation Fund and a Crab Promotion and Marketing Account (CPMA) in the Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund and increases the gear fee on recreational crab traps by \$5 per 10 traps for residents and by \$20 for nonresidents to be deposited in the DCTRPA; increases the commercial crab trap gear fee by \$10 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents and allocates \$5 to the DCTRPA and \$5 to the CPMA from the resident fee increase and \$20 to the DCTRPA and \$20 to the CPMA from the nonresident fee increase.

HB 249 (Act 473) *by Frith.* CAMERON PARISH/WASTE DISPOSAL. Authorizes Cameron Parish to regulate the siting of waste storage and disposal facili-

ties in the parish.

HB 313 (Act 214) *by Hammett.* LAKE ST. JOHN DISTRICT. Creates the Lake St. John Recreation Water and Conservation District between Hwys. 568 and 569 in Concordia Parish.

HB 331 (Act 219) *by Hill.* FUR & ALLIGATOR COUNCIL. Adjusts the membership of the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council to include 2 additional members engaged in the alligator farming business.

HB 340 (Act 21) *by Damico.* DEQ HOUSEKEEPING. Specifies and clarifies some functions within different divisions of the Dept. of Environmental Quality.

HB 388 (Act 225) *by Fannin and Sen. Kostelka.* GROUNDWATER. Regarding the groundwater protection program, establishes a category of "area of groundwater concern" for situations where the sustainability of an aquifer is not being maintained and a category of "critical area of groundwater concern" where restrictions on withdrawals must be applied to maintain the sustainability of the groundwater source. Deletes the category of "Critical Groundwater Area."

HB 428 (Act 481) *by Pierre.* WIND ENERGY. Authorizes the State Mineral Board in conjunction with the Secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources to lease state lands and waterbottoms for the production of wind energy. Further provides that any royalties, bonuses and other state income from such production be dedicated to the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund (25%) and state General Fund and that rules be promulgated by the DNR to determine the conditions and requirements of such leases.

HB 475 (Act 183) *by St. Germain.* BRETON SOUND SHRIMPING. Revises the coordinates for the description of the shrimp trawling line in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds.

HB 477 (Act 184) *by Dove.* VESSEL MOORING. Prohibits game and fish commissions and political subdivisions from regulating the mooring or movement of commercial industrial vessels on navigable waters.

HB 494 (Act 371) *by St. Germain.* RECREATIONAL NETS. Adjusts the demarcation line above which recreational wire and hoop nets may be used.

HB 515 (Act 89) *by Pierre.* MINERAL LEASE/CONSERVATION FUND. Requires the collection of an additional \$5 per acre from mineral lessees on state lands to be deposited in the Conservation Fund for

the operation of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

HB 552 (Act 91) *by St. Germain*. ENERGY CONSERVATION. Amends the Commercial Building Energy Conservation Code.

HB 587 (Act 438) *by Odet*. FISH EXCLUDER DEVICE/OYSTER LEASE. Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to permit the use of fish excluder devices (FED) by qualified oyster lease holders for designated periods during the year subject to specified limitations; further specifies procedures for filing claims with the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board.

HB 596 (Act 93) *by Fannin*. JACKSON PARISH RESERVOIR. Creates the Jackson Parish Dugdemona Watershed Authority and board of commissioners for the purpose of developing one or more reservoirs in Jackson Parish for conservation, recreation, economic development, water supply; provides the Authority with broad powers, including expropriation of private property and sale of water.

HB 617 (Act 95) *by Kennard*. POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR/NETS. Prohibits the use of recreational hoop and wire fishing nets, slat traps, trotlines and yos in Poverty Point Reservoir.

HB 701 (Act 259) *by Boudoin*. HUNTING/STATE LANDS. Prohibits permanent hunting stands on state lands and requires that stands on state lands be removed after sunset each day.

HB 717 (Act 72) *by McDonald*. BAYOU DISIARD. Creates the Bayou Disiard Lake Restoration Commission to restore the management and protection of the waters of Bayou Disiard Lake in Monroe; provides for broad powers of the Commission including taxing and expropriation authority and regulation of water use and essentially any activity within and adjacent to the lake.

HB 752 (Act 102) *by Dartez, et al*. SHRIMPING LAW VIOLATIONS. Adjusts the penalties for violation of the laws pertaining to commercial and recreational shrimping.

HCR 18 *by Fauchaux, et al*. MAUREPAS WMA/STATE PARK. Urges the Louisiana Office of State Parks in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of establishing a state park in the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

HCR 51 *by Damico*. MERCURY. Urges the Department of Environmental

Quality to engage industry, the public and other agencies to develop a mercury action plan to protect public health and to abate mercury contamination in the environment.

HCR 64 *by Badon*. SOLID WASTE. Urges the Department of Environmental Quality to strictly enforce the laws and rules requiring the proper storage and disposal of construction and demolition debris and waste.

HCR 84 *by Dove, et al*. HOUMA CANAL. Urges Congress to approve funding for deepening of the Houma Navigation Canal to 20 feet and to utilize the dredged material for bank stabilization and coastal restoration.

HCR 85 *by Jack Smith*. WILD CRAWFISH TASK FORCE. Establishes within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the Wild-Caught Crawfish Task Force to advise the LDWF pertaining to the management, marketing, and development of the wild-caught crawfish industry in Louisiana.

HCR 100 *by Baldone*. DUCK SHOOTING. Urges the Louisiana Waterfowl Study Commission to examine the possibility of permitting the establishment of shooting preserves for the taking of pen-raised mallards south of I-10/12 similar to what is allowed north of this boundary.

HCR 101 *by Thompson & Baldone*. DUCK BREEDING/RELEASE PROGRAM. Authorizes and requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to sponsor a pilot program to study the breeding and release of waterfowl in Louisiana.

HCR 132 *by Fannin*. WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION. Urges the DNR Office of Conservation and Groundwater Resources Commission to develop a model public water conservation education program.

HCR 174 *by Odet, et al*. ESA/OYSTERS. Urges the U. S. Dept. of Commerce not to list the American oyster as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

HCR 204 *by Frith*. OFFSHORE MINERAL ROYALTIES. Memorializes Congress to enable Louisiana to receive a fair share of the revenue collected by the federal government generated by the leasing of mineral rights and the production of minerals off the Louisiana coast.

SB 21 (Act 106) *by Nick Gautreaux*. WHITE LAKE ADVISORY BOARD. Creates an additional seat on the White Lake Advisory Board to be filled by appointment of the Governor of a person who is a resident of Ward 8 in Vermilion Parish.

SB 34 (Act 318) *by McPherson*. RECYCLING INCENTIVES. Expands the application of tax incentives for the purchase of equipment or services used for the recycling of nonhazardous waste.

SB 47 (Act 320) *by Barham*. MOREHOUSE LAKE COMMISSION. Expands the authority of the Morehouse Parish Lake Commission and requires that any land acquired by expropriation and subsequently sold by the commission be first offered for sale to the person the property was expropriated from at the same price paid by the commission for the property.

SB 187 (Act 511) *by Dupre*. COASTAL RESTORATION. Proposed constitutional amendment dedicating the first \$600 million annually of any new offshore mineral royalties allocated to the state by the federal government to the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund for use in coastal wetland conservation and restoration projects and infrastructure rehabilitation directly related to coastal wetland losses.

SB 188 (Act 299) *by Fontenot*. WATER POLLUTION. Increases the penalties for violation of the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

SB 195 (Act 300) *by Dupre*. COASTAL RESTORATION. Enabling legislation for the constitutional amendment proposed by SB 187.

SB 224 (Act 133) *by Hollis*. MOTORBOAT REGISTRATION. Authorizes and describes the procedure for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to contract with third party issuing agents (special certificate agent) for motorboat registration and sale of commercial fishing licenses.

SB 235 (Act 116) *by Ullo, et al*. AIRBOATS. Authorizes Jefferson Parish and municipalities within the parish to regulate the use of airboats within the parish.

SB 278 (Act 307) *by Nevers*. WASHINGTON PARISH RESERVOIR. Limits the authorization for reservoir development in Washington Parish to a single location rather than the possibility of multiple reservoirs; limits the authority of the Washington Parish Reservoir District and Board of Commissioners; provides procedure for relo-

cation of residents impacted by reservoir development in lieu of compensation; limits expropriation powers of the reservoir district to those properties that would be flooded by the reservoir at high pool stage and rights-of-way needed to provide necessary ingress to and egress from the reservoir; requires that any property expropriated and not flooded or used for right of ways be offered for sale to the prior owner at the same price the property was expropriated for; revises the composition and procedure for selecting the reservoir district board of commissioners.

SB 322 (Act 156) *by Fontenot*. BROWNFIELD TAX CREDIT. Sets up a program to provide tax incentives for the restoration of qualified brownfields.

SCR 2 *by Hines*. BAYOU BOEUF. Creates the Bayou Boeuf Advisory Committee to study the uses of Bayou Boeuf and the feasibility of establishing a Bayou Boeuf freshwater district.

SCR 4 *by Amedee*. BAYOU MANCHAC. Directs a joint legislative committee to study the solutions to flooding along bayous Manchac and Fountain in Ascension Parish, E. Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes.

SCR 6 *by Schedler*. COMPUTER RECYCLING. Urges the House and Senate Environment Committees to study and make recommendations regarding the disposal and recycling of electronic equipment.

SCR 44 *by Amedee*. MAUREPAS WMA/STATE PARK. Similar to HCR 18.

SCR 49 *by Dupre*. COASTAL RESTORATION. Approves the 2005-2006 Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Plan adopted by the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority.

SCR 53 *by Fontenot*. ELECTRONIC WASTE. Urges the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a strategy for the proper management of electronic discards (computers, monitors, printers, TVs, etc.) including recovery of components and reduction of landfilling and incineration of electronic waste.

SCR 66 *by Nevers*. PEARL RIVER NAVIGATION CANAL CLOSURE. Memorializes Congress to permit the continued public use of the West Pearl Navigation Canal and the public boat launching and access facilities maintained by the U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers, all that are scheduled to be closed by June 30, 2005, until agreements with local government organizations can be secured to maintain long-term public access to and use of the WPNC.

SCR 71 *by Mike Smith*. LOGGING REGULATION/CORPS OF ENGINEERS. Memorializes Congress to direct the U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers to cease using Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act to stop sustainable forestry practices that have no actual impact on navigation; excepts the parishes of Terrebonne, LaFourche and St. Charles from the request.

SCR 111 *by McPherson*. STATE LANDS/WATERBOTTOMS DETERMINATION. Urges the State Land Office to follow a procedure of public notice of preliminary ownership determinations prior to issuing final determinations.

SCR 117 *by Boasso*. OFFSHORE LNG PROCESSING FACILITIES. Memorializes Congress to direct the Maritime Administration to require that the environmental impacts of offshore LNG facilities be fully assessed and considered before licensing, particularly with respect to the cumulative impacts of open rack vaporizing systems on marine resources. ■

From the President: Continued from page 3

National Wildlife Federation held its annual meeting in Washington D.C. Edgar Veillon, our representative to the National Wildlife Federation and Terry Melancon, past LWF president and current president of the East Ascension Sportsman's League represented us. Terry graciously took my place at the last minute. I was unable to attend, as my father was having surgery to remove cancer from one of his lungs. It was a win/win situation for both the Federation and my family. My father has since recovered and is doing fine and Terry did an outstanding job filling in for me in Washington. In fact, he and Edgar even managed to visit with some of our congressional delegation in their spare time. At the meeting, Jerome C. Ringo, one of our members from Lake Charles, was elected as the Chair of the 4.5 million member National Wildlife Federation. Congratulations Jerome! It is great to have one of our own providing leadership at the national level. The National Wildlife Federation annual meeting will be held at the Wyndham Hotel on the riverfront in New Orleans on March 16-18 next year. This will be a great opportunity for LWFers to attend the NWF meeting. There will be more on that as well as LWF's 2006 convention in the future issues of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine.

After the LWF convention in March, it was off to the Louisiana capitol for our executive director, Randy Lancot. His report on the outcome of the legislative session begins on page 13. The LWF's opinion is highly regarded down at the capitol and legislators welcome our input as they deliberate on those issues that affect the interests of sportsmen and conservation. Whether behind the scenes or front and center, LWF aggressively represents our members and the conservation and wise use of our natural resources at the statehouse. The Federation's synopsis of legislation pertaining to natural resource conservation and use and environmental quality that is filed each year is the most comprehensive available, and is posted on the LWF's website soon after the session convenes. It is followed by a session wrap-up after adjournment. I am told that these



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Continued on page 24



# Veillon, Kalman Make Sportsmen's Hall



(L-R) Courtney, Paul, Jr., Paul, III "Rudy" Kalman and Edgar F. Veillon at the New Orleans Superdome last March where Veillon and Paul Kalman, Sr. were inducted into the Sportsmen's Hall of Fame.

Last March, on the closing day of the Louisiana Sportsmen's Show in the Superdome in New Orleans, Edgar F. Veillon of Metairie was inducted into the Louisiana Sportsmen's Hall of Fame along with the late Paul Kalman. Both gentlemen have been leaders in conservation and active in the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Kalman was a founder of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League and the New Orleans City Park Big Bass Rodeo. He was a professional photographer and outdoor

writer. Angling, from blue water billfish to City Park bream, was his game. He died in 1986, but not before teaming up with LWF executive director, Randy Lanctot, on a field trip to affiliate a new hunting club that he had recently joined. Paul's son, Paul, Jr., and Grandson "Rudy (Paul, III) and Granddaughter Courtney received the award on his behalf.

Veillon, an insurance executive, was cited for his efforts to preserve the Atchafalaya Basin and Louisiana's coastal

wetlands. He has been active in the Louisiana Wildlife Federation for nearly 50 years and maintains his leadership role in that organization which has honored him with its highest recognition, the Governor's Award for Conservationist of the Year. He is the only person to have received the Governor's Award twice. In accepting the Hall of Fame honor, Veillon acknowledged several conservation leaders who gave him guidance and encouragement: Charley Bosch, LWF's first executive director, Francis Braud, "T" Roger, Hubert Schurtz, Ben Graves and Walt Day with the Bonnet Carre Rod & Gun Club, Jim Ledbetter with the Iberia Rod and Gun Club and Chuck Buckley with the Rapides Wildlife Association. In closing, Veillon encouraged sportsmen and women to introduce a youngster to the pleasures of the outdoors and to join the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as the best insurance to protect the state's natural resources and the right to enjoy them.

Veillon and Kalman join a select few other sportsmen whose photos and accomplishments are posted on life-sized "Wall of Fame" placards throughout the Superdome during the annual Louisiana Sportsmen's Show. ■



Veillon and Kallman on the "Wall of Fame."

LWFC Sets Early  
Migratory Bird Seasons

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the 2005-06 mourning dove and early migratory bird hunting seasons at its July meeting. The mourning dove season will last 70 days with three segments, and a 12-bird aggregate daily bag limit and possession limit of 24 total birds. The first segment will start on Sep. 3 and run through Sep. 11. The second segment will be open from Oct. 8 to Nov. 13. The final segment will open from Dec. 17 to Jan. 9. Eurasian collared doves and ringed turtle doves may only be hunted or taken during the open mourning dove season, with no bag limit provided that a fully feathered wing and head remain attached to the carcass. Those not meeting this standard will be included in the daily bag limit for mourning doves. The shooting hours are half an hour before sunrise to sunset, except for the opening weekend of each segment (Sep. 3-4, Oct. 8-9, and Dec. 17-18), which will be from noon to sunset. Teal season will last nine days from Sep. 17 to Sep. 25. A daily bag limit of four and possession limit of eight will be allowed. Rail and gallinules seasons will last 70 days. The first segment will be open from Sep. 17 to Sep. 25. The other segments will be set in August with the duck regulations. King and clapper rails have a 15 daily bag limit with a possession limit totaling 30. Sora and Virginia rails have a daily and possession limit totaling 25. Common and purple gallinules have a 15 daily bag limit and possession limit totaling 30. Woodcock season will last 45 days from Dec. 18 to Jan. 31. A three-bird daily bag limit and a six-bird possession limit will be allowed. Shooting and hawking hours for woodcock, rail, teal and gallinules are half an hour before sunrise to sunset. Extended falconry mourning dove season is open from Sep. 12 to Oct. 7 and will reopen from Nov. 14 to Nov. 24. Extended falconry woodcock season is open from Oct. 29 to Dec. 17 and will reopen from Feb. 1 to Feb. 12. The falconry daily bag limit is three and possession limit is six birds for all permitted migratory game birds during the extended falconry and regular hunting seasons. Extended falconry seasons for ducks, rails

and gallinules will be set in August with the duck regulations.



Applications for White Lake  
Lottery Teal Hunts Being Accepted

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is accepting applications for lottery teal hunts on the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area. Available dates are Saturday, Sept. 17; Sunday, Sept. 18; Tuesday, Sept. 20; Thursday, Sept. 22; Saturday, Sept. 24; and Sunday, Sept. 25. A total of two applications per hunter, each one for separate dates, will be accepted. Hunters will not be allowed to submit more than one application per hunting date or more than two applications for the season, or they will be disqualified. Persons 18 years of age or older may now send applications, available on the LDWF Web site (<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>) and at LDWF headquarters and regional offices, to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Attention: White Lake Teal Hunt, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Applications must be received by close of business on Aug. 17, 2005. A \$5 administration fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must accompany each application. Applications without a correct driver's license number will not be processed. Successful applicants will be allowed to bring no more than one guest. All hunters must have appropriate licenses, including a basic hunting license (or Louisiana Sportsman's Paradise license), migratory waterfowl conservation license, federal duck stamp, and HIP permit. Successful applicants will be notified and required to submit an additional check or money order for \$200. In the event that a hunter is unable to participate on the date selected, he or she may transfer his or her permit to a qualified hunter of his or her choice, as long as the total number of hunts does not exceed two for the 2005 teal season. Transfers must be in writing and presented to the Hunt Coordinator on the morning of the hunt. Questions regarding the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area



LWFC Sets Hunting Regulations  
Through '07/'08 Season

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the hunting seasons and regulations for resident game species for the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 seasons at its July meeting. The seasons include quail, rabbit, squirrel and deer. The "Louisiana Hunting Seasons and Wildlife Area Regulations" pamphlet will be at license vendor outlets in early September. A copy of the dates can currently be seen on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries web site at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>.



Agreement With Forest Capital Partners  
Secures Long-term Lease of WMA  
Acreage

LDWF signed a 25-year lease agreement in April that secured 92,000 acres of property recently acquired by Forest Capital Partners of Boston, Mass., from Boise Paper. Those lands include 54,000 acres in Vernon Parish, formerly Boise-Vernon Wildlife Management Area (WMA), that were renamed Clear Creek WMA in a resolution passed June 2 by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Additionally, a 7,000-acre tract in Sabine WMA (Sabine Parish) and 31,000-acre tract in West Bay WMA (Allen Parish) will continue to be managed as wildlife management areas. Boise Paper sold the properties to Forest Capital Partners in 2004. The total acreage, now managed under the name of Meriwether Louisiana Land and Timber LLC, has now been leased to LDWF free of charge for the next 25 years. LDWF operates 50 WMAs across the state consisting of 1,270,521 acres of land. Those acres are maintained for public outdoor recreational purposes, primarily hunting and fishing activities. The public can also enjoy camping, hiking and bird watching in most of these areas. For more information on wildlife management areas operated by LDWF, visit

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov> on the Internet. From the department's home page, click on "Wildlife" (under Divisions) and then Wildlife Management Area Programs.

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Wildfowl Festival August 13-14  
in Westwego

The Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers and Collectors Guild will be hosting its 31st "Wildfowl Festival at the John A. Alario, Sr. Event Center in Westwego on August 13 & 14. At the event, premier carvers and artists compete for the blue ribbons and the national recognition they bring. Those competing in the Professional categories have a shot at winning handsome prize money for the Purchase Awards. The festival offers something for everyone interested in wildfowl, both competitors and spectators. There are Professional, Amateur and Novice competitions in categories such as Decorative Wildfowl, Songbirds, Birds of Prey, Fish, Miniature Boats, Relief Carving and Working Decoys. In addition, there are head-whittling and painting contests. There is also competition in Flat Art and Photography. The federal Duck Stamp paintings will be exhibited at the show along with collections of primitive decoys. Vendors of products related to carving, painting and wildfowl in general will display their goods and there is a fundraising auction at 1 PM on Sunday. Festival hours are 8 AM-PM on Saturday and 9 AM-4 PM on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.

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Yellow Lab Subject for 2006  
State Duck Stamp Art Competition

The yellow Labrador retriever will be featured in the "Retrievers Save Game" series for the 2006 Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp, or Louisiana duck stamp competition. The yellow lab must be prominent in the design and each entry must also include live waterfowl selected by the artist. Artists may also choose to include harvested waterfowl, duck decoys, hunting scenes and other backgrounds along with wetland habitats. After 16

years of featuring waterfowl, the program switched to the retrievers series last year by featuring a black lab, because all of the popular waterfowl species had already been used. Labradors come in black, yellow and chocolate color phases. Only the yellow lab will be allowed on entries this year. Labradors came from Canada in the most eastern province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It has been said that fishermen from this area carried these hardy retrievers in boats to retrieve fish coming off the trawls in the north Atlantic. The Labrador's hunting and swimming ability, and his good disposition did not go unnoticed by English sportsmen, who introduced these dogs to Europe in the mid-1800s. American sportsmen adopted the breed from England and subsequently developed and trained the dog to fulfill the hunting needs of this country. Today, as in the past, the versatile Labrador will eagerly enter in ice-cold water to retrieve a duck and work all day in the heat of a dove field. They are very adaptable and their mild temperament makes them ideal family companions. The Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program in 1988. The program was created to generate revenues for conservation and enhancement of waterfowl populations and habitats in Louisiana. During the last 17 years, more than \$8 million has been generated for wetland conservation with approximately \$4.5 million spent on land acquisition. The Louisiana Waterfowl Program, a cooperative endeavor between LDWF, Ducks Unlimited and the Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service has also benefited private lands. Entries for the competition will be accepted from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21. To enter, an artist must submit an original, unpublished work of art, along with a signed and notarized artist's agreement and a \$50 entry fee. Entries should be addressed to Robert Helm, Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, or P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Judging for the art competition will be based on the following criteria: 1. Accuracy of form, size, proportion, color and posture; 2. Level and accu-

racy of detail in all aspects of the anatomy of both the retriever and waterfowl; 3. Appropriateness, accuracy and detail in depiction of the habitat; 4. Attractiveness and creativity in composition, subject, background and lighting; 5. Suitability for reproduction as stamps and prints. A panel of judges with experience in waterfowl biology and/or artistic method will select the winning design. Judging will take place on Oct. 26, at LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. The competition is open to all artists 18 years of age and older. Employees of LDWF and members of their immediate families are ineligible.

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Trapping Season Dates

The trapping season statewide, including Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) will be from Nov. 20, 2005 to March 31, 2006, except the Acadiana Conservation Corridor, Floy Ward McElroy, Elbow Slough and Sandy Hollow WMAs where the trapping season will remain closed. The LDWF Secretary has the authority to extend or shorten trapping season in any area of the state. Trapping licenses totaled 1,597 last year, which was a slight increase from 1,432 the year before, and was the largest number of licenses sold since the 1997-98 season and almost double the licenses sold in 2001-02. A total of 321,124 animals were harvested last year, which was down 35,505 animals from the previous season. The total value of the 2004-05 fur harvest was estimated at \$1.78 million, which was also down almost \$300,000 from last year.

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White Lake Advisory Board Action

In recent meetings of the White Lake Property Advisory Board, Dr. Steve Linscombe of Crowley was elected board chairman, Richard A. Hines of Lafayette was elected vice chairman, Samuel Noel of Abbeville was elected secretary and Donald Hale of Baton Rouge was elected treasurer. Subcommittees were established to expedite the work of the board. They include: Finance – Donald Hale, Chair, Karl Connor, Richard Hines, Buddy Leach and

Steve Linscombe; Education and Outreach – Beverly Wade, Chair, Gay Gomez, Nathan Granger and Annie Smith; Natural Resources – Richard Hines, Chair, Cindy Brown, Donald Hale, Buddy Leach, Darwin Miller; Agriculture – Sammy Noel, Chair, Steve Linscombe, Eddie Young. The group was briefed by a representative of the State Land Office concerning the status of waterbottoms on and in the vicinity of the White Lake Preserve. The report addressed Clear Lake located at the southeastern corner of the Area. Due to erosion, Clear Lake has become an integral part of White Lake. The State Land Office considers Clear Lake a historically navigable waterway and claims the bed and bottom of Clear Lake. Dwight Landreneau, LDWF secretary, informed the board that the transition of the White Lake Property, according to terms specified in a transition agreement between White Lake Preservation, Inc., and the state of Louisiana, and approved by BP America Production Company, was essentially accomplished with only a few remaining administrative details concerning the recording of serial numbers on some of the equipment transferred to the Department. The board approved an official name for the property – the “White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area.” This name distinguishes it as a new category of lands under the management authority of the LDWF, distinct from Wildlife Management Areas and refuges. LDWF fiscal staff presented a budget that was passed by the state Legislature for the 2005-06 fiscal year totaling \$794,854 for categories including salaries, operating services, major repairs, supplies and insurance. Revenues will come from existing agricultural and hunting leases in effect through 2011, a grant from BP, group and individual hunt fees, trapping and alligator egg collection. LDWF fiscal staff will provide periodic budget updates to the board throughout the year. The board agreed to a proposal from the Inland Fisheries Division to study the feasibility of opening the Florence Canal for fishing without the need for lottery permit selection, including specific canals branching out from the Florence Canal that could also be opened to fishing, without disturbing the ponds in designat-

ed duck hunting areas. The board’s Natural Resources sub-committee will take into account LDWF’s assessment, and recommend fishing opportunities that will maximize public access while protecting the natural resources on the area. The board also reviewed an outline for site management by LDWF’s Office of Wildlife that included preliminary recommendations for habitat management, expanded public use, wild alligator harvest and facilities maintenance and development. The board was updated on upcoming lottery and group hunts scheduled for the next waterfowl season. A teal lottery hunt is scheduled from Sep. 17 to Sep. 25 and applications will be accepted until Aug. 17. There will be a \$200 fee per blind that will cover the cost of the hunt for two people. Applications for a youth hunt will be available on Sep. 7, and applications for marsh and rice hunts on Sep. 21. Group hunts will also be available on a first come, first serve basis. There will be public notification for each hunt and ample time for everybody interested to submit applications. The board’s subcommittees will meet prior to the next full board meeting scheduled for Sep. 23 at the LSU Ag Center Rice Research Station.



“Safe Harbor” Program to Benefit Red-cockaded Woodpeckers

The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) has a brighter future in Louisiana, thanks to an agreement among private landowners, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A statewide Safe Harbor conservation agreement now gives both agencies flexibility to provide private landowners protection when they agree to voluntarily manage their property to conserve red-cockaded woodpeckers. “This broad partnership provides a unique opportunity to conserve a rare species and promote the health of its ecosystem,” said Sam D. Hamilton, Southeast Regional Director for the USFWS. “It grants important assurances to enrolled private landowners that enable them to develop long-range land-use plans and manage-

ment practices.” Through a 99-year Enhancement of Survival Permit, the USFWS authorizes LDWF to issue individual Certificates of Inclusion (Certificates) to private landowners. Landowners can choose one or more land management strategies including forest management, hardwood removal, prescribed burning, cavity management, and woodpecker population management. In return, participating landowners have regulatory assurances on lands that are currently not inhabited by red-cockaded woodpeckers and are not expected to become inhabited without the new management strategies. Existing populations of the species will be managed under the plan, and it is expected that their numbers will increase on private lands. LDWF will provide technical assistance to landowners and administer the program. Interested landowners can contact the department for more information and schedule a site visit to their forested property. Through this Statewide Safe Harbor Agreement, the USFWS and LDWF hope to: (1) retain currently occupied nesting and foraging habitat; (2) increase RCW groups through the installation of artificial nesting and roosting cavities; (3) create and augment groups of RCW through relocation of surplus juveniles to other acceptable sites; (4) increase habitat connectivity through habitat enhancement, restoration, and/or creation efforts; and, (5) provide incentives to help private landowners adopt land management practices. The RCW is only found in southeastern pine forests, yet it once ranged from eastern Texas and Oklahoma, to Florida, and north to New Jersey. The species is no longer present in Kentucky, Missouri, Maryland, New Jersey or Tennessee. Remaining Southeastern populations are fragmented and isolated, and the largest known populations occur on federally-owned lands such as military installations and National Forests. The RCWs population has declined because of habitat destruction, alteration, and fragmentation; lack of beneficial habitat management; and the effects of demographic isolation. The absence of natural fires that once perpetuated open pine habitat has led to extensive midstory encroachment, which continues to be a major threat to

woodpecker populations rangewide. The LDWF contact in Baton Rouge is Eric Baka, RCW Safe Harbor Coordinator, who can be reached at 225/765-2359 or <mailto:ebaka@wlf.louisiana.gov>.

first with a total \$1.7 billion in the retail sales category. Hunting contributed \$599 million in retail sales while supporting 9,475 jobs.

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Report Reveals Economic Impact of LDWF-Managed Activities

A recent economic impact study that tallies the benefits of the state's fisheries, wildlife and boating resources reports that the economic benefits of the industries supported by these resources created a total economic effect of \$7.1 billion in 2003, the most recent year for which all related outdoor industry data is complete. Overall retail and harvest sales in all contributing categories reached \$5.1 billion, supporting 77,690 jobs and creating \$284 million in sales and income taxes for the state. "Outdoorsmen and women, and all who work in the recreational and commercial boating, fishing, hunting and trapping industries, drive a very important component of the state's economy," said Dwight Landreneau, secretary of LDWF. "The department will continue to work to support those who work in these industries and those who enjoy the recreational opportunities that the state's resources provide." The report, "Economic Benefits of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources in the State of Louisiana," was prepared by Southwick Associates of Fernandina Beach, Fla. Primary data sources for the study included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Marine Fisheries and LDWF. Recreational boating economic impact estimates were based on a study funded by the Recreational Marine Manufacturers Association. The state's commercial fishing industry had the biggest impact of all areas studied, creating a \$2.61 billion ripple effect generated by \$294 million in retail or harvest sales, supporting 29,245 jobs and producing \$100 million in sales and income tax revenues. Recreational fishing generated \$895 million in retail sales in 2004, the second highest contributing factor to overall outdoor retail sales that support 17,000 jobs. Recreational boating retail sales ranked

Bobwhite Restoration Task Force Formed

The Louisiana Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force has been formed in effort to address long-term population declines in bobwhite quail and other birds dependent upon grassland habitat. The task force is composed of representatives from LDWF, LSU Agriculture Center, LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana Tech University, Quail Unlimited, The National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army (Fort Polk), Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, USDA Farm Services Agency, USDA Natural Resources Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. "Partnerships and interagency cooperation are crucial to effectively address the myriad issues facing bobwhites and grassland birds," said LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau. Factors such as clean farming, short-rotation intensive pine management, lack of prescribed burning, and use of sod-forming pasture grasses have negatively impacted quail and grassland bird habitat. Since 1967, Louisiana's bobwhite quail populations have declined by approximately 75 percent. Louisiana is not the only state where bobwhites have declined precipitously; bobwhite populations across the southeastern U.S. have declined by about 60 percent. This downward trend is not limited to bobwhite quail. Other species that require similar habitat such as eastern meadowlark and loggerhead shrike have also exhibited significant population declines. In response to this situation, a plan known as the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative was developed under the support of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2002. This plan established habitat restoration goals across the range of bobwhite quail. This national plan has been

instrumental in focusing attention on the plight of bobwhite quail and has served as a catalyst for development of state initiatives such as Louisiana's Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force. One of the first jobs of the Louisiana Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force will be to develop a state plan to define goals and identify strategies for quail and grassland bird habitat restoration in Louisiana. The state plan will serve as a blueprint for efforts to reverse declining bobwhite quail and grassland bird population trends in Louisiana. There are a variety of programs available through federal and state agencies that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners willing to implement practices beneficial to quail and grassland birds. In addition to developing a state plan, the Louisiana Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force will be involved in efforts to inform landowners and promote participation in these conservation programs. Reversing the downward trend in quail and grassland bird populations is a long-term venture that will require the commitment and cooperation of numerous organizations, agencies, and most importantly, individual landowners. The Louisiana Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force represents a new approach in Louisiana addressing the plight of bobwhite quail and grassland birds. Agencies and organizations will be working together in a coordinated effort to restore the ecosystems and habitat that are home to bobwhite quail and many other species of wildlife.

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Recreational Fishermen Ordered to Pay Big Fines

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office (NOAA) of the General Counsel issued Notices of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) to four recreational fishermen for their involvement in illegally selling fish to a Baton Rouge seafood dealer on May 24 in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. John A. Langlois, 40, of Baton Rouge, John Tabor Jr., 22, of Thibodaux and John P. Hagmann, 44, of Prairieville, were each issued NOVAs in the amount of

\$5,000, and George H. Donaldson Jr., 38, of St. Amant was issued a NOVA in the amount of \$5,500. Alan P. Porche, 43, of Baton Rouge, previous manager of Gulf Island Shrimp and Seafood LLC and owner of Big River Seafood Inc., was sentenced on November 4, 2004, to three felony counts of obstruction of justice, theft, and filing false public records for his part in the fish transactions. Porche remains on probationary status wherein a probation violation would result in a 20-year prison sentence. The sentences resulted from fraudulent financial transactions from illegally purchased red snapper, cobia, reef fish and other state and federally managed fish that were caught and sold by the recreational fishermen. Proceeds in the scheme came from committing forgery and false records designed to generate money, conceal and disguise the nature and source of the purchases, and avoid reporting requirements.



Tunica Hills WMA Grows

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area in West Feliciana Parish has grown in size following the department's land acquisition from The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy recently transferred 123 acres on the northeast corner of the WMA's south tract to LDWF. LDWF will now manage a total of the 5,906 acres for recreational hunting, hiking and wildlife observation within the expanded WMA. The Tunica hills support an abundance of native woody plants and are among some the most diverse forests in North America for trees and shrubs. Many uncommon species found in the WMA are more typical to the southern Appalachian Mountains, such as ginseng, Canada ginger and Allegheny spurge. The steep ravines and rugged terrain make this area unique for Louisiana and home to a variety of game species such as deer, raccoon and squirrel. The unique habitat is also an important breeding area for migratory songbirds such as warblers and vireos, and home to a small population of the federally protected Louisiana black bear. The

new property will be open to the public when the boundaries are marked.



LDWF Undercover Agents Nab Game Sellers

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested three men for allegedly selling deer and buying game fish from undercover agents. Darnell Carter Warner, 47, of Vidalia was arrested and booked into the Concordia Parish jail on June 3 on a warrant for two counts of purchasing game fish in 2003 and for eight counts of selling deer. Warner sold over 30 deer to an undercover agent over a two-year span. He was also charged for violating interstate commerce regulations since two of the transactions took place in Mississippi. James E. Baker, 56, of Independence turned himself in to the St. Helena Parish jail on June 3 on a warrant for seven counts of buying game fish from an undercover agent. The purchases were for over 600 pounds of crappie. James E. Thompson, 58, of Las Vegas, Nevada was arrested in Baton Rouge on June 2 on a warrant stemming from a two-year undercover operation. Thompson was allegedly purchasing game fish in Louisiana and transporting them to sell in Las Vegas. Thompson purchased nearly 1200 pounds of crappie from undercover agents. He was also charged with violating interstate commerce regulations, failing to maintain records and buying fish without a wholesale retail license. The maximum penalties for purchasing game fish and selling deer are fines of \$750 or jail time for 120 days, or both for each count, plus court costs.



AmeriCorps Volunteers Blaze New Trails on WMAs

A group of 10 members of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), a division of AmeriCorps, completed three weeks of service with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) on June 16. The volunteers, who serve 10-month terms on varied projects around the country, spent their

time in Louisiana blazing hiking trails, building bird nesting boxes and helping to eradicate invasive plant species on three southeastern area wildlife management areas (WMAs). LDWF biologist Chris Davis praised the effort that the team displayed on Tunica Hills WMA. "We were told they were hard workers," he said. Not only did they prove that they worked hard, "they were cheerful and energetic and they worked really well with us." The Chainsaw Gang, a local hiking trail development group consisting mostly of retired persons, and the AmeriCorps group constructed three trails that totaled 9.5 miles on Tunica Hills WMA. The volunteers also constructed signs, benches, a bridge, and an information kiosk at the trailhead. AmeriCorps member Michael Dunbar, 19, of South Hamilton, Mass. was happy to work with the department. "I love to be outdoors, and this was a great project," he said. An avid outdoorsman, Dunbar was impressed with the variety of habitats in the bayou state. "I really like Louisiana," he said. Team member Sara Cashman, 23, of Mankato, Minn. remarked that she saw a lot of habitat variety on the 3 areas (Tunica Hills, Sandy Hollow and Pearl River) that the group normally doesn't see. The AmeriCorps NCCC has a mission to strengthen communities and develop leaders through national and community service. Members serve in teams to complete a variety of projects in the areas of education, public safety, disaster relief, environmental conservation and other community needs.



Volunteers Sought for Troutwatchers

Anglers who frequently land spotted seatrout over 25 inches are being sought as participants in the Louisiana Troutwatchers Program. Under the program, biologists with the LSU AgCenter's Sea Grant Program, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the LSU Coastal Fisheries Institute are asking for anglers' help in gathering information on large speckled trout. While much is known about the biology of the fish, age and growth data on big trout is still somewhat sketchy. Some 6-pound and larger

fish are genetically fast-growing 3-year old fish and some are 8 to 9-year old fish. Learning more about the make-up of the population of big fish is the goal of the Louisiana Troutwatchers Program. Anglers volunteering will receive training from local Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel in their region on otolith (ear bones) removal, sex determination, and packets for submitting otoliths and information. Over the last 2 years, 38 volunteer anglers participating in the Troutwatchers program submitted otoliths and data on 254 spotted seatrout over 25 inches (5.7 lbs.). The coast was originally divided into three regions; west, central, and east. However, it soon became evident that a fourth zone, Venice, was warranted, as 136 fish were turned in from the Venice area. The west zone contributed 90 fish, with the east having 22 and central 10. Additional volunteers are especially needed in the east and central zones. The age and growth analysis on these large spotted seatrout has revealed some subtle trends. One of the most intriguing aspects of the data is the difference in age distributions in the west zone in comparison to other areas. For example, of the total 254 fish, only 5 fish were fast growing, under 3 year old fish, 3 from the east and 2 from Venice. None were from the west zone. Only 7% of the age 3 and older fish in the west zone were 3 years old. The percentages for the rest of the state were 21% for Venice, 21% for the east, and 30% for the central zone. However, the numbers were inversely related when comparing older fish from the west zone to the other zones. Two fish in the study were 9 years old, both from the west, and 5 were 8 years old, also from the west. Additional samples need to be collected in order to gain more confidence in these trends and to verify trends. Read the entire report at: <http://www.seagrant-fish.lsu.edu/pdfs/lagniappe/2005/05-02-2005.pdf> Anglers wishing to participate in the program may sign up by contacting Kevin A. Savoie, with the LSU AgCenter/La. Sea Grant Program via <mailto:ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu> or by phone at (337)491-2065. Information should include your name, phone #, mailing address and email address. ■

senters for the convention general session who took time out of their busy schedules, and on their day off, to come and educate and inform us of their work. Those individuals were ULM herpetologist Dr. John L. Carr who described the habits and life history of the alligator snapping turtle, LDWF wildlife biologist Eric Baka who demonstrated the use of artificial nesting cavities to enhance the recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and presented information about RCWs and the newly adopted Safe Harbor agreement to benefit both the woodpecker and forestland owners, and Dr. Virginia Burkett who brought home the serious issue of wildlife impacts of global climate change. Special thanks also to Wallace and Harold and the gang from Friends of Black Bayou for assisting with the auction on Friday evening.

The legislative session was predictably light due to the restriction on the number of bills each legislator could file on non-fiscal matters. One such bill that was deferred but will likely be reintroduced after some tweaking would have encouraged the clean up of contaminated oilfield sites by allowing the landowner to recover the costs of the clean up from the companies and individuals responsible for the mess. The devil is in the details, and it is paramount that such a concept be fairly applied and not result in the enrichment of landowners and lawyers instead of restoring the property. We all bear a portion of the responsibility for the problem. Cleaning up our mess does not have to be adversarial if everyone rolls up their sleeves and pitches in, and those who bear the greater responsibility for contributing to the problem will put their resources into cleaning up rather than denying the problem or their responsibility for it.

Two of the "hottest" current conservation issues are the potential fisheries impacts from the processing of liquified natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico using an open regasification process and the harvest of baldcypress and other trees from swamp forests. LWF's LNG position statement on page 10 reviews the issue and focuses on what we believe is the action that needs to be taken to insure that any damage to fisheries is avoid-

ed. You will see from the story on page 25 that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has continued to provide leadership in the ongoing discussion over the conservation of swamp forests and we are the only organization to date that has offered a strategic, practical approach to conserving coastal forest wetlands and swamp forests in general.

Perhaps the HOTTEST issue of all that is confronting conservationists and society as a whole is global climate change. Judging from my energy bill and the recent heat wave across the country, things are pretty HOT for everyone. Although wildlife may actually fair better than humanity in adjusting to longterm climate change, some of those adjustments will not favor traditional Louisiana heritage activities like waterfowl hunting. Warm temperatures keep ducks from having to visit us for the winter. Unless we take notice and take action, our lament of "Where are the ducks?" may for future generations fade to not remembering that we ever had such a wonderful waterfowl heritage. I hope not. A story about the effects of global warming on waterfowl is on page 31.

You can see from the pages of your magazine that LWF is involved and busy with its conservation mission. Another opportunity will come from a small grant we recently received to help plan the America's WETLAND Conservation Corps, a program that will engage youth, communities and civic-minded individuals to help restore America's WETLAND and raise awareness throughout the country. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks ahead.

We cannot succeed without our members and friends. Thanks for your support. In closing I offer a special thanks to our newest members and those who made an extra contribution at the end of the year who were not acknowledged in the last issue of the magazine. Thank you.

New Members (\$100 and up)

Morell "Mo" S. Crane, Metairie  
Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc.

- Peggy A. Cole, Houston TX

Pete Giovenco, Saint Rose

- Deer Depot

Keith Saucier, Gonzales

*Continued on page 24*

popular documents are well-used, some would say plagiarized, by other scribes. My thanks to Randy for representing us so well at the capitol.

What I have presented so far in this column is the abridged version of LWF activities for the first half of 2005. To fill you in about all of our meetings etc. would make Tolstoy envious. With that said, there are a lot more things to do between now and the end of the year. Tops on our list are achieving a fair resolution of the controversy over public access to coastal waters, implementation of an incentive-based conservation program for swamp forests (read: cypress trees), reforming the process of licensing the operation of LNG facilities in Gulf and coastal waters to assure acceptable, minimal impacts to marine fisheries, initiating a comprehensive review of potential impacts to migratory and sea birds from the siting and operation of wind energy farms in the northern Gulf of Mexico, the acquisition of Elmers Island by the state, reducing mercury contamination in fish, establishing a sound state policy on reservoir development based on water supply needs, securing funding for coastal restoration, and preserving our waterfowl heritage, among others. If you are interested in getting involved with these or any other important issues regarding our natural resources, please contact me or the Federation office.

Speaking of that, the Federation's accomplishments depend on the active involvement of its members. We are primarily a volunteer organization with only a modest staff of 3 employees, two of whom work on a part-time basis. As such, we need our members to step forward to provide leadership and direction for the organization. My grandfather always told me if you fail to get involved, you forfeit the opportunity to make a difference and are left to whine with the undistinguished masses about the way things are. I urge you to step up and be counted as a conservation leader. This fall there will be elections for LWF directors representing members in districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Two directorships from each district are available. There are also opportunities to serve on committees, and simply attending

*Continued on page 10*

#### New Members (\$50 to \$99)

William Anderson, Baton Rouge  
Errol D. Deshotels, Oberlin  
Noel E. Holshouser, Plain Dealing  
Frank Vallot, Ponchatoula  
- Acadian Hardwoods

#### New Members (to \$49)

Jerry Antley, Downsville  
- Cedar Hill Game Call Company  
Mrs. Ruth Beavers, West Monroe  
Yancy P. Breaux, Pierre Part  
Sidney S. Callahan, Houma  
Tracy Carter, Calhoun  
Jewell Clem, New Orleans  
Christopher C. Comeaux, Geismar  
Juanita Crawford, Oakdale  
John J. Dahmer, Ponchatoula  
Marie J. DePoe, Monroe  
Scott Fontenot, Lake Charles  
Christian James Gaydos, Shreveport  
Amy Gill, New Orleans  
Patrick Guelfo, Baton Rouge  
Bob Hennessey, New Orleans  
- Morning Call Coffee House  
Wiston Hoffman, Slidell  
- Hoffman Marketing  
Mary Margaret Jewell, Baton Rouge  
Eric D. Kittok, New Orleans  
Bryan P. Leach, Lafayette  
Wayne Pace, Prairieville  
Donald G. Reeder, Metairie  
Lewis Pierre Savoie, McAllen TX  
John Serigny, Cut Off  
Allen L. Wall, Springfield  
- Wall's Gator Farm  
James Cooper Womack, Zachary

#### Year End Appeal Donors

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William W. Waring, MD, New Orleans

mailed to:

Gueydan Duck Festival  
Phil McDaniel  
32604 La. Hwy 714  
Gueydan, La. 70542

A check to cover the entry fee(s) should be included and made out to Gueydan Duck Festival Association.

Last year's winners in the senior division of the duck calling competition were Phil Green of New Iberia, followed by Shannon Housend of Des Allemands and Jason Campbell of Iowa, LA. The intermediate duck division was won by Ryan Champagne of Luling, followed by Bobby Jorden of Lafayette. The junior duck division was won by Slade Norfleet of Luling. Matthew LaPrairie of Deville was second followed by Bo Bourque of Gueydan. In the goose calling competitions, James Meyers of Sulphur won the blue/snow goose calling category followed by Cody Vincent of Gueydan in second place and Joe Dantin of Raceland in third. Hunter Canik of Grand Chenier won the junior blue/snow division followed by Ryan Godare of Sulphur in second and Laikin Canik of Grand Chenier in third place. Nathan Lopez of Lake Arthur took first place in the senior specklebelly competition followed by Scotty LePrete of Guedan in second and Tom Fulkerson of Kaplan who placed third. Ian Woods of Jennings won the junior specklebelly competition with Chris Daniels of Lake Charles taking second place and Casey Bertrand third.

The 37th Annual State Duck and Goose Calling Contest is hosted and conducted by the Gueydan Duck Festival Association under the auspices of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Event chairman is Phil McDaniel. For more information about the contest, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Mc Daniel at 337/536-9841; cell 337/230-2250 or <mailto:pmcdaz71@aol.com>, or the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at <mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org>.

Thanks to the following sponsors whose support help make this contest possible:

Paradise Louisiana; Academy Sports and Outdoors; Farm Bureau Insurance; GO-DEVIL Manufacturers of Louisiana, Inc.; Budweiser; Angelle Concrete, Inc.; Louisiana Fish fry Products.



# LWF Recommends Swamp Forest Conservation Strategies

In response to concern over the harvest of timber from swamp forests provoked by proposals to commercially harvest the timber from fairly large tracts of privately-owned swamp in the Lakes Pontchartrain-Maurepas Basin and elsewhere in the southern part of the state, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, through resolutions adopted in 2003 and 2004, urged the development of incentive-based concepts to achieve coastal restoration and wetland conservation goals while respecting the rights of forest owners. This was reinforced by the 2004 Louisiana Legislature through adoption of SCR 75, urging the establishment of a coastal wetland reserve program. The Legislature's action came on the heels of the convening of a special panel by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities to take up the issue.

As the panel reviewed, investigated, deliberated and formulated its recommendations after a year of meetings and field study, controversy over the application of wetlands and navigation regulations to private logging activity caused an even wider division between private property owners and forestry interests and some regulatory agencies and environmentalists. Legislation was filed at both the state and federal levels to reign in what some view as a misapplication of regulatory authority. Since no one seemed to be pursuing the application of incentive-based conservation concepts as suggested by LWF and the state legislature, LWF formally requested the Coastal Wetland Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force (also known as the Breaux Act Task Force) to consider establishing an incentive-based coastal wetland forest conservation program. Apparently that task force doesn't view coastal forest conservation as pertinent to its mission to stabilize and restore Louisiana's eroding coastline as no response to the LWF's suggestion has been received to date.

A recent series of public meetings was held by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities to present the findings of the Science Working Group on Coastal Wetland Forests and to solicit public opinion on how to best address the conservation and use of swamp forests. The following discussion was provided in response and further develops the concepts proposed by the LWF to address the conservation and use of swamp forests in the context of coastal restora-

tion, ecosystem restoration and the management of swamps for the sustainable production of wood products.

## Swamp Forest Conservation and Use The Relationship of Logging in a Coastal Wetland System to Coastal Restoration – Preserving "Strategic" Forests/Trees

Trees and other vegetation serve as buffer to wave and wind. Where those qualities are of critical importance to protect property, developments and habitat from erosion and degradation, and their loss is likely to result in acceleration of erosion, permanent land loss or otherwise require costly restoration efforts, the removal of that vegetation should be managed such that long term impacts are avoided. All commercial timber harvest (clear-cutting) in permanently or seasonally flooded wetlands has impacts resulting from the loss of wind/wave/current buffering capacity that the standing trees afford. Therefore, regardless of the capacity to regenerate, the removal of trees occupying the front lines against encroachment of the Gulf of Mexico ("strategic" forests/trees) should be prohibited, except when necessary to sustain the structure and composition of the stand to achieve its greatest beneficial buffering capacity. This is outside the scope of existing regulatory programs and should be implemented as a component of Louisiana's coastal restoration program. (Consideration should also be given to a commercial harvest prohibition as a component of certain ecosystem restoration and flood plain management projects/programs where the structure provided by trees in situ is vital to project/program purposes.) The prohibition of commercial timber harvest and strict management of "strategic" forests/trees to maintain buffering capacity in perpetuity should be considered a component of the overall coastal restoration program and should be paid for just like for any restoration project component. Owners of these strategic forests should be paid the fair market value (or receive other acceptable consideration) for the trees and any other property rights necessary to secure sufficient management control of the forest, and a trust fund to pay for perpetual management should be established. In the case of strategic forests that currently have the capacity to regenerate, some reasonable additional payment should be made to represent

foregone future revenue anticipated from regrowth and harvest. Such strategic forests/trees are an undetermined but significantly smaller subset of the total swampland forest inventory of the state, and acquiring the rights as proposed should not be prohibitively costly.

Other (non-strategic) swamp forests should be treated differently, with opportunities for voluntary conservation practices based on incentives. If wetlands regulation is to be applied (that is, if the silviculture exemption does not apply), and the regulations preclude commercial harvest for whatever reason, a component of the regulatory program **MUST** be the acquisition of timber rights sufficient to compensate for the value in the trees lost to the owner.

## Logging in Swamps Outside the "Strategic" Zone – The Application of Voluntary Conservation Incentives

Easements would be one of a few strategies to preserve healthy swamp forests, prevent harvest of "hydrologically hopeless" (where the depth of the water prevents regrowth of trees) swamp forests and conserve and manage regenerating swamp forests that are not in the "strategic" category described above. For "hydrologically hopeless" forests, easements should entail the acquisition of all stems and other live and dead vegetation on the property (not like in the Atchafalaya Basin, which is primarily an easement for aesthetic purposes that allows substantial removal of timber). Under such comprehensive timber easement, the landowner would retain surface use of the property such as hunting/fishing, campsites, etc. Fee title acquisition of the surface, to include all surface uses, may be a desirable option in some cases. Another class of easements ("forest quality conservation easements") could apply to healthy swamp forests and would allow harvest under whatever guidelines are necessary to achieve the desired effect. Such guidelines may include maintaining a certain basal area, maintaining a certain minimum interval between stems and a certain species composition, establishing harvest intervals and rotation of harvest within the entire ownership or a defined acreage within the ownership, des-

*Continued on page 26*

# Roussel Honored for Lifetime Conservation Achievement

Swamp: Continued from page 25

Each year, the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association recognizes an individual for a lifetime of conservation achievement with its Arthur Van Pelt Award. This year's winner is John Roussel, a 26-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, currently serving as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fisheries at the agency.

An outdoorsman and dedicated horseman, Roussel learned his love of the outdoors while growing up in Lusher, Louisiana in the 1960s and early 1970s. After graduating from Lusher High school and Nicholls State University with honors, Roussel attended Tennessee Tech University on a full-stipend graduate assistantship. After graduating from Tennessee Tech, he joined the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Roussel is a member of the American Fisheries Society, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, the LSU Sea Grant Advisory Council, the Louisiana Groundwater Resources Commission, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the National Shellfisheries Association and many more. He has received numerous awards for his work and has written over 30 publications, articles, fisheries plans and reports.

Early in his career Roussel created the Department's Boating Access Program. Under this program, federal sportfishing restoration money is made available to local governments to renovate or construct boat

ramps and associated infrastructure. Perhaps the major achievement of Roussel's career was the establishment of the Saltwater Finfish Section within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This section bought a complete new level of scientific management to apply to the management of marine finfish such as speckled trout and redbfish. Under Roussel, Louisiana moved from near-last to first in marine finfish management in the Gulf. Roussel was instrumental in establishing Louisiana's Trip Ticket Program for gathering commercial fisheries landings data and in involving the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel in the nationwide Marine Recreational Fishing Survey.

With this recognition, Roussel joins and elite group of conservationists who, through their vision and perseverance over the decades, have earned the distinction of being Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association Arthur Van Pelt winners.

Reservoir: Continued from page 28

and her taxpayers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, to avoid the location of reservoirs contrary to the strategic development of surface water resources that may be needed to supplement groundwater supplies for public, agriculture and industrial needs; to avoid the taking of private property to benefit private interests; to ensure that the sacrifice of homes, churchyards and cemeteries, farm and forest land, wildlife habitat, scenic and unique streams, and other values that is inevitable when land is flooded for a reservoir is justified by the greater public good provided by the project; and to maximize the public benefit of the expenditure of public dollars, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that state funding for the development of any new surface water reservoir be prioritized based on the capability of the proposed reservoir to supply current and reasonably foreseeable future public, agricultural and industrial water supply needs that are not being met, or are not likely to continue being met by currently available ground water and surface water supplies, as certified by the Louisiana Groundwater Resources Commission and the Commissioner of Conservation.

ignation of preservation areas within the ownership where no harvest is allowed, etc. Not all swamp forests need to be encumbered with easements or restrictions, but the owners/managers should subscribe to best management practices that maintain water quality and minimize adverse offsite environmental and related economic impacts to neighboring ownerships. That can be done voluntarily and enforced by legal consequences and penalties for defined offsite damages such as those caused by flooding, sedimentation, etc.

The USDA Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Forest Service are the Federal agencies that implement forest and farm conservation incentive programs that can serve as examples of or provide ideas on implementing an incentive-based swamp forest conservation program. State partnering/educational outreach agencies in these federal programs are the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, LSU AgCenter and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Since a significant acreage of swampland forests is in the coastal zone and strategic with respect to coastal restoration, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources should also collaborate in developing a program of swampland conservation. Although nonprofit land conservation organizations can provide some assistance, the extensive acreage and the value of the wood products involved, and the goal of producing those wood products on a sustainable basis on those sites that can or can be made to sustain production through water level management and silvicultural practices, makes government conservation programs more attractive to the landowner since payments for easements and conservation practices applied to the land will provide more benefit to the property owner than will be available through tax breaks or other incentives currently available to property owners who donate land rights to a nonprofit land preservation organization. For those swamps that cannot be restored to a hydrology that will foster the regeneration of trees, a private land trust, state or federal government agency should offer to purchase the timber rights (or all the surface rights) from the owner. Government conservation incentive programs will work best for "working swampland" that can regenerate or can be made to regenerate trees and that is not strategically important to



John Roussel (L) receives the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement from LOWA President Jerald Horst.

Continued on page 30

# Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Holds Inaugural "Fun Shoot"

The Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus (LLSC) held its first Skeet/Trap Fun Shoot on the evening of June 14 at the Hunter's Run Gun Club in Port Allen, about 15 minutes to the west of the state capital across the Mississippi River. Club owner Ron Duplessis rolled out the red carpet, providing the use of shotguns and



*Sportsmen's Caucus Co-Chairs, Sen. Joe McPherson (L) and Rep. Bryant Hammett sign up to shoot.*

complimentary clay pigeons as well as use of the clubhouse, ranges and the assistance of his able staff of shooting enthusiasts.

The House and Senate did not adjourn until after 6:30 PM that evening, and both the Senate's Finance and Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committees met after adjournment to take up the two most important bills of the session — Appropriations and Capital Outlay. Even with this conspiring to limit attendance at



*On the firing line: Rep. Austin Badon on far left and Rep. Bodie White on far right with Chrissie and John Jackson in the middle.*

the shoot there was still a good showing of House and Senate members who made their way out in the hot summer evening to shoot some "skeets" and enjoy good food and drink. Some brought their wives, sons and daughters to enjoy the hospitality. Reps. Hollis Downs from Ruston and Austin Badon from New Orleans brought their wives, as did Senator Rob Marionneaux. Rob also brought Rob, Jr. and Senator Nick Gautreaux of Meaux (near Abbeville) brought his daughter, Lexxi, both youngsters taking a turn at the clays with a .410. Charter LLSC sponsor



*Sen. Rob Marionneaux serves up a plate of fried catfish with all the fixins'.*

John Jackson (Conservation Force) and wife Chrissie drove up from New Orleans to participate, and the event was visited by Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Odom and Assistant Secretary of State, Al Ater. Other visitors included Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Dwight Landreneau and former LDWF Secretary Joe L. Herring.

At least one legislator was handling a shotgun for the first time. Rep. Badon admitted having previously only fired a handgun, but surprised himself by busting clays on his first few shots. Rep. Bodie White of Denham Springs was the first to arrive and get shooting, working up a sweat in the 90 degree heat, and one of the last

legislators to arrive was caucus co-chair, Senator Joe McPherson of Woodworth who had to leave his seat as the vice-chairman of



*Reps. Austin Badon (C) and Hollis Downs enjoy the catfish buffet with family*

the still-meeting Finance Committee to make it to the event before the sun went down. McPherson was joined at the shoot by caucus co-chair, Rep. Bryant Hammett.

Some good bargains were had by bidders on a number of silent auction items provided by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. Winners included Sen. Rob Marionneaux and son Robert, Lexxi Gautreaux, Rep. Hollis Downs, Rep. Taylor Townsend and Sen. Joe McPherson. The auction raised \$415. This along with sponsor contributions raised over \$10,000 for LLSC activities on behalf of Louisiana's sportsmen.

Legislators and sponsors attending received a NRA-ILA commemorative Buck pocket knife and a LLSC shirt from Cabela's.

All who attended had a lot of fun doing something a little different than afforded by the "meet and greet" events so routine for legislators during the legislative session. Plans are already being discussed for the "Second Annual LLSC Fun Shoot" at Hunter's Run Gun Club.

With 86 members, Louisiana has one of the largest sportsmen's legislative caucuses in the nation. The next scheduled Caucus event is an October 18th cocktail party hosted at the Baton Rouge home of Richard and Susan Lipsey.

# Wildlife Federation Urges Reservoir Planning Based on Water Supply Needs

In an unsuccessful appeal to members of the Louisiana Legislature during the recent regular session, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urged that the proliferation of reservoir developments proposed to be funded with state dollars through the capital outlay budget be prioritized for funding based on water supply needs. In a two-page resolution, LWF outlined its concerns, shared by numerous other individuals and groups who have roundly criticized some of the proposals over the past few months.

According to LWF executive director Randy Lanctot, the organization became concerned over 3 years ago when the parade of reservoirs began appearing with regularity in the Capital Outlay Bill.

"At first we just wondered what was going on, since Louisiana has plenty of lakes, rivers and other waters for recreation and aquatic habitat," said Lanctot. "But when some of the state's scenic streams, like Six-Mile and the Pushepatapa Creeks were targeted by reservoir proponents for sacrifice to what are apparently local shoreline development schemes, we became particularly interested. These are unique and diminishing habitats in our state," Lanctot continued, "and clearly, the process does not fully consider the significance and permanency of the losses of these resources that will be inundated by the proposed reservoirs. We understand that sometimes sacrifice has to be made, but it should be for compelling public purposes, not merely to enrich one group at the expense of another."

The Federation's concerns are outlined in detail in the following resolution which calls for prioritization of reservoir funding based on the extent to which the projects meet real present and future water supply needs.

## PRIORITIZATION OF RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT BASED ON WATER SUPPLY NEEDS

WHEREAS, Louisiana is blessed with an abundance of surface and ground water that is the envy of other states, and

WHEREAS, despite this abundance some aquifers are being drawn from at unsustainable rates and, during severe drought like the state experienced only a few years ago, water supply for public, agricultural and indus-

trial uses was stressed in some areas to the extent that supply wells had to be drilled deeper and the seepage of saltwater into wells became a problem, and

WHEREAS, the state has an interest in and an obligation to support efforts to provide for adequate public, agricultural and industrial water supply, and

WHEREAS, in response to concerns with aquifer sustainability and the effects of the 1999-'02 drought, the Legislature established the Groundwater Advisory Task Force, and subsequently, the Louisiana Groundwater Resources Commission to conserve and protect the groundwater resources of the state as well as to consider the potential of surface water to contribute to aquifer sustainability by providing an alternative supply, and

WHEREAS, depending upon location, site subsurface geology, and primary purpose for construction, surface water reservoirs may be an important strategy to preserve aquifer sustainability through enhancement of recharge and/or provision of alternate supply, and

WHEREAS, the construction of reservoirs can have significant adverse impacts on forest resources, wildlife habitat, unique stream side and stream bottom ecosystems, home sites, and churchyards and cemeteries that make up the social fabric of communities, all of which are permanently lost when a reservoir is flooded, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has numerous reservoirs, natural lakes and floodways that provide an abundance of excellent habitat for fish and other aquatic and dependent wildlife that are well-distributed throughout the state, including the great Atchafalaya Basin, Toledo Bend Reservoir, hundreds of coastal lakes and bays, False River, Old River, Lake St. John, Lake Concordia, Lake Bruin, Poverty Point Reservoir, Larto and Saline Lakes, Black Lake/Clear Lake, Lake Bistineau, Caddo Lake, Lake Claiborne, Caney Lake, Lake D'Arbonne and dozens of other smaller lakes and reservoirs that provide boating and fishing opportunities to Louisiana citizens and visitors from throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, the construction of any new reservoirs for the primary purposes of providing water-based recreation and real estate

development may not yield any substantial net economic benefits to the state, merely shifting use and associated business from existing waters and established businesses and communities, yet the state (read: taxpayers), through capital outlay expenditures, is providing the majority of the funds needed for reservoir development, including \$825,000 in Priority 1 (P1), \$575,000 in Priority 2 (P2), \$1,250,000 in Priority 3 (P3), \$1,250,000 in Priority 4 (P4) and \$1,325,000 in Priority 5 (P5) for the Washington Parish Reservoir; \$100,000 in P1, \$400,000 in P2, \$1,000,000 in P5 for the Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir; \$500,000 direct from the State General Fund, \$1,500,000 in P1, \$500,000 in P2, \$1,000,000 in P5 for the Poverty Point Reservoir; \$250,000 in P2 and \$500,000 in P5 for the New Morehouse Reservoir; \$400,000 in P1, \$100,000 in P2, \$200,000 in P5 for the Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir; \$800,000 in P1, 500,000 in P2, \$1,000,000 in P5 for the Allen Parish Reservoir; \$1,415,000 in P1, \$500,000 in P2, \$3,900,000 in P3, \$4,000,000 in P4, \$500,000 in P5 for the Bayou Duchene Reservoir and \$200,000 in P2, \$9,900,000 in P3 and \$9,900,00 in P 4 for the Chalk Hills Reservoir (Catahoula Parish) as approved in the Capital Outlay Budget recently adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, and

WHEREAS, most of the aforementioned reservoir projects are not primarily for the purpose of meeting water supply needs and may have the effect of precluding the strategic location of reservoirs that may be needed to meet water supply needs or assist in aquifer recharge, and

WHEREAS, including reservoir projects in the Capital Outlay Budget does not guarantee that they will be built, but it encourages anxiety and expectations in the area of the project on the part of those who would lose their homes to the project and by those whose property values might be enhanced by the project, and usually costs the state substantial dollars in consulting, engineering and administrative fees, regardless of the outcome, and therefore these proposed projects should not be considered merely local and of no impact to the state

*Continued on page 26*

# Hunters Weigh In On Timely Conservation Issues

What do you think about limiting the harvest of buck deer, or morning-only hunting for waterfowl? Would you be willing to pay a few extra dollars a year to support a deer and turkey harvest record/tagging program? What do you think about the practice of hunting ducks over artificially-flooded, unharvested crops of grain...should it be illegal?

The results of a survey of hunters taken last fall and winter has recently been announced by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. The survey was mailed to approximately 25,000 sportsmen, including hunting club members and subscribers to outdoor magazines with questions concerning issues of current interest to wildlife managers and conservationists. Over 2,000 individuals responded to the LWF survey for an 8%+ return. Although the sampling method was not designed to make statistically-valid inferences from the results, LWF believes that the responses provide some interesting and useful trends to contemplate. Survey results have been forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, both currently considering actions that are pertinent to some of the survey questions. The specific questions and responses follow.

**QUESTION:** If it would increase your opportunity to harvest larger, better quality bucks, would you support reducing the limit on buck deer to 2 per season (within an overall 6-deer limit)?

*78% yes  
22% no*

**QUESTION:** A regulation to require hunters to tag and report information on every deer and turkey harvested is under consideration. Implementing it will increase management costs. Do you support a tagging/harvest record program for deer? turkey? If yes, would you be willing to pay an additional \$2 a year for your big game license (or in addition to your lifetime license) to pay for implementing this program?

*Tagging for deer:*

*64% yes  
36% no*

*Tagging for turkey:*

*62% yes  
38% no*

**Support \$2 increase to support program? Of those supporting tagging,**

*81% supported a \$2 fee to pay for the program;*

*18% were opposed to paying extra.*

**QUESTION:** The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has been criticized for proposing, and ratifying at the same meeting, changes in the hunting seasons, thereby preempting the opportunity for hunters to express their opinions before adopting regulations. Do you support establishing a formal policy that will prevent the LWFC from ratifying a regulation (non-emergency) on the same day it is proposed?

*83% yes  
17% no*

(Note: The LWFC cannot adopt a rule the same day it is proposed, except under an emergency declaration. Because of space limitations on the survey, the question had to be oversimplified, but it essentially suggested the situation that occurred at the July 2004 LWFC meeting where substantive changes were made to the proposed hunting season rules [that had been under consideration for the previous 4 months], and subsequently ratified at the same meeting.)

**QUESTION:** To make planning for the hunting seasons easier, do you support the idea of setting hunting season dates at least 6 months in advance of season opening?

*87% yes  
13% no*

**QUESTION:** Two of the factors that bear on the presence and abundance of ducks in Louisiana during the waterfowl season are local hunting pressure, and habitat enhancements up the flyway ("shortstopping"), including the practice of impounding and artificially flooding unharvested crops. To reduce hunting pressure and increase hunting

success, which of the following restrictions on duck hunting would you support? You may check more than one.

*51% supported morning-only hunting.\**

*27% supported moving shooting time up to official sunrise.*

*25% supported a 5-day hunting week (Sat., Sun., Mon., Wed., Thurs.). A few of these respondents wrote in different days, but supported the 5-day waterfowl hunting week.*

*3% supported afternoon-only hunting.*

*5% suggested other strategies to reduce hunting pressure.*

*28% opposed any additional restrictions to reduce hunting pressure.*

\* Waterfowl hunters in North and Southwest Louisiana favored morning-only hunting restrictions by a significant margin over waterfowlers in southeast and south central Louisiana, with the greatest differences between the New Orleans area (30% favored) compared to hunters in the Shreveport and Lake Charles areas (58% favored). This is probably related to the locations hunted in that waterfowlers who hunt the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River deltas like to have the option of hunting when the tides are favorable to move the ducks, which can be later in the day.

**QUESTION:** Because of its similarity to the illegal practice of hunting over bait, do you support prohibiting the shooting of waterfowl over unharvested crops that have been artificially flooded?

*56% supported a prohibition on hunting over artificially-flooded, unharvested crops.*

*44% opposed prohibiting hunting over artificially-flooded, unharvested crops.*

One question asked if the respondent was or is a quail hunter; 30% replied in the affirmative. Based on recent counts of active quail hunters, and comments written in the margins of the survey form, it is clear that most of those responding "yes" have been relegated to armchair quail hunters, at least in Louisiana. Many of the respondents volunteered to assist the "Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative" to restore quail and quail habitat in the state.

# LWF Urges Avoidance of Bird Mortality in Wind Energy Development

Swamp: Continued from page 26

At committee hearings held during the recent legislative session, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urged the state to be cautious as it moved forward with wind energy development along the Gulf coast. The committees were considering HB 428 by Rep. Wilfred Pierre of Lafayette to authorize and regulate the development of wind farms – aggregates of turbines with long vanes (similar to windmills) that will be mounted on towers to capture and convert Gulf breezes to electricity. In addressing the committees, LWF executive director, Randy Lanctot cited the spectacular migration of songbirds that reaches Louisiana's shore each spring. He noted the significance of the event to birders from around the world, and its importance to a growing eco-tourism economy for Louisiana. He cautioned that the development of wind energy in Louisiana should be planned from the beginning to minimize impacts on birds and other wildlife that may become disoriented and collide with the structures.

Providing testimony with Lanctot was Phillip Stouffer, Ph. D., assistant professor of wildlife conservation in the School of Renewable Natural Resources at Louisiana State University. Dr. Stouffer described the characteristics of the migration, the numbers of species and individual birds involved, the rate of passage and the vulnerability to collisions when forced to fly at lower altitudes in response to adverse weather conditions. He provided a handout to committee members with statistics describing the trans-Gulf migration. Emphasizing the migration's unique qualities, Stouffer said that inferences based on the effects of windfarms on birds in other locales throughout the nation and world cannot be uniformly applied to the situation along Louisiana's Gulf coast.

Proponents of the technology assured the legislative committees that state-of-the-art tracking methods will be used to measure and predict migration pulses and that they were prepared to modify operation of the turbines, as necessary, to minimize any adverse effects on bird life. The LWF's proactive effort to assure the consideration and conservation of wildlife in the development of wind energy is authorized and directed by Resolution 14A adopted by the delegates to LWF's 66th annual convention held last March in Monroe. Further

efforts will be directed to securing a comprehensive assessment of environmental impacts, overseen by appropriate state and federal natural resource management agencies, prior to the commercial-scale development of windfarms in Gulf and coastal waters.

The following information was compiled by Dr. Phil Stouffer.

## Facts about bird migration over the Gulf of Mexico:

- The Gulf of Mexico is one of the most important migratory pathways in the world.
- Migration is concentrated in Spring and early Fall.
- Over 50,000 birds/mile/day can arrive on Louisiana's coast.
- Over 25,000 birds can be crossing the Gulf at once.
- Over 100 different species cross the Gulf.
- Migrants breed from Louisiana to the Arctic tundra.
- Many species migrate at night.
- Most birds migrate with tailwinds, at altitudes of over 100 feet.

## When are birds at risk:

- Storms and shifts in wind direction can cause birds to fly lower.
- Birds sometimes stop to rest on oil platforms or boats during bad weather.
- Birds can be attracted to lights.
- Passage can reach 50 birds/second (180,000 birds/hour) near a single platform
- Concentrations of birds would be vulnerable to collision with turbines, potentially leading to catastrophic mortality.

## Has bird mortality due to collisions been documented?

- About 200,000 birds die annually due to collisions with existing Gulf platforms.
- Over 40,000 dead birds were killed off Grand Isle after a single storm.
- Many migrants die after collisions with radio towers and other onshore structures.

## What can be done?

- Begin by recognizing the predictable risks - due to season, weather and specific location in the Gulf.

coastal restoration (or flood plain management or ecosystem restoration programs/projects). A private and/or government timber rights acquisition program where the landowner either donates the timber rights and gets tax benefits or receives a fair market value for the timber rights, will work best for other ("hydrologically hopeless"/"strategic") swampland.

Critically important to the expeditious implementation of incentive and easement programs is the identification of the boundaries and the timber values of the "strategic" and "hydrologically hopeless" swampland forests.

## The Atchafalaya Basin - A Separate Case

Some are unhappy with the results of the timber easement in the Atchafalaya Basin which is essentially an aesthetic easement. It allows the removal of certain sizes of trees at certain distances from waterways, which is very hard to monitor and enforce and some feel that it has not generally produced the aesthetic results desired. In most cases, absent the required use of effective BMPs within a silviculture system, timber easements should entail the acquisition of the ownership right to all the trees on the property. Since the Basin is a federal floodway, the Corps has overriding authority and doesn't have to use regulatory programs if it feels better management is required for the floodway purposes.

## Mulch – a Legitimate Forest Product?

If a swampland owner could manage his/her property for a continuing supply of wood products (some would call that sustainable forestry), and that may be possible if the flooding regime was favorable or it could be controlled artificially, the owner would need a market for trees of small diameter that would periodically have to be thinned from the forest to produce large trees for structural wood. Mulch would be one (and maybe the only profitable one) of those product markets for the thinned trees. The milling of large trees would produce waste that might also be profitable to market as mulch. So, depressing the market for mulch may render the profit margin of managing swamp forests so small as to preclude the economic management of the forest for wood products on a sustained basis. Although that may seem desirable to some, land that does not produce income for the owner from one use is at risk of being put to another, a use that may be very incompatible with ecosystem values. There are countless examples of that.

# Louisiana Waterfowling Heritage Threatened by Global Warming

Populations of ducks and geese could decline across North America during this century due to global warming, according to a new National Wildlife Federation report.

The *Waterfowler's Guide to Global Warming* reports that ducks and geese face substantial loss of breeding grounds, reduction of their coastal winter habitat, and disruptions to their migration patterns. According to National Wildlife Federation President Larry Schweiger, "Global warming is opening a Pandora's box of problems that could diminish populations of ducks and geese across the nation."

The changes caused by global warming would impact waterfowl in Louisiana as well as across the country.

Currently, more than three-quarters of ducks found in Louisiana originate in the Prairie Pothole region of the upper Midwest and South Central Canada. The millions of shallow depressions and ponds in this area, known as "America's Duck Factory," make up one of the most important waterfowl breeding areas on the continent.

Research indicates that warmer temperatures could reduce wetland habitats in these vital duck breeding grounds up to 91 percent, impacting populations of ducks that winter in Louisiana such as mallards, gadwall, blue-winged teal, northern pintails, canvasbacks and redheads.

According to Patty Glick, global warming specialist for the National Wildlife Federation and the report's author, "As the climate warms, many of these ponds are likely to dry up or be wet for shorter periods, making them less suitable habitat for breeding pairs and duck broods. If this comes to pass, there will be implications for the numbers of ducks in Louisiana."

In addition to causing a reduction in the number of ducks nationwide, warmer temperatures in northern parts of the country could relieve the need for waterfowl to fly as far south as Louisiana for the winter.

"Along with smaller duck populations overall, we may see fewer of the remaining ducks wintering here," said Randy Lanctot, executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. "Louisiana is known as a waterfowler's paradise, but the specter of global

warming presents a threat to this heritage and its contribution to the state's economy."

A 2001 US Fish and Wildlife Service survey found that migratory bird hunters spent \$86.7 million on trips and equipment in Louisiana, ranking the state 6th nationally.

"We must not allow global warming to take our nation's waterfowl legacy away from our children," Schweiger says. "Global warming poses a basic threat to our conservation tradition. It challenges our responsibility to be good stewards of the water, land and wildlife. I am confident that sportsmen will lead the way in confronting this challenge."

The report, the first comprehensive look at how global warming's multiple effects threaten North American waterfowl, was issued by the National Wildlife Federation and 27 of its affiliated state conservation organizations, including the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

It compiles the latest scientific research into how changes in climate are affecting waterfowl and how increased temperatures will likely affect breeding, migration and populations of ducks, geese and other waterfowl.

Global warming is already having an impact on waterfowl. In northern breeding habitats, where average temperatures have risen significantly, ducks and geese are responding by breeding earlier and expanding their ranges farther north, the report states.

"We are looking at a potent combination of forces all coming together over the next decades. The effect on ducks and geese could be dramatic," says Glick.

The report highlights additional challenges that waterfowl throughout North America will likely face if global warming continues unabated. For example, changes in precipitation patterns and declines in average mountain snowpack are expected to affect the quality and quantity of water in marshes and estuaries along the Pacific Coast. Thawing permafrost and changes in the vegetation of boreal forests and tundra regions of Alaska and Canada also could affect important breeding habitat for a number of waterfowl species.

Waterfowl also are facing the loss of up to 45 percent of the coastal wetlands they depend on in winter due to a rise in average sea levels, the report states. Especially vulnerable are the shallow wetlands of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. These regions provide important wintering habitat for diving ducks such as canvasbacks, redheads, ruddy ducks and scaup.

Climate scientists point to carbon pollution as the primary culprit behind global warming. In the last 100 years, global temperature rose by an average of 1 degree Fahrenheit, faster than at any time in recorded history.

In places such as Alaska, the change has been even more dramatic. The average temperature in Alaska has risen by 5-7 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century, and is causing problems associated with softening permafrost and erosion along the state's coastline.

Temperatures globally are projected to rise on average from 2-10 degrees Fahrenheit in the coming decades, primarily because of carbon pollution from burning fossil fuels that is trapping heat from being released in the atmosphere.

The report includes a plan of action to reduce global warming pollution and help waterfowl and other wildlife adapt to the changes already occurring. Among the recommendations:

- Enact policies that limit the nation's global warming pollution; protect and enhance forests, grasslands, wetlands and other natural systems that absorb and store carbon; promote energy efficiency and accelerate deployment of renewable energy technologies.
- Manage floodplains, coastal zones and water resources so both people and wildlife are better able to cope with the effects of global warming; and
- Maintain Clean Water Act wetland protections and Farm Bill conservation programs and expand and improvise other programs that encourage protection and restoration of wetlands.

The full report and executive summary can be found at <http://www.nwf.org/news>.

# Global Wildlife Center: A Ride on the Wild Side

by Gary Noel Ross

Imagine 900 acres of rolling hills nestled within a checkerboard landscape of piney woods and grazing lands. Now factor in 3,600 animals representing over 30 species—some either listed as threatened or endangered. Is this bucolic scene East Africa? Or perhaps a documentary on the Discovery



Channel? No, the venue is the Florida Parishes of southeast Louisiana; precisely, Global Wildlife Center in the small community of Unedus, just west of Folsom. Described in Louisiana Life Magazine as “The best kept secret in Louisiana,” GWC is the largest totally free-roaming wildlife facility of its kind in the United States and the Northshore’s answer to Disney’s Animal Kingdom.

At Global Wildlife Center, a quarter of a million visitors each year experience a ride on the “wild side”—an hour and a half safari in the comforts of a covered wagon hitched behind a tractor. Would you like to feel the woolly fur of a bison? The raspy foot-long tongue of a giraffe? Or try to wiggle the hump of a camel? No problem. With no set path, when your guide spots wildlife he brings you up close so that you can get in on the action. Because visitors often purchase a plastic cup of dried corn for feeding, the animals recognize the wagons and make a beeline to them. (For safety reasons, no carnivores are kept on the grounds.) It is easy to shoot your “Kodak Moment” photo at GWC.

Historically, the land now occupied by Global Wildlife Center was used at various times for logging, pasturing cattle, and as a tung oil tree plantation. In 1989, that changed. A Lafayette businessman purchased the acreage. The mission was laudable: “To seek to be a center of excellence in education; to create a perfect place in which threatened and endangered wildlife from around the world live and flourish in a free-roaming nat-

ural environment. A place where children, adults, students, and teachers embrace the values of active conservation and wildlife preservation through hands-on education and first-person sensory experience.” So in June 1991, operating with non-profit status under Global Wildlife Foundation, GWC opened its doors. The venture proved magnetic to both the public and educational institutions. Over the years, accessory buildings have been added to service the growing number of visitors. Just recently, to honor its commitment to research and education, GWC premiered its Animal Care Facility. This state of the art resource provides students attending Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, with a “living classroom.” In the words of Christina Cooper, Education and Development Director, “The Animal Care Facility enables Global Wildlife Foundation to further its mission of education to the collegiate level.”

Spring and fall are ideal times to visit GWC; weather is pleasant and the animals are especially active. For example, spring is nursery time. Approximately 300 animal babies are born each year. Tellingly, nearly 75 percent of the total animals represented at GWC were born in house. GWC attributes its successful reproduction rate to the fact that the animals are free-roaming, and essentially, happy animals have many babies. During autumn, the sign of the season is courtship. Males often engage in ritualistic displays and vocalizations, competing with each other for dominance and mates. Antlers clash and dust flies! This serendipitous unfolding of nature permits visitors to experience the “wild side” at its wildest. All in all, the experiences are an excellent way to jump-start youngsters (and adults, too) into an active consciousness for worldwide conservation. As such, GWC is part of the philosophy of hope.

While exotic herbivores are center stage at GWC, native creatures are not ignored. For example, in 1992 I and several other enthusiasts associated with the Baton Rouge Audubon Society initiated periodic surveys to document native birds and butterflies utilizing the pesticide-free land. Although the bird

counts were short lived, the butterfly surveys (published in the annual report of the North American Butterfly Association’s Butterfly Counts) continue to this day. (The cumulative total of species recorded to date is 61; the most individuals ever recorded on a single day is 475.) Because herbivores find most butterfly-friendly plants irresistible, native butterflies usually make their home in the back acreage, which is fenced off and reserved for expansion. This may change in the near future, however. GWC has plans to develop an impressive butterfly garden near the visitor center. Butterflies will be enticed with favorite nectar plants for feeding and specific host plants for breeding; and human visitors will have a ringside seat for the entire show. The challenge is to devise some reliable and unobtrusive method to isolate the “banquet” from the curious four-footed residents, which, incidentally, seem to grow wiser after sunset! Any suggestions?

How to get there

Global Wildlife Center is located at 26389 Hwy. 40, Folsom, LA 70437. Telephone: (985) 624-WILD or 796-3585. Fax: (985) 796-9487. Internet: <http://www.globalwildlife.com>. There is no admission charge to the Center. Safari wagon tour donation minimums are: \$14.00 adults, \$11.00 seniors (over 62), \$8.00 children (2-11). The facility is open 9-5 daily and year round; call for tour availability, as times vary. Group rates are available. Reservations are necessary for groups of 25 or more, and for special arrangements such as school field trips, safari birthday parties, company gatherings, private parties and church groups.





# LWF 66th Annual Convention – Monroe

*Photos courtesy of Ray Bordelon, Avoyelles Wildlife Federation*

Monroe was the location for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's 66th Annual Convention the weekend of March 4 -6, 2005. The last time the Federation met in Monroe was 1996, almost 10 years ago. Although the weather was cool, folks who got outside to take a break from the meetings enjoyed some of the local wildlife. LWF 2nd VP, Jay Huner did a little birding around the area and has posted a report at the end of this article.

Host affiliate, Friends of Black Bayou, did a wonderful job supporting the meeting. Led by president Ann Smith, the Friends organized the tour that included a visit to Biedenharn Museum and Gardens, lunch at the Visitor's Center on Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge followed by a short tour of refuge highlights and a stop to shop at Antique Village in West Monroe. The Friends had a team to help with setting up and executing the auction and raffle on Friday evening and staffed a hospitality suite acclaimed for the treats provided by Friends'



*President of convention host affiliate Friends of Black Bayou, Ann Smith presents the award-winning work of the group to delegates and guests at the convention hospitality event on Friday evening.*

members. To get things started on Friday, Ms. Smith gave a fascinating presentation on the activities of the award-winning Friends of Black Bayou.

Another of the several highlights of the meeting was the Board of Directors Luncheon with special guest, Larry Schweiger, President of the National Wildlife Federation. Mr. Schweiger spoke of his upbringing in Pennsylvania where he was mentored in the ways of woodsmanship and



*National Wildlife Federation President Larry Schweiger (C) visits with LWF President Smitty Smith (L) and LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau.*

learned about conservation from leaders of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, the NWF's Pennsylvania Affiliate. He is a hunter and angler and told of looking forward to taking his new grandson, Thaddeus, fishing when he is old enough to hold a pole. He made an impassioned plea to preserve unspoiled the great wilderness areas of America and to heed the warning of global climate change so future generations will enjoy the fruits of conservation and not lament our carelessness.

Also at the board luncheon, LWF Past President Joe L. Herring was recognized for attending 50 consecutive LWF conventions, a record that surely will never be surpassed. Etched into the plaque was the likeness of a mule. LWF Executive Director Randy Lanctot made the presentation and explained the reason for calling it the "Old Plodding Mule Award." Seems that Herring is fond of mules and often describes folks who stick with the work over the long haul as old plodding mules. Herring's reference to "old plodding mules" when reviewing the judging criteria with the judges for this year's conservation awards irritated Lanctot and



*Joe McPherson won the President's Gun in the 52-card raffle during the Friday evening fundraiser.*

some of the other awards committee members because the awards are for accomplishment during the previous year, not over the long haul, and there was concern that Herring's statement would confuse the judges. But that gave Lanctot the idea for this special award to recognize Herring's convention attendance record. Herring admitted that it was particularly gratifying to



*The convention registration area is a favored gathering spot for delegates and guests during the meeting. Here Carolyn Bordelon (L) lends a hand to Jodie Singer at the registration table and Joe Herring makes a point with Gina Stanton.*

be considered an "old plodding mule" by his peers in the Federation.

On Saturday afternoon, the LWF convention features interesting and topical presentations on aspects of conservation and environmental quality. This year, Dr. John L. Carr, noted herpetologist from ULM, revealed the secrets of the fascinating alliga-



*The convention Conservation Committees are where the resolutions are initially presented to the delegates. They are always well-attended.*

tor snapping turtle. Due in large part to LWF's efforts, those of LWF board member Martha Ann Messinger from Bastrop, and the initiative of state senator Robert Barham, the alligator snapper is protected from commercial harvest in Louisiana and strict limits on recreational take have been



NWF CEO Larry Schweiger addresses over 60 in attendance at the Board of Directors Luncheon.

imposed. Dr. Carr is currently studying habits of alligator snappers on the Black Bayou Lake NWR and is surveying the reptiles and amphibians on Boeuf and Bayou Macon WMAs. Wildlife Biologist Eric Baka with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries demonstrated how a unique wildlife management technique, the use of artificial nest cavity inserts, is being applied to restore the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). Mr. Baka is coordinating the "Safe Harbor" program that enables private landowners to manage for RCWs while also managing their property for timber and other economic benefits. The insert project was funded by a grant from the National Wildlife Federation's Species Recovery Fund. Dr. Virginia Burkett with the National Wetlands Research Center



Joe L. Herring (L) receives the "Old Plodding Mule Award" recognizing 50 years of consecutive attendance of the LWF's annual convention.

wrapped up the general session with a presentation on the findings of the scientific team that conducted the assessment of the impacts of climate change on North American wildlife for The Wildlife Society. The TWS report, the first comprehensive assessment of climate change's impact on North American wildlife, indicates that warming has already altered migration routes, blooming cycles and breeding habits of animals and plants across the continent.

As is the custom at the Federation's convention, Saturday evening is reserved to honor outstanding conservation work at the

Conservation Achievement Awards Recognition Banquet. Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Dwight Landreneau, represented Governor Blanco and presented the awards along with Jerome C. Ringo, Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation. Both gentlemen addressed the 150 honorees and guests in attendance with cordial greetings and motivational words seasoned with good humor appropriate for the occasion. Once again, outdoor media personality Don Dubuc favored the LWF by serving as banquet Master of Ceremonies. The Governor's Conservation Awards and some of the other presentations made at the banquet are cov-



NWF Chairman, Jerome Ringo addresses the awards banquet. Mr. Ringo is from Lake Charles.

ered elsewhere in this issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine. In addition to those, however, Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation, assisted by LWF Past President Keith Saucier, State Senator Joe McPherson, and Atchafalaya Basin Program Director Sandra Thompson presented LWF Past President and retired Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Joe L. Herring, with a special conservation achievement award from the National Wildlife Federation. And to close the event, LWF Executive Director Randy Lanctot presented a treasure chest to Senator Joe McPherson for his work in passing the legislation that led to the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap amendment to the Louisiana constitution. The content of the chest was not revealed and still remains a secret.

The major measure of productivity of LWF's convention are the resolutions adopted by the delegates. From these resolutions, the Federation takes direction for the months, and sometimes years, ahead. The following are the subjects and resolves of the 12 resolutions that were finally approved and one resolution adopted by the LWF Board of Directors.

Resolve Portions of the Resolutions Adopted by the Delegates to the 66th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, March 4-6, 2005 in Monroe, LA

Res. No. 1A – MONITORING THE STATUS OF STATE RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) commends government agencies with land management responsibilities for their interest and commitment to assisting the state in developing management plans for and monitoring rare, threatened and endangered species and other wildlife species of special concern.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests all government agencies with land management responsibilities in Louisiana to monitor the status of state rare, threatened and endangered species and species of special concern and, to the fullest extent practical and feasible, provide an accurate estimate of the numbers of each such species that utilize the habitat they manage.

Res. No. 2A – SETTING HUNTING SEASONS FOR RESIDENT GAME

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to finally adopt the season dates for resident game species at least 6 months prior to the opening of the seasons, consistent with the administrative procedure requirements of the 120-day advance notice and public comment period.

Res. No. 3B – PERMITTING PROCESS AND FISHERY IMPACTS OF LIQUID NATURAL GAS TERMINALS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO OFF THE LOUISIANA COAST

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges that liquefied natural gas



LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau, representing Governor Blanco, brought the Governor's greetings and his good humor to the awards banquet.

(LNG) processing facilities employ technologies, including but not limited to "closed loop" processing systems, which minimize adverse impacts to marine organisms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that



Joe Herring (R) receives "Conservation Commendation" from Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation as (L-R) Keith Saucier, Joe McPherson and Sandra Thompson look on.

the LWF urges that the cumulative impacts to marine organisms, including the economic impacts to fisheries, be fully assessed prior to implementing the operation of LNG processing facilities in the Gulf of Mexico and coastal waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges that all Gulf and coastal LNG processing facilities be required to conduct an environmental monitoring program to assess their operational impacts on marine resources; that such monitoring programs collect data that is consistent with and directly comparable to that which is collected by state and federal fishery management agencies; that comparable field data collection methods be used and that all data can be readily integrated into state/federal marine fisheries databases; and that all collected data be public records.

Res. No. 6C - HIGH WATER BENCHMARKS FOR HUNTING SEASON CLOSURES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation



LWF officers for the new term are sworn in by Dr. Earl Matthew at the General Assembly of Delegates on Sunday morning.

respectfully requests the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to identify the areas of the state that are subject to severe flooding during the hunting seasons and establish, where appropriate and feasible, benchmark water levels above which hunting seasons within the specified boundaries of the affected areas will be automatically suspended until the water sufficiently recedes in order to protect and conserve the wildlife resources of the state and promote the ethic of fair chase hunting.

Res. No. 7C - CROSSBOW USE DURING THE ARCHERY SEASON FOR DEER

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation reiterates its opposition to any expansion of crossbow use within the current archery framework for deer hunting as was originally stated via similar resolution in 1993, and urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to maintain the current archery deer hunting season regulations with respect to the use of crossbows.

Res. No. 8C - PROHIBITION OF



District VPs take the oath of office for the new term. L-R: Jerry Haas - 7, Sharon Miller - 9, Rick Bryan - 8, Wayne Hammons - 4, Chad LeBlanc - 3, Clint Mouser - 2, Ivor van Heerden - 6.

SPINNING WING DECOYS FOR HUNTING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests that the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) prohibit the use of spinning-wing decoys (SWD) for duck hunting, nationwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and Governor Blanco petition the USF&WS to prohibit the use of SWDs for duck hunting, nationwide.



Warren and Jodie Singer receive their plaques for becoming LWF's newest Life Members from LWF President Smitty Smith (L).

Res. No. 9C - AVOIDING RATIFICATION OF REGULATIONS AT THE SAME MEETING THAT THEY ARE SUBSTANTIALLY AMENDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt a policy that avoids final ratification of proposed rules at the same meeting where they are substantially amended, providing sufficient time for public notice and comment on the amended rules.

Res. No. 10D - AMENDING THE MAGNUSON-STEVEN'S FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT TO PROHIBIT LITTERING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to support amending the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to prohibit littering.

Res. No. 11D - DISPOSAL OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION WASTES IN SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at this time opposes the use of sanitary solid waste landfills to dispose of oil and gas exploration and production waste.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that a comprehensive study of the proper transport and safe disposal of oil and gas exploration and production wastes be done and that these wastes be permitted to be disposed of only in oil and gas waste disposal facilities regulated by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources/Office of Conservation and/or hazardous waste landfills.

Res. No. 12E - DEER MANAGEMENT ON THE KISATCHIE NATION-

## AL FOREST

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) commends the US Forest Service (USFS) for embarking on a program to upgrade the completeness and accuracy of its knowledge base on the white-tailed deer on the Kisatchie National Forest (KNF).



*Dr. Bobby Fulmer (L) gets his name plate for the Life Member plaque he received last year.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests the USFS to advise the public via press release or other written statement of the surveys and studies it intends to undertake to learn more about the white-tailed deer on the KNF.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests the USFS to carry out the comprehensive management program on KNF for white-tailed deer and other wildlife, particularly on the 300,000+ acres of KNF that is not designated for management of the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Res. No. 13E – ESTABLISHMENT OF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING ON THE MAUREPAS SWAMP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation respectfully requests that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries establish a headquarters, centrally located on the water, within the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF supports the action of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to remove private camps from the Maurepas Swamp WMA in compliance with the state's policy prohibiting private camps on state-owned wildlife management areas.

Res. No. 14A – IMPACTS OF OFFSHORE WIND TURBINES ON MIGRATORY BIRDS AND MARINE

## LIFE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges that thorough environmental assessments be made to determine the impacts to migratory and sea birds and marine life for each proposed offshore/coastal windsite prior to commercial scale implementation and further recommends that the following investigations be undertaken to inform these environmental assessments: (1) transect studies to analyze the distribution and density of migratory birds and seabirds that transverse the Gulf; (2) radar studies and the use of thermal imaging video cameras at pilot and control sites; (3) visual observations and flight call recordings to detect movements of passage migrants and foraging birds including avoidance behavior in a pilot wind farm area; and (4) long-term comparative studies before and after installation of a pilot wind farm as well as synchronous investigations in unaffected reference/control areas (the "Before-After Control-Impact approach").

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges that proposed guidelines or regulations pertaining to the total number of wind turbines per cluster, the arrangement of individual turbines within a wind farm, distances between neighboring wind farms, as well as type and amount of illumination to be used on the structures be made available for public comment prior to adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges that suitable standards and appropriate quality control regulations be implemented by the Minerals Management Service, the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and other agencies that regulate offshore/coastal wind farms and power delivery, including adherence to US Fish and Wildlife Service guidance to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources, prior to granting permits to install and operate coastal/offshore wind farms.

## BOARD RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: PUBLISHING CASES MADE FOR VIOLATIONS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAWS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to post pertinent enforcement information, in a user-friendly format, on its Internet website,

including but not limited to information on cases made and the judicial district to which cases are assigned.

Thanks to the generosity of many sponsors, donors and supporters, the convention fundraising auction and the convention itself helped to raise sufficient funds to cover all expenses and raise additional dollars to support the LWF's programs. These generous individuals, organizations and businesses are gratefully acknowledged below.

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Special thanks go to the following persons, organizations and businesses for supporting this convention with their generous donations.

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### Birding in Monroe

*LWF 2nd Vice President, Jay V. Huner, Ph. D. finds some time during the busy convention schedule to enjoy the bird life around the meeting venue.*

It's 8:05 AM Saturday morning on March 5th, 2005. I've just returned after a short errand to the Holiday Inn where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is holding its annual convention. It's clear and cool. I hear Blue Jays, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Common Grackles in the brush and trees behind my room. So, I start "pishing," a method of attracting birds into view - one simply repeats quick cadence pishhh, pishh, pishh sounds. And, up pops a White-crowned Sparrow, several Yellow-rumped Warblers, and, to my surprise, a diminutive, short-tailed Winter Wren, a somewhat hard to find winter visitor in Louisiana.

A birder's "bag" is his/her list of birds found during a defined period and area. My visit to Monroe included an early after-

noon trip the previous day to Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge, seven miles north of the Holidome. Mid-afternoon birding is rarely as rewarding as early morning birding because birds are usually not very active and weather conditions - windy and sunny - are often poor for finding birds. However, birding conditions at BBNWR were outstanding being cool, calm, and partly cloudy. Songbirds were actively foraging and singing throughout the accessible areas of the refuge. I quickly found Song and Swamp sparrows, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Killdeers, American Robins, Northern Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Northern Cardinals, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Common Grackles. Sure, these are birds that I'd expect to find in such habitat throughout Louisiana from October through March.

I did, however, find a rare bird for Louisiana, in general, and northeastern Louisiana, in particular, a beautiful male Vermillion Flycatcher. This red-bodied, black-winged charmer was fly catching from the top of a bare willow next to the refuge's fishing pier. To be sure, I was looking for the bird as a refuge biologist had just told me that the bird had been present throughout the winter and the presence of at least two flycatchers had been reported at the refuge earlier in the winter. But, just because the birds were known to be present, doesn't mean that you'll see them! So, finding a specimen, far from its nesting grounds in the southwestern USA and northwestern Mexico was a real treat.

Later, I also found two wintering Prairie Warblers along a tree line adjacent to a bayou. While not as great a find as the flycatcher, these tail bobbing birds with yellow undertails are winter treats for birders in the southern USA, too. All told, I found 41 species of birds at the refuge and in Monroe despite limited time for birding. Surprisingly, the only waterbirds I managed to locate were a Pied-billed Grebe, several Double-crested Cormorants, and a Mallard. Absence of waterbirds, especially egrets and herons, was not unexpected because such birds move at dawn and dusk to and from roosts and feeding areas. Had I been out and about, especially at the refuge, several times during my stay in Monroe, I surely would have found 50-60 different bird species.

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Ole Tibby



Bon Jour Mes Amis.



practice calling the ducks and geese. Last week I was in the process of teaching my 3-year-old great grandson to blow a duck call. After a short while, he walked away saying, "Pa Pa, I'm not big enough for that."

I spoke to Mervis Saltzman from Gueydan, a rice farmer and maker of La Chien Caille duck and goose calls. He reported having a poor season last year with few ducks and only 13 geese. That is something for the rice country of southwest Louisiana that used to attract waterfowl like a magnet.

I have heard that there has been plenty of rain in prairie Canada and the pothole region this late spring and summer, so that should help. Old friend Walter Fornet told me that he was catching plenty of fish and killy lots of ducks watching "Paradise Louisiana" on the TV. I agreed, saying that I do that too, but cannot make a gravy with it.

That's all for now.  
Ole Tibby  
Doctor of Quackology

I sincerely hope you are all enjoying the great outdoors. Spring is over and summer is well underway. Time to catch the fish you like and enjoy all the outdoor activities we are very lucky to have in our state.

I am appreciative of the good work of Senators Vitter and Landrieu in trying to get funding for coastal erosion. Perhaps a thank-you note is in order.

With the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest just a month away, and the waterfowl season just around the corner its time to

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Welcome to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF). We are a statewide, non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization established in 1940 to "restore, preserve, develop and increase the birds, fish, game, forestry, wild flowers and all other wildlife resources of the State of Louisiana." LWF represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, fishers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts who believe in constructive conservation and protection of our state's natural resources and the quality of the environment. Thank you for visiting our web site. We welcome your comments. Email to [lwf@lawildlifefed.org](mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org)

**LWF Recommends Swamp Forest Conservation Strategies**  
Jul 15, 2005

In response to concern over the harvest of timber from swamp forests provoked by proposals to commercially harvest the timber from fairly large tracts of privately-owned swamp in the Lakes Pontchartrain-Maurepas Basin and elsewhere in the so... For the entire story [More](#)...

  
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