



LOUISIANA

Wildlife

FEDERATION

Number 1 Volume 28

Spring/Summer 2000



■ *Conservationists Recognized*

■ *Big Creek Revisited*

■ *One That Got Away*

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On the Cover ...

Louisiana has a greater variety and abundance of fishing opportunities than any place we can think of....swamps, lakes, marshes, coastal bays, the surf, and offshore; just some of the places in the Bayou State where you can productively wet a line. Then there's "country style" fishing where, like young Teddy Garitty, you can slip on old sneakers, shorts, a T-shirt, and enjoy a day on one of our many scenic streams in quest of the feisty spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*).



LOUISIANA Wildlife FEDERATION

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Magazine Staff

Randy P. Lancot: Editor
Jon Barry: Contract Publisher
Hoa V. Vu: Advertising Director

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Keith
Saucier*



What an honor and privilege it is being able to serve as president of an outstanding organization like the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. I have to admit, it's all just a little overwhelming. But the support and guidance I'm getting from those in the organization who have dedicated their lives to conservation makes the job so much easier, and so rewarding.

I'm pleased to report that our 61st Annual Meeting was well-attended with 20 of our 35 affiliates and 7 of our 9 districts represented. Convention delegates adopted 24 good resolutions, and some extraordinary people and their outstanding achievements were

recognized at the 36th Conservation Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the convention. Of course, everybody found time to have some fun while getting a lot of important work done.

Among the most important convention resolutions was the one that dealt with the proposed fee increases for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). As soon as convention was over we began working to generate support for a fee increase package that would keep the agency afloat without significant cuts to personnel and services. We mailed out "Action Alerts" to our affiliate leaders urging them to contact their legislators in support of reasonable fee increases. We provided testimony to the Natural Resources Committee of the Louisiana House of Representatives when the fee bill was first considered during the 1st Special Legislative Session and were the only conservation group to have members present working to pass the bill when it came up for vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. The vote fell 4 short of the

super majority of 70 needed (required by the Louisiana Constitution) to pass a fee increase, but we gave it a strong effort and I know the vote was a lot closer because of it.

During the Regular Legislative Session, several measures were introduced to generate revenue for LDWF including a small increase in the state income tax and a small increase in the state fuel tax. Again, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was the only conservation or sportsmen's group to provide testimony in support of these proposals. Unfortunately, neither got very far in the process. The LDWF funding crisis was temporarily resolved when the Legislature adopted a conservative fee increase package during the 2nd Special Session that adjourned June 25th. This time groups such as the Turkey Federation, CCA, and BASS Federation played a more active role. Even so, the bill passed the House and Senate with only the

Continued on page 24

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Randy
Lanctot*



Thank you for bearing with us through this communication drought. Unanticipated staffing issues and special legislative sessions pushed us off what was an already full and busy schedule. So without further ado, let's catch up on what's been going on.

Our 61st annual meeting and 36th conservation awards presentations have come and gone. I hope you will read about them in this issue, especially the outstanding accomplishments of our honorees.

So far this year the Louisiana Legislature has convened 3 times. Each time, strategies for shoring up the finances of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries were major items. In the



Bud Carpenter (R) opens a duck so outdoors workshop participants can see the gizzard, crop and other "innards" biologists examine to determine such things as food habits that provide vital wildlife management information.

end, a package of fee adjustments was adopted by the bare minimum number of votes required, but not without a lot of hard work and pointed discussion concerning the administration of the agency. Hopefully, all parties were listening and improvements will be made. Much more could be said, and perhaps will be in a future column. But for now I'm proud to say that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was steadfast in its support for a reasonable fee adjustment that was acceptable to the vast majority of the rate-paying sportsmen and women of the state. And with the help of the Legislature, I believe that's

what we achieved. We fully recognize that financing the LDWF will continue to be an issue as costs rise and responsibilities of resource stewardship grow. We hope the agency, the governor, and members of the Legislature will work with us in the months ahead to avert another hand-wringing crisis like the one just passed.

Earlier this year the Louisiana Wildlife Federation partnered with the



"Big Ron" Bartels guides a blindfolded teacher through the "sensory safari" during an evening session at the outdoor workshop. The objective of the exercise is to identify the animal by feeling various characteristic features represented by the specimens.

Executive Director: *Continued on page 4*

Louisiana Chapter of Safari Club International, Louisiana Ducks



Teachers braved a chill late January afternoon for orienteering with map and compass at the outdoor workshop cosponsored by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Unlimited, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Miller Brewing "Friends of the Field" to host a workshop for teachers at LDWF's Outdoor Education Center near Woodworth. Twenty educators representing schools from all corners of the state dedicated their weekend to participate. Activities included nature hikes, skeet shooting, orienteering, identifying and dissecting different species of ducks and geese, a "sensory safari" and presentations on other outdoor skills and conservation education activities and programs



United States Senators Mary Landrieu and John Breaux framed by the hollow of the world champion baldcypress tree. The senators were there for the announcement of the establishment of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Executive Director: Continued on page 12

BIG CREEK REVISITED

(The following story was submitted by Lafayette insurance executive B. E. M. "Ben" Skerrett, III in response to an article that appeared in the last issue. - ed.)

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the article in the latest Federation maga-

it. He assured me that I wouldn't and, as much as I liked to fish, I really needed to learn to use one. So I thanked him and set out to learn by trial and error, without instruction.

He left me one bait, a shimmy wiggler, which was a spoon-type bait with a single hook that had a red and white bucktail. I



A bass like the one Ben caught in Big Creek 62 years ago.

zine entitled "Big Creek Saga".

It was on Big Creek that I caught my first black bass on artificial bait, at the age of 17. That was 62 years ago, and I remember it as though it were yesterday.

Big Creek was every bit as beautiful as it is described in the article. It was a favorite of people in Alexandria, where I lived at the time, for fishing, swimming (in Dean's Hole), and camping.

One day, in August of 1938, two boys who lived in my neighborhood came to see me. They were Gordon Stafford, and Walter Hill. Both were 12-year-old cousins. They wanted to go camping at Fishville, but their parents would not let them go unless an older boy went along. Gordon Stafford's parents had taken me fishing with them several times, and I was glad to go along.

Mr. And Mrs. Stafford brought us to Fishville, on the bank of Big Creek, dropped us off with a tent and provisions for a week, and came to get us a week later.

Before he left, Mr. Stafford came up to me with a rod and reel in his hand. He said, "Ben, I appreciate your taking care of the boys this week, and would like to lend you my wife's rod and reel to use while you're here".

I replied that I had never used one, didn't know how, and was afraid I might damage

practiced on the bank with little short casts until I could get it to go out without a backlash. Then, I tried it on water.

There was a large log which went across the creek from one bank to the other. I walked out on that log, and made a long cast downstream. The water was crystal clear, with a white, sandy bottom. As I reeled in I could see a dark form following my bait. I had read in OUTDOOR LIFE not to slow down a bait to let a fish get it because the fish can swim lots faster than you can reel. In my excitement, I must have increased reeling, because the fish suddenly struck. How I didn't fall off that log I'll never know, but I landed my first bass. As I remember now, it probably didn't weigh much over a pound. But to me at that time, it was a monster.

My aunt and uncle had sent me a check for \$10 as a high school graduation present which I had set aside until something came along that I really wanted. That fish made my decision. As soon as the camping trip was over, I bought a new rod and reel, a spool of line, and a red and white Shimmy Wiggler – all for my \$10.

In view of the above, I'm 100% in favor of restoring Big Creek to its former natural beauty.

CONSERVATIONISTS RECOGNIZED

Box Turtle Advocates, 7 Others Recognized by State Wildlife Federation for Outstanding Conservation Achievement

Husband/wife team Martha Ann Messinger and George M. Patton have received the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Governor's Award. The award is presented

Louisiana Wildlife Federation convened last March for its 61st Annual Meeting.

"Amateur" herpetologists and students of box turtle behavior, Messinger and Patton went to bat last year for Louisiana's declining box turtle populations. Through their initiative and tireless lobbying efforts, legislation was enacted to prohibit the commercial harvest of these fascinating and docile Louisiana



Martha Ann Messinger and George M. Patton are presented the Governor's Award as Conservationists of the Year by Dr. Earl B. Matthews, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation (R) and Karen Gautreaux (L) representing Governor Mike Foster at the 36th annual conservation awards banquet of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

annually to the person(s) or organization deemed to have made the 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 from among nominations submitted by the public. The selection for this and 7 other awards was made by a panel of independent judges with expertise in a wide range of conservation fields.

Messinger and Patton of Bastrop received the award, a handsome statuette of a bald eagle, from Karen Gautreaux representing Governor Mike Foster and Dr. Earl Matthews, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation. The award was presented at the 36th Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre in downtown Alexandria where the

natives, and limit their possession. Louisiana box turtles can no longer be collected and sold for the international pet trade and suffer the inevitable damage and trauma caused by shipping and relocation. The law will help insure that wild box turtles will be around for the enjoyment and wonder of future generations.

Four other individuals, two organizations and a corporation were also recognized for their outstanding conservation achievement in 1999. They are:

Atchafalaya Basin Program Director, Sandra Thompson Decoteau of Baton Rouge for shepherding the development of the State's master conservation and recreation plan for the Atchafalaya Basin and guiding legislation authorizing the plan and its 15-year funding program through the State Legislature;

Wildlife rehabilitator, Noel A. Thistlethwaite of Prairie Basse (St. Landry) for dedicating her life to saving injured and orphaned wild creatures and returning them to their natural habitat;

Vermilion Parish 4-H'er, Marla Elizabeth Adam of Kaplan for coordinating "Operation Quackback", a program organized by Louisiana rice farmers to provide winter habitat for ducks, geese and other wetland-dependent wildlife species;

Pineville-based Cleco Corporation for dedicating financial and staff resources to conservation education efforts statewide, providing industry leadership in recycling and exemplary stewardship of the natural resources on its land holdings;

Tensas River Refuge Association Instructor Corps for bringing the wonders of the "Tensas" to students and adults in the community and educating them about wildlife, habitat, and the importance of these resources to their lives;

Louisiana State Senator Robert J. Barham of Oak Ridge for sponsoring legislation to conserve the Louisiana box turtle and guiding legislative support for the conservation of Black Bayou Lake and adjacent lands which is now a national wildlife refuge near Monroe;

The Louisiana Nature Center in eastern



Sandra Thompson Decoteau, holding her grandson, receives the Professional Conservationist of the Year award from Karen Gautreaux.

New Orleans for a nationally-recognized nature education program providing unique and innovative opportunities to learn about

Conservationists Recognized: Continued on page 13

LWF 61ST CONVENTION: HIGHLIGHTS/RESOLUTIONS

The 2000 annual meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was held earli-

pitality suite on Friday and Saturday evenings, with financial support from the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation. Convention

ering resolutions for adoption. Twenty-four of the 25 resolutions submitted were finally adopted by delegates and directors present at the meeting. These dedicated conservation leaders collectively represented 20 of LWF's 34 affiliates and 10,000 of the organization's 14,000 members. The resolution that generated the most interest and discussion concerned the fee proposal by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The committee hearing the resolution even had to reconvene after the board luncheon to wrap-up what turned out to be a 3-hour



LWF officers and executive committee members for the new term (L-R) Joe L. Herring, 1st V. P.; Keith Saucier, president; Smitty Smith, 2nd V. P.; Dr. Earl Matthew, NWF Region 8 director; Gene Dautat, Jr., treasurer; Dr. Bobby Fulmer, executive committee; Jay Huner, Ph.D.; executive committee. Not pictured: Virginia Burkett, secretary; Edgar F. Veillon, representative to NWF; Kathy Wascom, past president.

er this year in Alexandria. CENLA members and clubs, including the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, Rapides Wildlife Association, Catahoula Lake Conservation Club and Bayou Bassmasters of Alexandria served on the Host Committee and helped arrange for an outstanding meeting at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre. As is its custom, the Clio Sportsmen's League hosted a super hos-



Marc Dupuy, Jr. of Marksville (R) receives the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement from LOWA member Senator Joe McPherson.



Bretns Witty, retiring from the Board after 16 consecutive years of service, gives LWF President Kathy Wascom a hug after she surprised him with a gift presentation at the awards banquet.

format varies little from year to year, but new issues, challenges and participants mingle with three generations of tradition to make for an interesting and productive weekend.

Although there are 3 board meetings and other activities associated with the LWF convention, the main events are the conservation achievement recognition banquet on Saturday evening and the process of consid-



Perennial recipient of the LWF President's Cup, Edgar F. Veillon once again is recognized as the LWF member who provided the most assistance to the LWF president during the year. The cup is presented by outgoing LWF President Kathy Wascom.

debate. The complete text of each resolution as adopted is printed at the end of this article.

At the Board Luncheon on Saturday, directors and guests heard from Red River Waterway Commissioner Alvin Owens who made a presentation describing the Red River Waterway Project and its many recreational features. New officers were also elected at the luncheon. Keith Saucier of Gonzales with the East Ascension Sportsmen's League was elected president, Joe L. Herring of Baton Rouge, also with EASL was elected 1st V. P., district 3 at-large director Smitty Smith of New Iberia was elected 2nd V. P., past president Gene Dautat of Kenner was reelected treasurer, and district 9 at-large director Virginia Burkett of Many was elected secretary. Past president Edgar F. Veillon of New Orleans

61st Convention: Continued on page 21

The One That “Got Away”

by Elbridge A. “Smitty” Smith, III

Most of my fishing adventures begin out of a small community on Vermilion Bay in south central Louisiana known as

“big game”. But to a three-year-old, it was a Cajun marlin. Ever since that day I have pursued larger and larger fish. Like a man lost in the desert whose torrid thirst drives him forward, my quest

portion which will receive the brunt of the punishment during a battle with a giant fish.

I have learned much from Shannon about rigging for and catching marlin, but more importantly, he has educated me and countless others who have fished with him about conservation. He religiously practices “catch-and-release”. He



Author holding on to a white marlin waiting to place a tag.

Cypremort Point. It's there that I was introduced to “big game” fishing. I was a mere three years old when I first caught a fish larger than me. Okay, so it was a garfish, and that really doesn't count as

has allowed me to meet and fish with many wonderful people. After all, anyone who fishes cannot be all bad.

Well, this story begins like many others; on a stifling hot July afternoon at the marina on Cypremort Point. It was there that I was to meet Shannon Pecot, owner and captain of the “Fortunate Son”, a forty-foot custom sportfisherman, for a weekend of fishing. We were headed offshore in pursuit of marlin, tuna, and anything else that would chase our baits.

When I met up with Shannon on the dock, he was readying several rods and reels. I believe that one spends at least a thousand times more effort in preparing for battle with a marlin than actually fighting one. Shannon was busy tying knots and setting drags on the reels we were to use that weekend. There are a million things that can and will go wrong when you try to subdue a fish that can weigh as much as a thousand pounds with a stick and some string. Great care and much preparation goes into each rod, reel, spool of line and its terminal



Author in the “hot seat” “backing down” on a blue marlin.

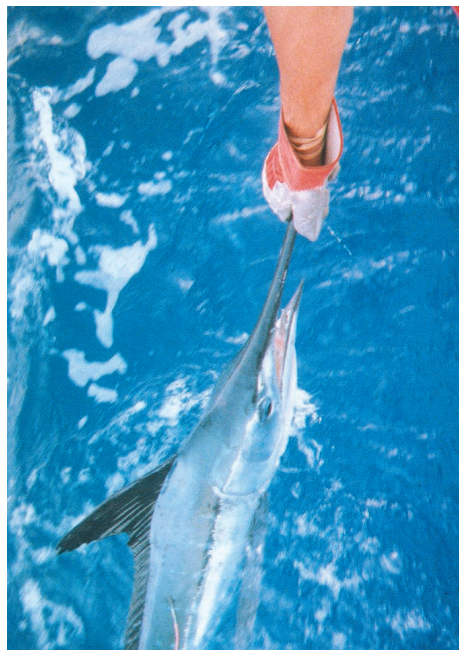
is always making sure we fully revive any marlin before we release it. He and I once spent more than an hour hanging upside-down in the water attempting to revive a marlin that was in distress because another boat had inadvertently released it without fully reviving it. I sometimes believe there is a kind of kindred spirit between Shannon and the fish he pursues week after week. He is also one of those smarter-than-average captains that realizes the future of big game fishing is riding on every move we make today. A dead billfish today could mean



Author wiring an estimated 300# blue marlin.

hundreds less billfish to fight in years to come.

Over the next three to four hours the crew arrived one-by-one with their gear and ear-to-ear smiles. The electricity was in the air and confidence was high. The wind was calm and we knew this was going to be an outstanding weekend. So,



White marlin with tag in proper position.

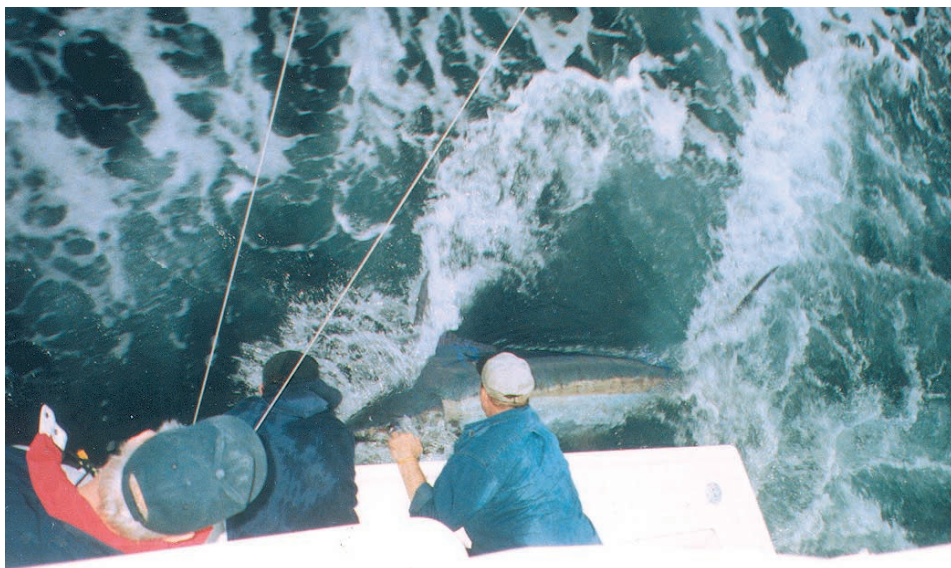
with a thousand gallons of fuel, plenty of fresh water, and enough food to supply the “Cajun Coast” we left the dock. We were headed to Southwest Pass at Marsh Island and then the Gulf of Mexico. With all the excitement in the air, everyone was on the flying bridge; no one

Their large eyes, adapted for seeing in the dark depths, are hindered by sunlight. In fact, some of our largest tuna have been taken while pulling lures in total darkness and most of the “bites” occur when the sun is below the horizon.

At last the sky started to turn, and so

pelagics, anything in the water can instantly be reduced to floating remains. It wasn’t until about two hours later, with our bellies full and our minds beginning to wander, that one of the monarchs graced us with its presence.

There was a mini-explosion in the water near one of the lures, a pause, and then the line began spooling off the reel. Michael grabbed the rod and with tremendous force set the hook by lifting the rod swiftly and firmly above his head with two slashing rips. Instantly, the water exploded and a marlin leapt free from its surface. It was a white marlin, and it had felt the hook and was trying everything in its power to throw it. (White marlin, *Tetrapturus albidus*, is a



Reviving the big blue

wanted to go below just yet.

Once through the pass, and with the sun and excitement fading, many of the crew went below to watch television and retire for the night. Just out of the pass we began to discuss where we were headed. This discussion was somewhat “just for show” because we all knew that Shannon has his “honey hole”...Green Canyon. The GPS and auto-pilot were set, and with over 100 miles to our destination everyone settled in for the long overnight haul. The boat had been to Green Canyon so many times that the auto-pilot almost seemed unnecessary as the boat probably knew her own way.

About 4 a.m. the next morning the GPS revealed a mere few miles to our destination. I began to get my second wind. Michael Defilice, Shannon’s mate and I went below to the cockpit (back deck) and Shannon handed down the rods and reels from the flying bridge. Michael and I then attached various sizes and colors of skirted plastic baits, all custom made by Shannon through his store, Cajun Guns and Tackle in New Iberia. With that done, we dropped the outriggers, dropped back the baits, and waited for the first hint of light. It’s usually in these early dark hours that tuna feed.

did our excitement. With the aroma of breakfast coming from the cabin, we gazed at the baits with great anticipation. Someone once wisely said that big game fishing is hours of boredom suddenly interrupted by sheer chaos. Malcolm Migues, captain and owner of the sport-fisher “Lickety Split” and arguably one of the best “bottom” fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico, a legacy passed on to him by his father, was to be the first angler up in the chair that morning. However, that morning we weren’t after “bottom” fish. We were in pursuit of the apex predators. Those few elite fish whose presence, like kings and queens, command everyone’s respect, a respect earned through millennia of evolution. For with a slash of a bill or the ferocious bite of any of these



Yellowfin tuna about to come to gaff.



Bobby Broussard with 150# yellowfin tuna onboard “Fortunate Son”.

smaller member of the billfish clan usually not exceeding 200 pounds.) Hurriedly, Malcolm climbed into the fighting chair, and Michael handed him the rod. At that point the marlin was starting to really put on a show, doing flips and head stands as if a world-class gymnast. Mary Lou Retton would envy some of the moves white marlin are capable of. But its spectacular dance was of no avail; the hooks were embedded firmly in its mouth and there would be no escape today. Minutes later the fish was near the boat. Michael and I prepared to wire the fish and place a tag in it.

Got Away: *Continued on page 37*

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Officers:

President **Keith Saucier**, P.O. Box 1795
Gonzales, LA 70707;
225 (res.) 647-6653 (wk.)
383-7771, Ext. 1561
(fax) 677-7416; **email-**
krssaucier@cs.com

1st-V. P. **Joe L. Herring**, 1021 Rodney
Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808;
225 (res.) 766-0519

2nd-V. P. **Elbridge A. "Smitty" Smith III**
611 Victory, New Iberia, LA
70560; 337 (res) 364-9341;
email- looneytuna1@aol.com

Secretary **Virginia Burkett, Ph.D**, P.O.
Box 1557, Many, LA 71449;
318 (wk.) 256-5628; **email-**
virginia_burkett@usgs.gov

Treasurer **Eugene J. Dautat, Jr.**, 608
Meursault, Kenner, LA 70065;
504 (res.) 468-8408 (wk.)
524-4444

Executive Committee:

Above 5 Officers and 4 Persons Listed Below:

Kathy Wascom, 1255
Aberdeen Ave., Baton Rouge,
LA 70808; 225 (res.) 344-

Staff:

Executive Director

4313 (fax) 387-1027; **email-**
krwascom@aol.com

Bobby Fulmer, M.D., P.O.
Box 99, New Roads, LA
70760; 225 (res.) 638-8869

Jay V. Huner, Ph.D, 130
Ashland Ct., Lafayette, LA
70508; 337 (res.) 234-0682
(wk.) 482-5239; **email-**
jjhuner@mindspring.com

Edgar F. Veillon, Rep. to
NWF, 4616 South Roman St.,
New Orleans, LA 70125; 504
(res.) 899-4049 (wk.) 454-
1212 (fax) 885-4887

Randy P. Lanctot, P.O. Box
65239 Audubon Station,
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239
Office: 337 South Acadian
Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA
70806; 225 (wk.) 344-6762
(fax) 344-6707 (res.) 346-0752
email- lawildfed@aol.com

Development Director

Bill Ford, **email-**
fordlwf@aol.com

District Vice-Presidents:

District 1 **Jimmy Greene**, 3129 Roosevelt
Blvd., Kenner, LA 70065; 504
(wk) 443-1926 (St. Tammany,
Orleans, St. Bernard,
Plaquemines Parishes)

District 2 **Clinton Mouser**, 4428 Toby
Lane, Metairie, LA 70003; 504
(res) 887-8475; **email-**
cmau5@gateway.net (Jefferson,
Lafourche, St. Charles, St.
James, St. John the Baptist
Parishes)

District 3 **Chuck Seiber**, 6970 Cemetery
Rd., St. Martinville, LA
70582; 337 (res) 394-3393
(Lafayette, Vermillion, St.
Martin, Terrebonne, Iberia, St.
Mary, Iberville, Assumption
Parishes)

District 4 **Vacant** (Caddo, Bossier,
Webster, Claiborne, Lincoln,
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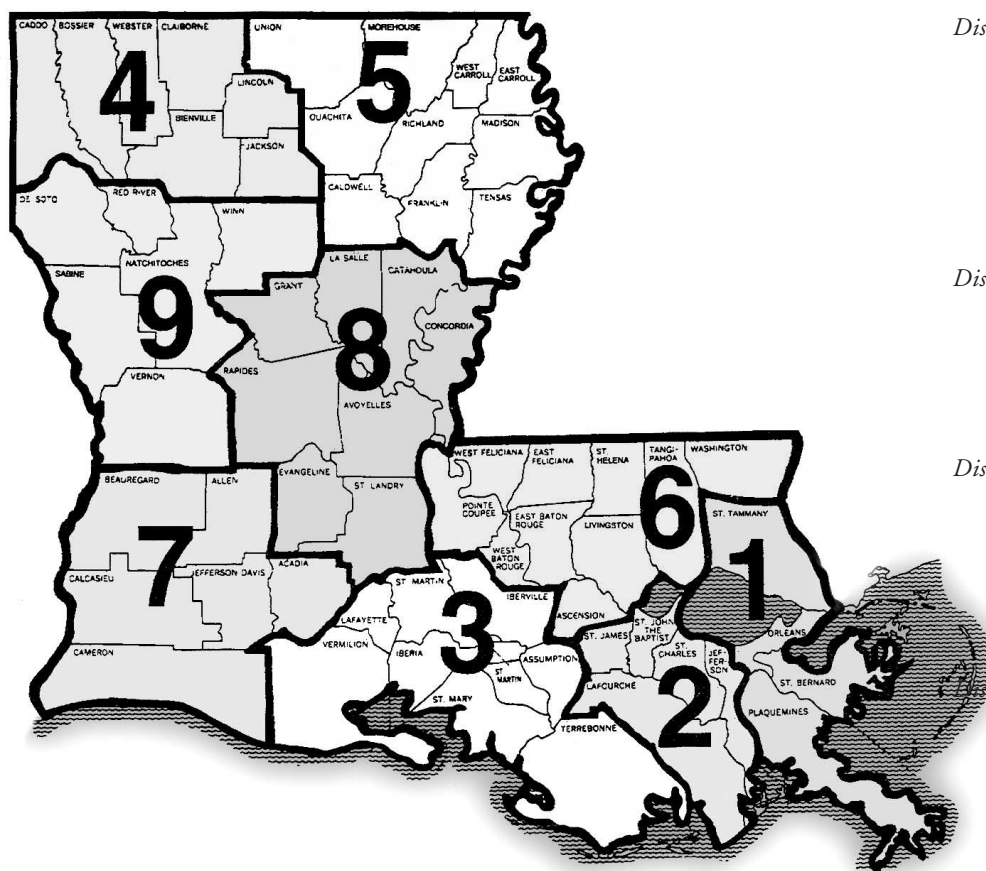
District 5 **Martha Ann Messinger**, 2022
Gemini Dr., Bastrop, LA
71220; 318 (res) 281-0113
(fax) 283-8111; **email-**
gpatton@bayou.com (Union,
Morehouse, East Carroll, West
Carroll, Ouachita, Richland,
Madison, Caldwell, Franklin,
Tensas Parishes)

District 6 **Francis Gautreaux**, 12380
Fernand Rd., Gonzales, LA
70737; 225 (res.) 673-4991
(Washington, Tangipahoa, St.
Helena, Livingston, Ascension,
East Feliciana, West Feliciana,
East Baton Rouge, West Baton
Rouge, Point Coupee Parishes)

District 7 **Don Clark**, 208 West Spring
St., Lake Charles, LA 70605;
318 (res.) 477-0370
(Beauregard, Allen, Calcasieu,
Cameron, Jefferson Davis,
Acadia Parishes)

District 8 **Ray D. Gibson**, 783 Hog
Island Rd., Dry Prong, LA
71423; 318 (res.) 899-5501
(Grant, LaSalle, Catahoula,
Concordia, Rapides, Avoyelles,
Evangeline, St. Landry
Parishes)

District 9 **Larry Kelly**, 210 Hillcrest Dr.,
Anacoco, LA 71403; 337 (res)
386-9944; **email-**
kellyle@worldnetla.net
(DeSoto, Red River, Sabine,
Natchitoches, Winn, Vernon
Parishes)



LWF DIRECTORS ELECTED

Directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation are either members of an affiliated club selected by that club to represent it on the LWF Board of Directors, or they are individual members elected by the other Federation members in their district to serve on the board. The elections for district at-large directors are held every other year in each of the 9 LWF districts, districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 in odd-numbered years and 2, 4, 6, and 8 in even years. The following district at-large directors were elected last fall and began their 2-year term on the board in January.

District 1

Barbara A. Dodds of Covington was reelected and Don Dubuc of Mandeville was elected to represent LWF individual contributing members in District 1 which includes the parishes of St. Tammany, Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines. Mrs. Dodds is a volunteer activist/lobbyist on issues pertaining to public policy, government and the environment. She is active in the Louisiana League of Women Voters and has served on the League's state board since 1989 as Natural Resources/Environmental Chair. Currently she is



Barbara A. Dodds

lobbyist at the Louisiana Legislature on environmental issues for the League. She was recognized by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as Volunteer Conservationist of the year for 1993. She has served as an at-large board member of the LWF representing District 1 since 1996. Recently, she represented the Federation in Washington as a participant in Arctic Wilderness Week to encourage the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to cosponsor the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Bill. Mrs. Dodds' hobbies include wildflower gardening, birding, golfing, painting, boating swimming/snorkeling and land use issue. She says that she shares many of the same values on conservation and environmental issues as the LWF and believes that she can be more effective in conserving and protecting natural resources by working with the Federation.

Don Dubuc is an outdoor writer and broadcaster with numerous credits including the "Outdoors With Don Dubuc" radio network, and

outdoor columns in daily newspapers and monthly magazines. He is past president of the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association and a former officer of the St. Tammany Sportsmen's League. He stays

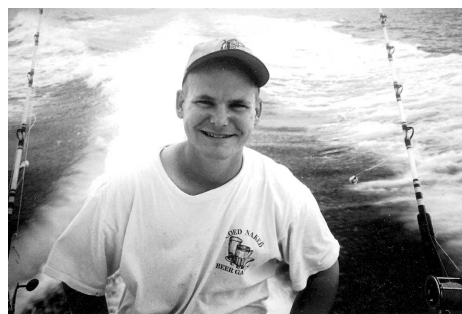


Don Dubuc

involved in many issues and programs concerning fish, wildlife, conservation and the environment through his media work and as a volunteer. Mr. Dubuc enjoys all types of hunting and fishing and is a volunteer at the local high school. He would like to help the Louisiana Wildlife Federation to be more widely recognized throughout the state to get the recognition it deserves, and help make other more specialized wildlife/fishing and outdoor organizations aware how being affiliated with LWF can help accomplish their goals.

District 3

Elbridge A. "Smitty" Smith, III of New Iberia was elected and Jay V. Huner, Ph.D of Lafayette was reelected to serve on the LWF board representing LWF members in District 3 that includes Iberville, Assumption, St. Martin, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermilion and Lafayette Parishes. Mr. Smith has a degree in fisheries biology and was employed as a senior field biologist in marine fisheries by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for several years before joining his family's contracting business. In addition to being a mem-



Smitty Smith

ber of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation where he formerly served on the board representing the Iberia Rod and Gun Club, he is a member of the

National Rifle Association, Billfish Foundation and the International Gamefish Association. Mr. Smith's hobbies include big game fishing, SCUBA diving, bowhunting, gun collecting and weighmaster for saltwater fishing tournaments. He says that he brings a unique perspective to LWF that he was born and raised a Cajun and fishing and hunting are a way of life for him, but that as a trained scientist he has experienced the professional and political turmoil that can exist on the other side of the outdoor experience.

Dr. Huner's background is in the biological sciences and his research on aquaculture systems has led to a special interest in evaluating and resolving conflicts between aquaculture and native wildlife resources. He is director of the Crawfish Research Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is a member of numerous professional societies with an interest in aquaculture, fisheries management and crawfish. His hobbies include fishing,



Jay V. Huner

hunting and bird watching.

Dr. Huner says that agricultural systems provide invaluable habitat for game and non-game wildlife and that agricultural wetlands are of particular importance as habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds in Louisiana as a consequence of the continuing loss of coastal wetlands to subsidence, erosion, and rising sea levels. He feels that he can help facilitate the dialogue between stakeholders when conflicts between production and wildlife arise and that society must find ways to sustain the agricultural wetland base if future generations are to enjoy the waterbirds now taken for granted in southern Louisiana. Dr. Huner has been a District 3 at-large director on the LWF Board since 1996.

District 5

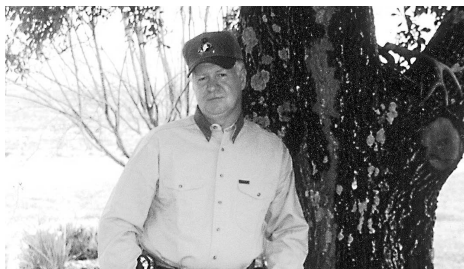
Martha Ann Messinger of Bastrop was reelected and Jim Marsh of Tallulah was elected to the LWF Board to represent individual contributing members from District 5 – Madison, Tensas, Franklin, Caldwell, Union, Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, West Carroll and East Carroll Parishes. Ms. Messinger, a semi-retired bookkeeper and sec-

retary and her husband George M. Patton have been working with injured box turtles since 1989 and have a rehabilitation permit for turtles and tortoises issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. During this time they have been studying reproduction and behavior of the 3-



Martha Ann Messinger

toed box turtle and published a research paper in Herpetological Review. She frequently presents talks on turtles and other wildlife to local scouts and students. An active amateur naturalist, Ms. Messinger enjoys observing wildlife while on nature hikes and in her backyard that she maintains for that purpose. She is a member of several scientific societies and conservation groups and represents the Louisiana Wildlife Federation on the state's Reptile and Amphibian Task Force. Ms. Messinger and her husband were instrumental in having a law enacted during the 1999 Legislative Session to limit the harvest of box turtles and prohibit their sale. Ms. Messinger has served as a District 5 at-large director since 1996. She says that



Jim Marsh

her involvement has helped her be better informed on issues confronting the state and, during her tenure on the LWF Board, would like to help educate the public about Louisiana's bountiful legacy of wildlife and the need to work for its conservation to preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Jim Marsh, a farmer and landowner is a member of the Tensas River Refuge Association and par-

ticipates in the refuge's Instructor Corps Program which educates youth from the parishes surrounding the refuge about conservation. He is assistant chief of the Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association. He enjoys hunting and fishing, college and high school football, 4-H work and forestry/wildlife programs at Louisiana Tech. Mr. Marsh says that he'd like to see the "Sportsman's Paradise" reborn and Louisiana first in environmental education with the best 4-H programs, expanded degree programs at Louisiana Tech in Forestry, Wildlife, and Tourism, and a state-of-the-art conservation education center at the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

District 7

Jerome C. Haas, Jr. of Sulphur and Leonard "Lenny" J. Hensgens of Crowley were elected to represent LWF contributing members from District 7 on the Federation Board. District 7 includes Acadia, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes.

Mr. Haas is a retired safety engineer with 43 years experience in construction and operations in the oil, gas and construction industries, including several overseas assignments. His hobbies include



Jerome Haas, Jr.

fishing, hunting, camping and other outdoor activities. He says that he has worked and traveled in 31 countries and wants to keep Louisiana one of the better places to live, as he has many grandchildren.

Mr. Hensgens is a farmer and member of the Board of Directors of the U. S. Rice Council. He is on the waterfowl committee of the U. S. Rice Foundation and chairman of operation Quackback, a project to provide habitat for waterfowl on agricultural fields. He is also a member of a committee promoting the use of Best Management Practices to control erosion and improve water quality. His hobbies include all types of hunting, especially for waterfowl, and flying. He says that he would like to improve the rules and regulations for managing migratory birds and other waterfowl and game species.

District 9

Virginia Burkett of Many was reelected to serve on the LWF Board representing contributing



Lenny Hensgens

members from District 9 which includes Vernon, Sabine, Desoto, Red River, Natchitoches and Winn Parishes. She is a research ecologist at the National Wetlands Research Center. Dr. Burkett has 24 years experience in wildlife and fisheries management and research, serving as deputy secretary and secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. She is presently serving on national and international panels concerned with climate change impacts. Her hobbies include flying, hiking and camping. She says that she has been involved in activities associated with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation for almost 20 years and that it (LWF) is the most effective statewide conservation organization in the state. She especially likes the Federation's structure for conducting business on behalf of all involved sportsmen and conservationists. Dr. Burkett has been an LWF District 9 at-large director since 1996. The other at-large



Virginia Burkett

District 9 directorship is vacant and cannot be filled until the next election in November of 2001.

The next elections for at-large directors will be held in November of this year for Districts 2, 4, 6, & 8. Look for a nomination form in an upcoming issue of this magazine.

available to teachers. Although I was present, along with several other members of the sponsoring groups, the “ringleader” was Ron Bartels with Louisiana Safari Club ably assisted by Bud Carpenter with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot, despite the chilly weather that kept the teachers bundled up for the outdoor portions of the workshop. The Federation was pleased to be a co-sponsor and we look forward to doing it again.

I first learned about Cat Island (between Bayou Sara and the Mississippi River in West Feliciana Parish) in the late '70s when I was a graduate student at LSU. We periodically were assigned field missions by the late John D. Newsom who was the leader of the LSU Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the time. Sometimes that involved going to a hunting lease to record information on deer harvested. One particular assignment was to go to the West Feliciana Hunting Club on Cat Island one weekend, not only check out the deer harvested but to encourage the club to harvest does as well as bucks. Back then, club members didn't want anything to do with that idea, and the lease was overrun with little doe deer with maybe one buck for every 40 deer observed (most often a spike). A few years later, I was involved with an effort to secure what is now the Twin Silos commercial hunting area with a conservation easement. Subsequent to that, I was a hunting guest of a landowner on Cat Island and later a member of a hunting club there. Through these opportunities I learned that Cat Island, with its abundant deer, turkey, bobcat, coyote, otter, raccoon, wood duck, songbird, woodpecker, squirrel and other swamp and woodland wildlife, was an exceptional and irreplaceable habitat. And its unique geography and geology made it even moreso. When the director of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy called in late 1998 to get the Federation's support for a willing-seller acquisition to establish the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge, I wasted no time in acknowledging our support, outlining a number of reasons why such action was imperative. Last February conservation leaders, Senators Breaux and Landrieu, and media reps met at the great cypress tree in the swamp on Cat Island to

announce plans for the new refuge. It was a fine day to be out and, due to the incredible drought we are having in South Louisiana, unusually dry for a “swamp”. There's still the not-so-small matter of getting all the necessary funding to acquire the 36,500 acres within the prospective refuge boundary, but I'm optimistic that it will ultimately be accomplished.

That leads me to the Conservation



The world record baldcypress tree in the newly-established Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge deep in the Cat Island Swamp of West Feliciana Parish.

and Reinvestment Act (CARA) that is still percolating in the United States Congress. CARA can provide funding for refuge acquisitions like Cat Island, along with major dollars for coastal restoration and other wildlife conservation purposes. The bill has passed the House of Representatives but Senate committee action has been delayed until later in July, and time is running out for this term of Congress. There should be more to report on CARA by the next issue of this magazine.

Kudos are in order for two Louisianians who have recently received national recognition for their conservation work. Lafayette educator Linda Beyt went to Washington D.C. last month to receive the 2000 National Wetlands Award in the Education/Outreach category from the Environmental Law Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries

Service. Among her many contributions to education, Linda helped create the interactive educational video “Knee Deep in Louisiana Wetlands”. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation recognized her initiative a few years ago when it selected Linda for a scholarship to attend a National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summit. The other honoree is Bob (otherwise known as Bulldog Bob) Misso, formerly of Bossier City. Bob now works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as its National Wetlands Program Leader. He received a Conservation Achievement Award from Ducks Unlimited in the “federal” category last March at the 65th Annual North American Natural Resources Conference. I miss ol’ Bob. He was one of the wildlife professionals who stimulated our involvement in the campaign to conserve the Atchafalaya Basin back in the 70's when it was a raging controversy. Congratulations to these two outstanding leaders in conservation from Louisiana.

The LWF, in partnership with two of our affiliates, the Louisiana and Central Louisiana Chapters of Safari Club International, insured that our state would be represented at the 2000 Shooting Sports Summit by sponsoring the attendance of two hunting/shooting educators from Louisiana. Hunter Education Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mark A. Roy of Deville and volunteer hunter education instructor A. J. Doss of Houma attended the 4-day conference held in Phoenix, Arizona in June. Some of the topics discussed at the summit were “Recruiting and Retaining New Hunters, Removing Barriers to First-Time Participation in the Shooting Sports, Communication Strategies to Win and Keep Public Confidence and Support of the Shooting Sports”. The Federation is pleased to have been able to make this investment for the benefit of hunter education in our state.

Congratulations to all the Federation members who have been working on the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Monroe. A recent acquisition of 2,190 acres of forest and farm land adjacent to Black Bayou Lake gives the refuge control over most of the shoreline. Additional acquisitions will be sought to include land on the northeast corner of

Executive Director: Continued on page 14

wetlands, wildlife, and stewardship of the environment.

Martha Ann Messinger & George M. Patton – Governor's Award – Conservationists of the Year

Some wild things are taken for granted, or not thought about at all; especially those that are small, and travel close to the ground. They lose their importance as we seem to outgrow them, forgetting too quickly how they once piqued our curiosity and enriched our young lives – forgetting, too, that they are an integral part of our natural heritage and the wild legacy we owe to the future.

In 1989 Martha Ann Messinger and George M. Patton found a box turtle in the backyard of their Bastrop home. Curious about the creature, they searched for information and found very little. So they started to record their own observations on reproduction of the three-toed box turtle, one of 3 species of box turtles native to Louisiana, the other two being the gulf coast and ornate box turtles.

As their knowledge and interest grew, they became more active turtle conservationists. In 1995 Messinger was designated by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation to represent it on the state's Reptile and Amphibian Task Force. This advisory body was established in 1992 by the Louisiana Legislature to assist the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in developing regulations to govern the collection, handling and sale of native reptiles and amphibians which, even exclusive of the alligator business, is a multi-million dollar Louisiana industry. Since joining the task force, Messinger has taken courses in biology, ecology, environmental science, herpetology, evolutionary biology and parasitology at the local university to allow her to better contribute to the task force's work.

The more Messinger and Patton learned about the life history and population status of Louisiana box turtles, and their popularity in the international pet trade, the more alarmed they became. Louisiana had no restrictions on harvest and sale. And except for a relatively recent requirement of licensing and reporting on the number of turtles bought and sold by Louisiana dealers, no regulations. There were indications that all 3 Louisiana box turtle species were declining. Although due primarily to habitat loss, the late age of first reproduction along with low egg production and

extremely low hatching and hatchling survival rate that is typical of box turtles combined to paint a bleak picture of their future in the Bayou State. Messinger and Patton's own research published in the *Herpetological Review*, in itself a remarkable achievement for "amateur" scientists, corroborated the turtle's vulnerability to unrestricted harvesting.

Messinger and Patton began their campaign to bring Louisiana's box turtles under protection two years ago. They succeeded in obtaining resolutions supporting box turtle preservation from the Reptile and Amphibian Task Force and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and rallied support from across the country for the legislation they worked with Senator Robert Barham to pass last year. Act 81 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature prohibits the sale of any of the three native Louisiana box turtles, and restricts possession to 4 turtles per person without a special permit. Thanks to George and Martha Ann, Louisiana box turtles will no longer suffer the damage and trauma of shipping and relocation, and will likely be around for the enjoyment and wonder of future generations.

In addition to last year's legislative initiative, Messinger and Patton rehabilitate injured turtles and tortoises which they return to the wild once mended; they participate in the Louisiana Amphibian Monitoring Program to track the health of the state's frog and toad populations; and they present an educational program on Louisiana's native turtles to local school children.

Sandra Thompson Decoteau – Professional Conservationist of the Year

Efforts have been made toward preserving the largest remaining river swamp in the nation, the Atchafalaya Basin (Basin) since 1926. And for decades, conservation of the Basin has been a top priority of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and numerous other organizations and agencies. It has been a long haul.

Hope was ignited in 1981 with the Compromise Land Use and Management Plan for the Basin negotiated by Governor Treen, and the 1985/86 authorization by the U. S. Congress of the Atchafalaya Basin Multipurpose Plan. But the plan languished as the essential state partnership and cost share failed to materialize, and bickering among Basin interests persisted. That all began to change early in Governor Foster's Administration when Sandra Thompson Decoteau, executive director of the State's

Atchafalaya Basin Division in the '70s, once again came on the scene. Working within the Department of Natural Resources and with the enthusiastic support of DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell, Thompson Decoteau revitalized the State's Basin role by organizing the Atchafalaya Basin Advisory Committee (Committee) and working with it to develop the Basin Conservation and Recreation Master Plan. This was no small accomplishment considering that the Committee included representation from 8 state agencies and essentially any group or organization with an interest in the Basin that wanted to participate. Literally hundreds of individuals have been involved in creating the plan, including those that commented at the 9 public hearings held around the state to solicit input before the final draft was issued.

Thompson Decoteau led the Committee to consensus, resolving "hot button" issues like water management and public access that have been major stumbling blocks in the past. And her astute understanding of government processes ensured the plan's effectiveness by incorporating details of how the state will partner with the Federal government in implementing the Multipurpose Plan authorized by Congress and of the funding requirements to implement the state plan over the next 15 years.

Once the state plan was in hand and approved, legislation authorizing its implementation was introduced in the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Fortified with 24 editorial endorsements urging adoption of the legislation, and numerous resolutions of support from organizations and local governments, legislators voted unanimously for this landmark conservation measure.

But it wasn't quite as easy as it sounds. Only with Thompson Decoteau's persistence and inclusive approach that kept her presiding over planning meetings day after day, and speaking engagements night after night, did the effort succeed. And still there was the last minute cajoling of a reluctant senator or two needed to get the bill through, deftly executed as only she can.

But there's no time to rest. There's much more to do. And, fortunately for the Atchafalaya Basin and all of us who cherish it, we have the right person to lead us to do it.

Noel A. Thistlethwaite – Volunteer Conservationist of the Year

the lake. Development of the refuge headquarters complex, including the education center, arboretum, pavilion and a new boat launch are continuing. This national wildlife refuge, just a few miles from town, is a wonderful community asset with a growing conservation and recreation value.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation lost a good friend last April when outdoor journalist Mike Cook died. Mike was the outdoor editor for the Baton Rouge State-Times and later the Morning Advocate. He retired in 1991 but remained active doing freelance and participating in the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association and the LWF, as well as accompanying wife Betty on trips in their motor home and being a good Grandpa to his 10 grand and 2 great grand kids. Aside from being the best company anyone could ever imagine, with his tolerance, good humor and amusing habits, Mike was a helluva newspaper man who pursued the conservation side of covering the outdoors. More than any other reporter, Mike was the eyes and ears of the public in the tough-going early days of the campaign to save the Atchafalaya Basin. In my view, he is largely responsible for the outcome we are enjoying today, where almost everyone with an interest in the Basin is working together to conserve it for the future – including state government and the Corps



Mike Cook receiving the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement. Julia McSherry presented the award.

of Engineers. Mike received a lot of awards for his work. The Federation is proud to have acknowledged his efforts with the Governor's Award in 1982. My last outing with Mike was when he was doing a story on creek fishing, an endeavor



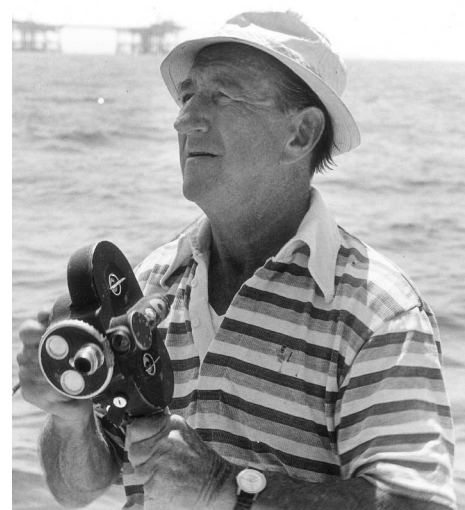
Mike Cook receives the LWF's Governor's Award as Conservationist of the year in 1982. The award is presented by the late John D. Newsom representing Governor Dave Treen.

or I dearly love. When you have a deadline to meet, you can't always choose the best time to go. We picked a Saturday to head out to the upper Tangipahoa to try our luck, but as luck would have it, a thundershower dropped a few inches of rain in the watershed the evening before and I knew the river would be high and muddy, and useless to fish. I called Mike to tell him it would be fruitless to go, but he said he'd pick me up in 20 minutes, and that it was "time to stop gripin' and start fishin'." Well, we almost got his van stuck in the mud. He made me walk out in that raging, muddy torrent with a canoe tied to my belt loop, and with fishing rod in hand so at least he could get a photo for his story. Mike kept his feet dry and got a good laugh at my expense. I got wet and almost washed away as the current scoured the bottom out from under me. Fishing was out of the question, so we loaded up and checked out some other creek crossings in rural Washington Parish, all too muddy to fish. He taped our conversation as we drove and talked about what it would be like on a good day. Once back on the interstate (I-55) heading south toward Hammond, and having exhausted my repertoire of creek fishing tips and stories, I dozed off. I woke sometime later and noticed that we were on Interstate 12, but as I read the highway signs I realized that we were heading east and were nearly in Mississippi. I asked Mike where he was going and he said, "home to Baton Rouge". I suggested that he was taking the long way, and had a good laugh on him as

he exited and got back on I-12 headed in the right direction this time. With no sun to navigate by on that overcast, day I reckon he had an excuse. We miss you, Mike. Thanks for all you did for the LWF and conservation.

Another outdoor journalism great died this year. Bob the "Beachcomber" Searce preceded Mike Cook in death by only a few weeks. The Beachcomber was a Baton Rouge celebrity with his weekly outdoor show on Channel 9, and a Louisiana pioneer in outdoor broadcasting. He also penned a regular column for the Baton Rouge paper and was recognized by the Federation with our Conservation Communications Award.

And lastly, while I'm remembering outdoor folks, I note the death of Retha Murry. Mrs. Murry was married to wildlife ecologist Robert Murry who died in November 1998. Robert devoted his life to understanding Nature and sharing his remarkable knowledge with the rest of us. He served as a wildlife biologist and ecologist for both state and federal natural resource management agencies for over 40 years and was active in the Louisiana Wildlife Federation for 20 of those. Mrs.



The "Old Beachcomber" Bob Searce with the trusty keystone camera he used to make film for his outdoor show on Channel 9.

Murry, herself a professional registered nurse, supported Robert's work with her loving care and good cooking. I learned about eating field peas and mustard greens at the Murrys' table and am a much better person for it. Condolences to the Murry family and thanks for sharing your folks with us for all these years.

YES! 2000 Conservation Leadership Program

The Louisiana Youth Environmental Summit! Will be held at Chicot State Park July 27-29. Sponsored by Cleco Corporation and the Audubon Institute's Louisiana Nature Center (LNC), Louisiana YES! Brings students with a strong interest in the environment together with representatives from education, business, government and environmental groups.

"This free program allows participants, including adult sponsors, to exchange ideas and concerns, build networks and learn how to develop and manage a project," said Cindy Bouchie, a Louisiana YES! Coordinator for Cleco. "The ultimate goal is to inspire, educate and motivate students from across the state to develop a grass roots environmental project to carry out in their home communities."

"We really feel that students can make a substantial impact on Louisiana's environmental future one project at a time," said Bob Marye, director of LNC. Louisiana YES! activities will include hands-on workshops, field trips into local habitats, role playing and team-building games, exciting guest speakers and a healthy dose of fun and recreation. Participants are also eligible to compete for start up grants for their environmental projects.

Interested students who will be in the 8th through 11th grades in the fall of 2000 and adult sponsors are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. More information and applications are available online at www.LouisianaYES.org or by calling LNC at 504/246-5672.

P-O-S Recreational Gear Licenses Available

Recreational gear eg., shrimp trawl, crab trap, slat trap, etc. licenses are now available through the point-of-sale electronic licensing system as well as by telephone and internet. Payment may be made by credit card, personal check, or whatever form of payment is required by the vendor. Previously, recreational gear licenses were available only by mail or in person at the offices of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in

Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

To make purchases by phone or internet: 1-888-765-2602; www.wlf.state.la.us

Grass Roots Coastal Restoration

Do you have an idea for saving the coast? Well, if you do, then the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana may have just the program for you. Supported by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Pew Charitable Trusts and Restore America's Estuaries network CRCL has \$90,000 to do community-based estuary habitat restoration projects. The funds will be used to help implement the Coast 2050 plan. CRCL is looking for innovative or time-sensitive projects that can make a real difference. For more information call 1-888-LA-COAST.

Wildlife Agents Make Drug/Crab Trap Theft Case

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement agents arrested Jack J. Cuccia of New Orleans on May 6th for possession of crack cocaine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, fishing crabs without a commercial license and possession of stolen property, among other charges. They were responding to a complaint by a local fisherman whose traps had been stolen and who later located them in a canal off Lake Pontchartrain. LDWF enforcement agents set up surveillance and observed Cuccia checking the traps. When confronted, Cuccia admitted stealing the traps. When searched after being arrested for theft and fishing without a license, agents discovered two pill bottles containing the crack cocaine and marijuana. Cuccia was subsequently booked into the Orleans Parish Prison.

"Explore Coastal Louisiana" CD-ROM

A newly released CD-ROM provides a multimedia approach for teaching about environmental issues in coastal parishes. "Explore Coastal Louisiana with Boudreaux" takes a novel approach to interactive learning using a series of Cajun-narrated lessons featuring maps, videos, music, quizzes and facts. The CD-ROM is designed for the general public,

but high schools will find it a useful component of environmental science curricula. A teacher's guide shows how the materials can be used to satisfy Louisiana Department of Education Contact Standards and also provides supplemental activities and useful resources. Science and visitors centers will find it to be a colorful and informative addition to their exhibits. The CD is a collaborative effort among the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program and the U. S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center. Copies can be obtained on-line at:

www.lacoast.gov/FreeStuff/cajun.

Hunter Education Challenge

The 2000 Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), a co-educational state competition sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Hunter Education Instructor Association, was held May 6-7 at Camp Grant Walker in Pollock. It was attended by 110 youngsters from seven areas of Louisiana: Caddo/Bossier, Desoto, Caldwell, Rapides, Greater New Orleans, Terrebonne and Iberia. The competition included eight events: rifle, muzzleloader, shotgun, archery, wildlife identification, hunter safety trail, orienteering and a 100-question written hunter responsibility exam. Participants competed in individual and team events in two age groups: junior (ages 10-14) and senior (ages 15-18). Joey Billberry of Alexandria, a member of the 1986 state championship team, returned to the event this year as coach of the newly-formed Rapides Parish Pioneers.

Bill Hock of the Caddo/Bossier Youth Hunter Education Club took top honors as overall state senior champion. Hock took first place in four events. Chet Carpenter of the DeSoto Youth Shooting Team took top honors as overall state junior champion. Carpenter placed first in three events.

The Caddo/Bossier team was the overall senior champion team. The Terrebonne Parish Junior Deputies took second place in the competition and the Greater New Orleans Hunters Challenge Club placed third. The DeSoto team was

the overall junior champion team. The Caddo/Bossier team won second place in the competition and the Terrebonne Parish team placed third.

Colt Bothel of Caddo/Bossier took second place in individual senior events and Josh Mora of Caddo/Bossier placed third. Nicolas "Bud" Rains of the DeSoto team took second place in individual junior events and Brandon Henry of Terrebonne Parish placed third.

"This program is not just about hunting and shooting," explained Jonathan Glasscock, LDWF YHEC program coordinator. "It's about teaching youngsters discipline, dedication, ethics, responsibility and safety. In a time of negative national news about kids and guns, the YHEC program is a shining light to show that firearms, when used safely and responsibly, can be a great recreational activity that can be pursued for a lifetime."

Winners of the state competition will go on to compete at the national level. Young hunter education course graduates from all across the country will convene in Mansfield, Pennsylvania July 24-28 for the National Rifle Association's 15th Annual International Youth Hunter Education Challenge.

New EE Guide Released

The Wildlife Management Institute has announced the release of *Living With Nature and Wildlife: Doing Our Part*, an illustrated, full-color, 54-page teaching and learning guide created to explain the processes and basic principles of nature, wildlife ecology and natural resources management. This informative manual substantially expands and updates its predecessor publication *Helping Wildlife: Working With Nature*, one of America's most widely used environmental education guides for the past 20 years. Authored by Delwin Benson, a professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at Colorado State University, *Living With Nature and Wildlife* covers basic concepts of wildlife ecology and ecological relationships and includes definitions and explanations of energy flow, food chains, the mineral cycle, influences of weather, habitat, ecological succession, wildlife population characteristics and dynamics, predation, and the role of the wildlife manager.

Written for students 8 and older, the booklet has 18 colorful illustrations and an extensive glossary section. It is available for \$4 per copy from the Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street, N. W., Suite 801, Washington, D. C. 20005. Discounts are available on bulk purchases. Call 202/371-1808 for details.

LDWF Offers Camps For Kids

Trying to find wholesome, educational and entertaining activities for the kids this summer? The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is sponsoring several camps and a few slots are still available. Camps offered by LDWF in conjunction with other organizations include Eco Camp, HOOT Camp and Outdoor Skills Camp. Pre-registration is required for all sessions. Parents are encouraged to act quickly.

Eco Camp is offered for the first time in Baton Rouge this summer. The first session was held June 26-30. The second session will take place July 24-28, 7:30 AM to 5 PM each day. Eco Camp is a week-long science day camp designed to provide students aged 10 through 12 with awareness, appreciation and understanding of basic environmental concepts. Students will use hands-on activities to stimulate critical and creative thinking. Activities focus primarily on biodiversity, environmental quality and ecosystem components. Eco Camp also stresses the need for students to develop as responsible stewards of the environment. Topics include predator/prey relationships, habitat components and limiting factors, environmental indicators and environmental ethics.

The fee for one week-long session is \$75, which covers all supplies and snacks. Students must bring a sack lunch. Activities are conducted on the grounds of the LDWF Waddill Outdoor Education Center at 4142 N. Flannery Road in Baton Rouge. Instruction will be provided by LDWF education staff and certified science teachers. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is providing additional resources for the camp.

Registration forms and additional information for Eco Camp are available from Stacey Davis, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000,

Baton Rouge, LA 70898, or call 225/274-5636.

Hands On Outdoor Training (HOOT) Camp will have two more sessions this summer. HOOT Camp is an excellent opportunity for children entering 6th, 7th and 8th grades who are interested in the outdoors and excel in science. They will learn and explore under the instruction of professional science teachers and LDWF wildlife educators. The HOOT Camp curriculum was formulated by LDWF staff in conjunction with science educators throughout Louisiana and links outdoor skills with science curriculum standards established by the Louisiana Department of Education. Each session of HOOT Camp will take place at LDWF's Woodworth Outdoor Education Center near Alexandria. Campers will stay six days (Sunday through Friday). Each session is limited to 25 campers, so parents wishing to register their children are encouraged to do so quickly. The cost of the camp is \$125 per child. Science activities are taught by certified science teachers and LDWF staff. The dates for remaining HOOT camps are July 9-14 and July 16-21. Interested parents should contact Judith Heintze at 225/765-2916 (heintze_js@wlf.state.la.us).

The first annual Outdoor Skills Camps will have a second session July 10-14, 7:30 AM-5 PM each day. Outdoor Skills Camp is a week-long hunter education-based day camp designed

to provide instruction on important outdoor skills such as wildlife management, firearms safety, survival, hunter ethics and responsibility, marksmanship and tree stand safety. Students will participate in aquatic education activities: fish identification, baitcasting, tying fishing knots and fishing. In addition, instruction in map and compass reading, campfire building, knife sharpening, wildlife track identification and game tracking will be provided. The Central Louisiana Chapter of Safari Club International has donated equipment that students will use during the camp.

The camp is designed to be skill-building as well as fun and designed for ages 12 through 14. Students wishing to attend should have a strong interest in the outdoors. Space is limited to 21 students

per camp. Preregistration is required and all applicants must provide copies of their birth certificates. The fee for one week-long session is \$75, which will cover equipment, supplies and snacks and must accompany the application form. Students must bring a sack lunch. Activities are conducted on the grounds of the LDWF Waddill Outdoor Education Center in Baton Rouge. Registration forms and additional information are available from Ricky Yeldell, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, or call 225/765-2920.

Registration forms and activity descriptions for all of the camps can also be found on the LDWF web site (www.wlf.state.la.us) under "Education Programs." Parents are encouraged to register now because of limited space.

Personal Watercraft

Personal Watercraft (PWCs), also called jet skis, are becoming increasingly popular. A recent report by the Izaak Walton League of America stated that there are 10 times as many PWCs now in the US than there were a decade ago. The report also accuses them of being big polluters. In 7 hours of use, a PWC produces the same amount of hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions as a 1998 passenger car driven 100,000 miles. PWCs also leak an estimated 165 million gallons of unburned fuel into America's waterways each year. The report also states that in some lakes PWCs may produce 90% of certain pollutants, even though they use only 10% of the gasoline burned on the lake.

PWCs are powered by inefficient 2-stroke motors. While they are similar to 2-strokes used by fishermen, they cause much more environmental damage than fishing boats, according to the report. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency issued new standards in 1996 to regulate 2-stroke emissions. These new standards require a 70% reduction in 2-stroke emissions by the year 2006. PWC manufacturers are relying on new technology, such as direct fuel injection systems, to help them meet these standards by the deadline. — courtesy Jerald Horst, LSU AgCenter/Sea Grant Program

State Duck Stamp Competition

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has chosen the Northern Shoveler as the species to be represented on the 2001 Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (Louisiana Duck Stamp). The Northern Shoveler, also known as a "spoonbill" or "smilin' mallard" is a small duck, somewhat larger than a teal. It is easily identified by its spoon-shaped bill. The male is strikingly colorful, with a green head and neck separated from a chestnut belly by a white chest and breast. The wings are similar to a blue-winged teal with a blue shoulder patch and a green and white speculum. The female of the species is plainer with mottled brownish plumage, a large bill and large pale blue wing patches.

Entries will be accepted from Oct. 23 until 4 p.m. on Oct. 27. To enter the competition, an artist must submit an original, unpublished work of art, along with a signed and notarized artist agreement and \$50 entry fee. Entries should be addressed to Dave Morrison, 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 accuracy of detail in plumage, eyes, feet and bill; (3) appropriateness, accuracy and detail in depiction of bird habitat; (4) attractiveness and creativity in composition, subject, background and lighting; (5) suitability for reproduction as stamps and prints.

The winning design will be selected by a panel of judges with experience in waterfowl biology and/or artistic method. The judging will take place on Nov. 1, 2000, at LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. The competition is open to artists 18 years of age and older who live in or are native to Louisiana. Employees of LDWF and members of their immediate families are ineligible.

The Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was autho-

rized by the Louisiana Legislature in 1988. The program was created to generate revenues for conservation and enhancement of waterfowl populations and their habitats in Louisiana. During the last 12 years, more than \$5 million has been generated for wetland conservation. Approximately \$2.8 million has been spent on land acquisition. Private lands have also benefitted through the Louisiana Waterfowl Program, a cooperative endeavor between LDWF, Ducks Unlimited and the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Marksville M.D.

Ducks Unlimited President

Dr. L. J. Mayeux of Marksville was elected president of Ducks Unlimited at its 63rd annual convention last May. Mayeux, or "Dr. Duck" as his friends know him has been a particularly passionate advocate of conservation education and DU's Greenwing and adopt-a-classroom programs during the twenty-plus years he has been associated with the organization. During that time he has served as Louisiana State Chairman, Senior Vice President for the South Mississippi Flyway and First Vice President of Ducks Unlimited.

Big Colewa Bayou WMA Reforested

Approximately 400 acres of abandoned agricultural fields have been reforested to bottomland hardwoods on Big Colewa Bayou Wildlife Management Area Bearskin Unit, south of Goodwill. This is the last of six units on the WMA that have now been reforested for long-term wildlife habitat development in West Carroll Parish. The tract was obtained in 1998 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture without cost to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Reforestation is intensive work. Seeds must first be collected from existing forested lands then brought to a hardwood nursery. When the seedlings are ready for planting, they are picked up from the nursery and transported to the site. Approximately half of the sites scheduled for planting at any particular time are suitable for planting machines, so

planting must often be done by hand. An average of 363 to 436 seedlings are planted on each acre.

Over 140,000 seedlings were planted on the unit, half by contract and half by LDWF Wildlife Division personnel. Species planted include: cherrybark oak, willow oak, water oak, sweet pecan, red mulberry, Nuttall oak, laurel oak, cedar elm, American elm, sugarberry, Shumard oak, cow oak, mayhaw, red maple and a hybrid bur oak. Natural establishment on the site by sweetgum, sassafras, persimmon and other lighter seeded species will make this a tremendously diverse forest as it grows, providing a unique forested habitat component in a parish dominated by an agricultural landscape. Additionally, being adjacent to the Boeuf River, this reforestation project may serve as an important stepping stone in the restoration of a wooded corridor along the upper reaches of the river.

The reforestation project on the unit was planned and developed by the LDWF Wildlife Division, with cooperative funding of the project provided by the Hardwood Forestry Fund, Exxon, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. These funding sources are provided to the LDWF for its reestablishment efforts of bottomland hardwood forests in the state. WMA regulations and maps can be obtained through the LDWF Monroe regional office at 318/343-4045 or by contacting Kenny Ribbeck at 225/765-2942.

Take Action For Snake River

Help is being sought from conservationists throughout the nation to restore the flow in the legendary Snake River and save its salmon from extinction. The solution is simple. Four old dams constructed on the river years ago to aid now-outmoded barge transport must be modified (partially breached) to let the salmon through on their spawning runs and migration back to the sea. Because it would actually save taxpayers money by curtailing navigation and modifying the dams, Taxpayers For Common Sense, a national organization advocating cutting wasteful government spending, is

involved in this conservation campaign. It is soliciting individuals and organizations to sign on to a list supporting the dam removal action. To participate, call 202/546-8500, ext. 128 or visit www.taxpayer.net.

Conservation Educator

Paul Jackson Retires

LDWF Wildlife Education Supervisor, Paul Jackson of Sulphur has announced that he will be retiring later this year after 33 years of service. Jackson said that he has seen many changes in the department since 1967. He noted that the number of department wildlife educators has grown from just a handful when he started, and the diversity of the agency's education programs has greatly increased. Among Jackson's numerous achievements during his tenure with LDWF are the development of such programs as Aquatic Education, Wetshop, Upland Wetland Workshop, and the popular "Let's Go Fishing" activity book. He has also been active in the Louisiana Environmental Educators Association and an organizer of the annual EE Symposium. He is a longtime member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Public Support Needed for Action on Mercury Hazard

Unbelievably, there is no federal regulation of hazardous mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants, the single greatest source of mercury pollution in the environment. But that free ride may soon come to an end, and the National Wildlife Federation is urging its members to help make sure it does. NWF is calling on people both to let the Environmental Protection Agency and Congress know they want the agency to impose controls on those emissions. Congress has directed the agency to decide by December 2000 whether to take action regarding mercury emissions from power plants.

Mercury emitted into the air falls to earth with precipitation and builds up in the food chain, threatening people and wildlife. More than 40 states have issued fish consumption advisories because of mercury contamination. To find out more about this issue and what you can

do to help, contact Andy Buchsbaum at NWF's Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, 506 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Phone: 734-769-3351; e-mail: buchsbaum@nwf.org.

Range Hours on Sherburne WMA

The shooting range on Sherburne Wildlife Management Area near Krotz Springs is open from Noon to 6 PM Wednesday through Friday and from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and Sunday. These hours of operation are somewhat different than last year.

Harvesting Frogs

From a frog's point of view, June 1 is a grim day in Louisiana. On this first day of frog season, dozens of commercial froggers and hundreds of recreational fisherman move into the swamps at dusk, armed with headlamps and gigs. Their quarry are bullfrogs and pig frogs (also known as lagoon frogs or grunthers), the only frogs in Louisiana whose hind legs are large enough for a good meal. Bull and pig frogs may be taken in Louisiana every month except April and May. The brief closed season allows the frogs time to reproduce. There are no bag limits, but bullfrogs must be five inches and pig frogs must be at least three inches in body length. Frogs can be taken by hand, with long-poled "grabbers" and with gigs and spears. Recreational froggers need a fishing license and commercial froggers are required to possess a reptile/amphibian collector license, which is available from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for \$25.

During the past several years, Louisiana's frog populations, along with crawfish and farmers, have had to face the drought. The drought means less area to reproduce, but also limits accessibility by frog hunters into some areas of swamps and marshes. One frog buyer reported that he has not seen a decrease in the availability of frogs during the past four years, but believes that the results of the drought may be delayed.- courtesy LDWF

Volunteers Sought To Help Communities Create Habitat Sites

Do you have a keen interest in the environment and a desire to help children and adults create or restore wildlife habitat? If so, you may be an ideal candidate to become a Habitat Stewards™ volunteer. Sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program and Wild Birds Unlimited, the Habitat Stewards program provides training around the country to equip volunteers with the tools and knowledge needed to help homeowners, schools, businesses and communities create and restore habitats that qualify for NWF certification.

Spring and summer training workshops are planned in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. If you are not near a training site, you can register for an on-line workshop planned for next summer. For details on training dates and locations, as well as the on-line workshop, log onto NWF's web site at www.nwf.org/habitats and click on "Habitat Stewards" or call NWF at 703/790-4361.

New Report Shows Too Many of America's Waterways Are Still Polluted

The National Wildlife Federation has released a new report that reveals the contamination of our waterways and the government's stalled efforts to clean them up. The report is a sequel to NWF's groundbreaking 1997 study, "Pollution Paralysis."

"Our research indicates that over 20,000 lakes, streams and estuaries are still being polluted by runoff and contaminated rain," said Dr. Michael Murray, NWF's staff scientist and a co-author of the report. "It also reveals how slow and inadequate state efforts have been thus far in addressing that pollution. As a result, more than 218 million Americans live within ten miles of a polluted lake, river or coastal water."

The NWF report reviews and ranks each state's program to identify its impaired waterways and its plans to clean them up. More than two-thirds of the state watershed programs received a poor or failing grade in their cleanup efforts; none was ranked "good." State watershed

cleanup programs are required by a special section of the Clean Water Act called the "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) provision. TMDLs are ceilings on pollution from all sources – including polluted runoff and contaminated rain – designed to restore polluted waterways. By law, states must use TMDLs to set pollution ceilings low enough to clean up each of their impaired lakes and streams. Unfortunately, the law has not been enforced.

DU Shotgunning Guide

Ducks Unlimited has published a shotgunning guide written especially for waterfowling: "The Ducks Unlimited Guide to Shotgunning". It's the first book in a generation to offer practical wing-shooting advice specifically for duck and goose hunters. The guide covers everything from the grand old fowling pieces of yesterday to today's best guns and loads, shotgun fit and function, ballistics chokes, and shooting techniques. In all there are 43 chapters of gunning advice from the late Don Zutz, one of the most prolific shotgunning writers of all time. The 176-page hardcover book has 60 photographs and is available from DU for \$24.50.

Strickland Heads OGT

Dr. Scott Strickland has been elected president of Louisiana Operation Game Thief, the state's volunteer reward program for tips leading to the arrest of violators of wildlife and fisheries laws. Strickland has supported the program from its inception in 1983, and has served on its board for many of those years. The West Monroe dentist is also one of the founders of the state Wild Turkey Federation chapter and is the senior member of the Rosedale Hunting Club located on legendary Davis Island in the Mississippi River. Report outdoor outlaws by calling OGT at 1-800 442-2511.

L.D.W.F. Hunter Education Course Schedule

Hunter safety certification is mandatory for persons born on or after Sept. 1, 1969, who seek to purchase a Louisiana

hunting license. Courses are available free of charge. Young people 10 years of age and older who attend the course will become permanently certified. Those younger than 10 will be certified for one year and must repeat the course annually until reaching that age. Certification requires a 10-hour minimum of instruction; hunters must attend all classes within a scheduled course.

Course topics include safety, outdoor ethics, wildlife management, habitat preferences of game species and selecting, handling and maintaining firearms. Students also participate in a supervised firing exercise after learning firearms safety. Currently, courses are scheduled as follows, by parish.

Allen Parish

Preregistration required. Sept. 25-26 (25th: 6-9:30p.m.; 26th: 8a.m.-2:30p.m.) Reeves Bible Church: Glenn Ducharme 318/666-2434.

Bossier Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 3-5 (3rd, 4th: 6-9p.m.; 5th: 8a.m.-12noon); Aug. 17-19 (17th, 18th: 6-9p.m.; 19th: 8a.m.-12noon); Sept. 7-9 (7th, 8th: 6-9p.m.; 9th: 8a.m.-12noon) Bossier Parish VFW Hall, north gate of Barksdale AFB: 318/741-0219.

East Baton Rouge Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 11-12 (11th: 6p.m.-9:30p.m.; 12th: 8a.m.-4p.m.); Aug. 14-16 (6p.m.-9:30p.m.); Aug. 18-19 (18th: 6p.m. 9:30p.m.; 19th: 8a.m.-4p.m.); Aug. 21-23 (6p.m.-9:30p.m.) Waddill Outdoor Education Center, 4142 N. Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge; 225/765-2932.

Jefferson Parish

Preregistration required. July 22-23 (22nd: 8a.m.-4p.m.; 23rd: 8a.m.-12noon); Sept. 9-10 (9th: 8a.m.-4p.m.; 10th: 8a.m.-12noon) Kenner Police Training Center: Jerry Hibbs 504/456-1520; Sept. 16-17; Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Oct. 14-15; Oct. 28-29: Sports Authority off Clearview Pkwy: 504/734-7272.

Jefferson Davis Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 8-10 (6-9:30p.m.) Welch City Hall, Elm St.: Welch Police Dept. 337/734-2626.

Natchitoches Parish

Every other week. Natchitoches Shooting Range: Pop Hyams 318/356-

9457 for dates and times.

Point Coupee Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 11-12 (11th: 6-10p.m.; 12th: 7a.m. until finished) Sherburne WMA: John Sturgis 337/948 0300.

Red River Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 7-9 (6-9:30p.m.) Coushatta: 318/932-5753

St. Bernard Parish

Aug. 8-11 (8-10th: 6-9p.m.; 11th: 5-8p.m.); Sept. 1-2 (1st: 6-10p.m.; 2nd: 8a.m.-5p.m.); Oct. 10-13 (10th-12th: 6-9p.m.; 13th: 5p.m.-8p.m.); Jackson Barracks, Bldg. 222; St. Bernard Sheriff's Office 504/271-2504.

St. John Parish

Preregistration required. July 18-20, 22 (5:30-9:30p.m.); Aug. 22-24, 26 (5:30-9:30p.m.); Sept. 19-21, 23 (5:30-9:30p.m.); St. John Parish Sheriff's Office 504/652-7058.

St. Martin Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 19-20 (8a.m. until); Sept. 2-3 (8a.m. until); Sept. 23-24 (8a.m. until); Oct. 21-22 (8a.m. until); Nov. 18-19 (8a.m. until) Henderson City Park: St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office 337/332-2131.

Terrebonne Parish

July 15-16 (8a.m.-4p.m.) Sheriff's Rifle Range, Savanne Rd., Houma: James "Jellie" Brown 504/876-2500 ext. 260; July 24-25, 27 (5p.m.-9p.m.) Top Gun Shooters: Jonathan LeBlanc: 504/594-7142 (35 slots); Aug. 5-6 (8a.m.-4p.m.) Sheriff's Rifle Range, Savanne Rd., Houma: James "Jellie" Brown 504/875-2500 ext. 260; Aug. 19-20 (8a.m.-9p.m.) American Legion Hall, Chauvin; Aug. 26-27 (8a.m.-4p.m.); Sept. 16-17 (8a.m.-4p.m.) Sheriff's Rifle Range, Savanne Rd., Houma: James "Jellie" Brown 504/876-2500 ext. 260; Sept. 23-24 (8a.m.-3p.m.) American Legion Hall, Chauvin; Oct. 10-12 (6p.m.-9p.m.); Oct. 14-15 (8a.m.-4p.m.) Sheriff's Rifle Range, Savanne Rd., Houma: James "Jellie" Brown 504/876-2500 ext. 260; Oct. 23-24, 26 (5p.m.-9p.m.); Nov. 11-12 (8a.m.-4p.m.); Feb. 10-11 Top Gun Shooters: Jonathan LeBlanc 504/594 7142.

Webster Parish

Preregistration required for all classes. July 22-23 (4p.m.-9p.m.) Lake Bisteneau State Park, Doyline: 318/745-3503.

Bow Hunter Courses

Allen Parish

Preregistration required. Sept. 8-9 (Fri. 6p.m.-9:30p.m./Sat. 8a.m.-2:30p.m.) Reeves Bible Church, Reeves: Glenn Ducharme 318/666-2434.

Calcasieu Parish

Preregistration required. July 14-15 (14th: 6-9:30p.m./15th: 8a.m.-2:30p.m.); July 28-29 (28th: 6-9:30p.m./29th: 8a.m.-2:30p.m.) Lake Charles Archery Range, Hwy. 397 & E. Prien Lake Rd.: 337/491-2579.

Livingston Parish

Preregistration required. July 17-19 (6p.m.-9:30p.m.) Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office/Rifle Range, Livingston: Jackie 225/686-2241.

Jefferson Parish

Preregistration required. Aug. 26-27 (Sat. 8a.m.-4p.m./Sun. 8a.m.-noon) Kenner Police Training Center, Kenner: Jerry Hibbs 504/456-1520.

Pointe Coupee Parish

Preregistration required. Sept. 8-9 (6p.m.-10p.m.) Sherburne WMA: Frank Jarreau 225/627-5027

Dolphin/Wahoo Plan: Hearings Scheduled

The Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council will hold public hearings on a "Draft Fishery Management Plan" for wahoo and dolphin in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. The plan includes measures to: define the management units; address permitting for vessels, dealers and operators; consider data reporting requirements; identify estimates of maxim sustainable yield, optimum yields, and overfishing/overfished criteria; and framework options to enable seasonal adjustments to the management structure. Other potential management measures may include minimum size limits, bag limits, trip limits, and allocations, among others. Nine hearings are scheduled Gulf-wide. In Louisiana the hearing will be held on Monday, August 7, 2000, at the New Orleans Airport Hilton in Kenner, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Final action by the Council is expected in September and written public comment on the plan will be accepted until that time.

an even greater dependence on coal and discouraged investment in energy efficiency. The time is ripe for ending "the toll from coal," and closing the legal gaps that allow it to continue.

To get a copy of "The Toll from Coal," contact Patty Glick at (202) 797-6898 or: glick@nwf.org

You can make a difference by sending the following messages to your public officials: (1) close the loophole in the Clean Air Act that allows older, dirtier power plants to emit more than newer, more efficient plants; (2) toughen restrictions on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from all power plants; (3) place meaningful caps on emissions of mercury and carbon dioxide from all sources, including power plants; (4) promote research and development of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources; (5) make environmental protection part of electric utility restructuring.

You can also help reduce the "toll from coal" by taking certain actions in your home or community: (1) replace frequently used light bulbs in your home with energy-efficient, compact fluorescent bulbs; (2) when purchasing a major appliance, office equipment, heating or cooling equipment or even a new home, buy the most energy-efficient options you can find; (3) ask your electric company if it offers a "green energy" package: for example, one that provides a significant portion of its electricity from a clean, renewable energy source such as wind, solar, or biomass; (4) speak up!

While the above-mentioned actions will certainly help, moving this country (and the world) to a clean, sustainable energy future will also take strong policy action. NWF research shows that the following North American species are most threatened by power plant pollution: common loon; brook trout; Florida panther; Kirtland's warbler; smallmouth black-bass; American black duck; sugar maple; river otter; Jefferson salamander.



was reelected to represent LWF to the National Wildlife Federation, district 6 at-large director Bobby Fulmer of New Roads was reelected to the executive committee and district 3 at-large director Jay Huner of Lafayette was elected to the executive committee. Along with immediate past president Kathy Wascom of Baton Rouge, these 8 leaders constitute LWF's executive committee until the next convention. District caucuses selected Jimmy Greene of Kenner with the Clio Sportsmen's League – District 1 V.P., Clinton Mouser of Metairie with the Jefferson Rod and Gun Club – District 2 V.P., Chuck Seiber of St. Martinville with the Iberia Rod and Gun Club – District 3 V. P., at-large director Martha Ann Messinger of Bastrop – District 5 V. P., Francis Gautreaux of Gonzales with the East Ascension Sportsmen's League – District 6 V. P., Don Clark of Lake Charles with the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club – District 7 V. P., at-large director Ray Gibson of Dry Prong – District 8 V. P., Larry Kelly of Anacoco with the South Toledo Bend Civic Association – District 9 V. P.

After the last convention conservation committee adjourned, Paul Davidson, Executive Director of the Black Bear Conservation Committee, presented a general session talk on the proposed reintroduction or "repatriation" of black bears to the Red River/ Three Rivers Complex in the Avoyelles/Concordia Parishes Area. Later that evening, the Federation honored six individuals, two organizations and a corporation for outstanding conservation achievement in 1999. The winners and their achievements are covered elsewhere in this issue. Several other recognitions were also made at the banquet. Attorney, landowner and conservationist Marc Dupuy, Jr. of Marksville received the Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement from the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association, and later in the evening, outgoing LWF President Kathy Wascom awarded her "President's Cup" to Edgar F. Veillon for his hard work on behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation during the year. She also recognized "retiring" district 5 at-large director M. Brents Witty of West Monroe with a small gift for his 16 consecutive years of service to the Federation in that capacity.

Once again, outdoor broadcaster and media personality Don Dubuc treated banquet guests with another outstanding perfor-

mance as master of ceremonies. The convention was covered by writers Chris Berzas with the Daily World in Opelousas and Aaron Kuriloff with the New Orleans Times-Picayune. The participation of these professional journalists was very welcome and much appreciated.

The convention was supported by many individuals, organizations and businesses with contributions of cash or merchandise. Special thanks go to the following for their generosity.

Greenheads

Rapides Wildlife Association
Avoyelles Wildlife Federation
Ron and Jackie Bartels
W. B. McCartney, Jr./Justiss Oil Company
Ken and Cindy Dancak
Red River Waterway Commission

Black Bass

James R. Baker, Sr.
Jimmy Marsh
Dr. & Mrs. James T. Pate
Hon W. Joe McPherson
William B. Owens
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe/Grand Casino Avoyelles
Marc Dupuy, Jr.
James L. Durham
George Johnson Nursery - Forest Hill
Elmer V. Moore
F. Jean Pharis
Paul Stewart
Caroline G. Theus
Myron Wellan

Whitetails

Sara L. Simmonds
Patrick C. Moore/Landscape Architects
Alexandria Neurosurgical Clinic
Hugh A. "Butch" Bateman
Jack T. Cappel, Jr. M.D.
Ken Carstens
Hon. William E. Hinton
Joe Beck Payne
Jeffery Seiler

Sac au Lait

Randy P. Lanctot
Mamie Thomas
Paul Descant

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Cabelas, Inc.
API Outdoors
Jon Barry/Buras Pointe

Coleman Company
Imperial Schrade Corporation
Outland Sports/Feather Flex
Bushnell
Joe L. Herring
Top Brass Tackle
Wright & McGill Company/Eagle Claw
Plano Molding Company
Luhr Jensen & Sons, Inc.
Bill Lewis Lures
Estwing Manufacturing Company
National Wildlife Federation
Faulk's Game Call Company, Inc.
Nature House, Inc.
Clio Sportsman's League
Wells Lamont
D. O. A. Lures
Kwieke Kwitter Company, Inc.
Yakima Bait Company
Bass Pro Shops
Mann's Bait Company
Gator Grip, Inc.
Wild Birds, Unlimited (Lafayette)
Baker Manufacturing Company
Southern Eagle Sales & Service
Cajun Injector, Inc.
TaylorTec
Creme Lure Company
Nutrena Feed Mill (Lecompte)
Hummingbird, Inc.
H & R, Inc.
Acadiana Sportsmen's League
George Barisich
Bill Herke
Smitty Smith
DeLorme Mapping
Innovative Chemicals, Inc.
Mike Davis
DeSantis Holster and Leather Goods Co.
Bruce Foods Corporation

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
DELEGATES TO THE 61ST ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA
WILDLIFE FEDERATION IN
CONVENTION ASSEMBLED,
MARCH 10-12, 2000 IN
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA**

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY
ISSUANCE OF FEDERAL DUCK
STAMP PRIVILEGES**

WHEREAS, several states including Louisiana have implemented or are in the process of implementing automated hunting and fishing license issuance systems to elec-



The winners of the conservation awards for outstanding achievement in 1999.

tronically issue every other sports license, stamp, or privilege, except the federal migratory bird stamp, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been drafted for introduction in the U. S. Congress which would provide each state the option of devising its own systems to issue, recognize and account for a temporary electronic federal duck stamp privilege, and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation provides permissive authority for a state to issue temporary federal duck stamp privileges in the same manner as other hunting and fishing licenses by issuance of a temporary confirmation number effective until the actual paper federal duck stamp is received in the mail by the licensee, and

WHEREAS, implementing such a system will provide the public with the convenience of "total one stop shopping" whereby they can purchase all their licences and stamps at one place, including federal duck stamp privileges, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation imposes no obligation or mandate on any state to issue temporary federal duck privileges, but instead grants them permissive authority to do so.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges and requests the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and Governor Foster to support legislation in the U.S. Congress to amend the Federal Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U. S. C. A. 715, et seq.) to authorize the states to devise their own systems to issue temporary federal duck stamp privileges that will be recognized as valid by the federal gov-

ernment.

SUBJECT: QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, throughout Louisiana the deer population is stable or increasing and the species is in no danger of being depleted, and

WHEREAS, other states as well as hunting clubs in Louisiana have implemented quality management rules to help improve the quality of the deer harvested.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the advantages and disad-

vantages of implementing quality management rules and report its findings to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission prior to final adoption of the rules for the upcoming deer season.

SUBJECT: BEAVER CONTROL

WHEREAS, there is an overabundance of beavers in Louisiana and they are rapidly destroying timber, and

WHEREAS, prices on beaver pelts are not enough of an incentive for Louisiana trappers to adequately control the beaver population and curtail the damage they are causing, and

WHEREAS, incentives for beaver control are needed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that incentives be made available to aid in controlling the state's beaver population.

SUBJECT: COYOTE CONTROL

WHEREAS, there is an overpopulation of coyotes in parts of Louisiana that is hurting wild game populations, and

WHEREAS, current methods of controlling coyotes are ineffective.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that other means be made available to aid in the control of the coyote population.

SUBJECT: WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR COASTAL PLAIN OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



The Tensas River Refuge Association Instructors Corps, named Conservation Educators of the Year at the awards banquet



Red River Waterway Commission member Alvin Owens addresses the LWF Board and guests with a presentation on the Red River Waterway and its many recreational opportunities.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the conservation of wildlife and its habitat, and

WHEREAS, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in the state of Alaska contains the greatest variety of plant and animal life of any conservation area in the circumpolar north, and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the ANWR is its biological "heart" and the center of its wildlife activity, and

WHEREAS, more than 180 bird species gather on the coastal plain of the refuge for breeding, nesting, and migratory stopovers during the summer season, and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the ANWR is the calving ground to the vast Porcupine Caribou Herd which migrates annually to this ecologically strategic location, and

WHEREAS, the lives and culture of an indigenous people, the Gwich'en, have been dependent on the caribou herd for over 20,000 years, and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the ANWR is the most important onshore denning area for the Beaufort Sea polar bear population, and

WHEREAS, musk oxen have been successfully reintroduced and a herd of approximately 350 of these magnificent animals now live year-round on the coastal plain of the ANWR, and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the ANWR represents only 5% of the entire coastal plain and is the last 5% of the coastal plain not yet open to oil and gas exploration and drilling; oil and gas exploration already is permitted on 95% of the Arctic Coastal Plain, and

WHEREAS, the coastal plain of the ANWR was set aside for study (1002 Area) when the refuge was established, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management, the U. S. Geological Survey

and the General Accounting office have issued independent reports which considered both geologic and economic factors, all of which indicate that there is a greater than 50% chance that no economically recoverable quantities of oil exist under the coastal plain of the ANWR, and

WHEREAS, any intrusive human presence such as that accompanying mineral exploration and development would devastate the delicate ecological balance of the coastal plain, and

WHEREAS, the ANWR belongs to all the people of the United States, and

WHEREAS, only wilderness designation will permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges Congress to enact the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Bill (H. R. 1239) in the House of

WHEREAS, the harvest of many Gulf of Mexico commercial and sport fish species must be regulated in order to maintain or rebuild their populations, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service have established regulations governing the harvest of various species to accomplish this purpose, and

WHEREAS, many regulated species closely resemble other species that may, or may not, be regulated, for example greater and lesser amberjack, and members of the snapper group, and

WHEREAS, the regulations cannot be effective unless anglers and commercial harvesters can properly identify the species so regulated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation



LDWF undeseccretary Jim Patton and Wildlife Division administrator Tommy Prickett explain features of the agency's fee bill at the Conservation Policy, Laws and Enforcement Committee.

Representatives, along with the companion Senate bill, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Act (S. 867) which will designate the last 5% of the Arctic coastal plain as WILDERNESS, making it part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges and requests members of Louisiana's Congressional Delegation to co-sponsor and support H. R. 1239 and S. 867.

SUBJECT: MARINE FISH IDENTIFICATION AID

requests the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service to produce and make readily available an illustrated fish identification guide for all regulated Gulf of Mexico fish species (and any similar species with which they could be confused) that can be easily understood by persons who are not scientists

SUBJECT: STANDARDIZING THE CREEL LIMITS FOR CRAPPIE ON TOLEDO BEND LAKE

WHEREAS, Louisiana's current creel

limit for crappie on Toledo Bend Lake is 50 per day, and

WHEREAS, crappie caught on Toledo Bend during the cooler months (December through February) are usually taken from deeper depths, resulting in stress and a high mortality rate for released fish, and

WHEREAS, small crappie that are thrown back are often eaten by the pelicans and other wildlife and fish, and

WHEREAS, many crappie anglers keep only the larger fish to count against the limit, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Toledo Bend

December through February on the Texas side of the lake.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt the same creel limit for crappie for Toledo Bend Lake that is currently in effect on Lake waters under the jurisdiction of Texas, i. e., a 50-crappie creel with a 10-inch length limit for the months of March through November and a 50-crappie creel and no culling of crappie of any size allowed during the months of December through February.

largest bass fishing tournament of its kind held annually in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the recreational fishing, tourist and retirement community economies that support the schools and government services of Sabine and other parishes and counties bordering the reservoir are dependent on its continued productivity and the quality of its shore environment to sustain them, and

WHEREAS, the reservoir's water level fluctuations and their timing can have a profound effect on the fish production of the reservoir as well as access to its waters and can adversely impact the shoreowners and recreation/tourism economy, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide part of the financing for the dam and reservoir, the Texas and Louisiana Sabine River Authorities entered into a Power Sales Agreement with GSU, LP&L and CLECO (Power Companies) to provide them the entire output of the reservoir's hydroelectric plant through the year 2018 with requirements to generate, based on availability of water, at least 65,700,000 KWHs during the May-Sept. period each year, and

WHEREAS, since the reservoir was built in the late 1960s, much has changed in regard to the economies, industries and uses dependent on it, and

WHEREAS, recently, as many as 9,000 individuals signed petitions requesting that a minimum lake level of 168' mean sea level (msl) be established, below which power can be produced only (1) to maintain the minimum required downriver flow, (2) to prevent an imminent brownout and (3) when ordered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to inspect/repair the dam, and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Bend Joint Operations Board, in response to growing local concern over low water levels, commissioned Brown and Root Corporation to evaluate the feasibility of changes to the Operating Guide to achieve reservoir water levels that would be beneficial to fish production and lake access, and

WHEREAS, the Brown and Root study identified a reservoir operation option that would better accommodate recreation, fish spawn, hunting, navigation and routine power generation that could better meet the overall purposes of Toledo Bend Reservoir, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Attorney General issued an opinion indicating that the reservoir operating guide can be changed to better accommodate purposes of the reser-



Ken Dancak (R) counts the committee vote on the fee bill resolution.

Lake creel limit for crappie is a total of 50 per day with no culling allowed during the period of December 1 through the last day of February, and

WHEREAS, the Texas Toledo Bend Lake crappie creel limit during the balance of the year, March 1 through November 30 when crappie fishing is usually done in shallower depths, is a total of 50 with a minimum size of 10 inches, and

WHEREAS, both Louisiana and Texas fishing licenses are recognized on Toledo Bend Lake, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana anglers traveling/fishing on Toledo Bend Lake waters under Texas jurisdiction are subject to complying with Texas regulations and therefore can be ticketed for acts which are violations of Texas rules but not illegal on waters under Louisiana jurisdiction, eg., possession of crappie under 10 inches in length during the months of March through November, or culling crappie during the months of

SUBJECT: LIMITATION ON DRAWDOWN OF TOLEDO BEND RESERVOIR FOR POWER GENERATION

WHEREAS, the purposes of Toledo Bend Reservoir are hydroelectric generation, water conservation and improvement to navigation and recreation as stated in the feasibility study of the development of Toledo Bend Dam and Reservoir conducted by Forrest and Cotton Engineers in 1958, and

WHEREAS, soon after the dam was built and the reservoir filled, Toledo Bend became a renown freshwater fishery and recreation lake, attracting anglers and retirees from throughout the state, region and nation, to fish its waters and build homes and recreational retreats on its shores, and

WHEREAS, Toledo Bend Reservoir has hosted thousands of fishing tournaments including, for the past 30 years, the Louisiana Top-Six Bass Tournament, the

voir in addition to power generation, even during the peak demand summer period.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, to enhance and sustain the outstanding natural resources and related recreational opportunities provided by Toledo Bend Reservoir, the the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports and urges establishment of a minimum reservoir level of 168' msl below which lake waters will not be allowed to pass through the power station at the dam except (1) to prevent a brownout/blackout, (2) to maintain the required minimum flow in the Sabine River below the dam, (3) to comply with an order from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to lower the reservoir water level for dam inspection or repair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the stakeholder power companies to work with the Toledo Bend Lake community in addressing its concerns and act in the long term best interest of the Toledo Bend region by adopting a new power agreement with affordable terms.

SUBJECT: REGULATION OF LONGLINING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, last May, the National Marine Fisheries Service, in issuing its ruling to implement the Fishery Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species fell short of addressing longlining activity, and

WHEREAS, the study used by the National Marine Fisheries service in making its ruling indicates that 85% of all blue marlin, 95% of all white marlin, and 98% of all sailfish mortality reported is due to the effects of longlining activity (bycatch), and

WHEREAS, species of both families of billfish, Istiophoridae and Xiphidae, require many years to become sexually mature and their reproductive rates cannot sustain their populations under the aforementioned pressure of longline bycatch mortality, and

WHEREAS, longlining activity has also been shown to adversely effect sea turtles, marine mammals, and sea birds due to the indiscriminate nature of this fishing method, and

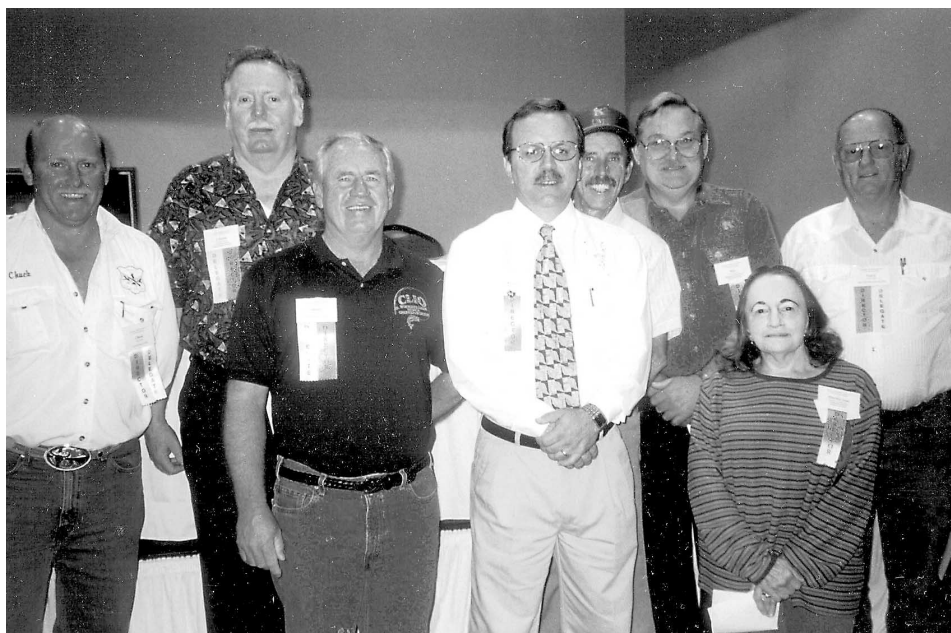
WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service is seeking to close longlining in the western half of the Gulf of Mexico, from 90 degrees longitude westward from March 1st to September 30th of each year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, in the interest of conservation, urges all recreation-

al anglers to practice "catch and release" for all billfish species and supports restrictions on longlining activity necessary to protect populations of billfish, sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds and other species that are adversely affected by longlining activity in

access fishing privileges, and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to expect that those waters traditionally used by the public upon which access is planned to be denied by the claimed owner or lessee be designated and noticed by the claimed owner or



District V. P.s (L-R) Chuck Seiber, 3; Clinton Mouser, 2; Jimmy Greene, 1; Keith Saucier, president, Francis Gautreaux, 6; Ray Gibson, 8; Martha Ann Messinger, 5; Larry Kelly, 9.

the Gulf of Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF supports the development of an effective Gulfwide strategy for regulating longline activities that is science-based with minimal impact on user groups.

SUBJECT: PUBLIC NOTICE PRIOR TO BARRICADING COASTAL WATERWAYS

WHEREAS, it is the public's understanding that it has the right of access on the state's natural, navigable waterways including lakes, rivers and streams that were capable of supporting navigation for commercial purposes when Louisiana became a state in 1812, including all such bays and bayous along the coast that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous recent incidences where fishermen and anglers have been restricted, or attempts have been made to restrict them, from navigating and/or fishing on waters that have traditionally been available for public use by persons claiming that the subject waters were privately owned, and

WHEREAS, this trend is likely to continue as more citizens engage in fishing and boating and demand arises for controlled-

lessee prior to gating or otherwise blocking access in order to inform the public that these areas may no longer be available to fish or navigate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that the state Coastal Zone Management Program and the Public Land Administrator with the state Attorney General's Office be authorized and directed to require that all gates and barricades that may possibly block commerce, trade and transportation to waters previously used by the public to navigate or fish be noticed through the coastal use permit process or by some other appropriate and economical means so that the users of Louisiana's waterways can be informed of what to expect when they take to our state's coastal waters.

SUBJECT: RED SNAPPER HARVEST MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the red snapper is a prized "table" fish pursued by both recreational and commercial fishers, and

WHEREAS, red snapper is "overfished" in the Gulf of Mexico according to some professional fisheries managers and fish researchers, including scientists with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS),

the federal agency responsible for administering marine fish conservation programs, and

WHEREAS, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requires implementation of plans and regulations necessary to recover "overfished" species within a 10-year period, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to recover red snapper populations in the Gulf of Mexico, quotas have been placed on commercial and recreational harvest along with other restrictions such as minimum length and daily creel (recreational) limits, and

WHEREAS, according to calculations by NMFS, both recreational and commercial red snapper quotas have been exceeded prior to the end of the calendar year in past years making it necessary to set fishing seasons for red snapper so the harvest doesn't exceed the quota, and

WHEREAS, this has caused the loss of red snapper fishing during the winter months for recreational anglers, and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further regulate the harvest of red snapper in favor of maintaining a viable commercial and charterboat industry, consideration is being given to implementing an individual quota system of allocating the fish within the quota, and

WHEREAS, if a sufficient amount of the quota is not reserved for harvest by individual recreational snapper anglers, it will further impact the fishing opportunity of this segment of resource users that has already lost the winter months for catching red snapper.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to fairly represent the individual red snapper angler in its allocation decisions and to ensure that this segment of snapper harvesters receive a fair allocation should an individual quota system be implemented for red snapper.

SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN

WHEREAS, Lake Pontchartrain is Louisiana's largest brackish water lake, located near 2 major metropolitan areas and providing many hours of outdoor recreational activities for many people, and

WHEREAS, Lake Pontchartrain's water quality continues to improve since shell dredging and sewage discharge into the lake have been curtailed, and

WHEREAS, fishing in Lake Pontchartrain has improved in response to improving water quality, and

WHEREAS, Lake Pontchartrain has little bottom structure, natural or otherwise, and therefore limited marine habitat, causing anglers to target the few structures, railroad and highway pilings, etc. that are available, and

WHEREAS, habitat for marine organisms could be greatly improved if more underwater structure was strategically placed in the lake, thus increasing the abundance of marine organisms and improving fishing opportunities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Jefferson Parish Marine Advisory Board, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/state artificial reef program to create new, and enhance existing, natural and artificial reefs in Lake Pontchartrain that would aid in the recovery of aquatic/marine species and increase the opportunities for recreational fishing in the Lake.

SUBJECT: HOOPNET USE BY SENIORS

WHEREAS, Act 437 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature repealed the recreational hoopnet license thereby requiring anyone but a disabled person to have a commercial fishing license in order to fish one or more hoopnets, and

WHEREAS, hoopnets are efficient fish-catching devices that have traditionally been used on a noncommercial basis by persons with low or fixed incomes to help feed their families, and

WHEREAS, commercial hoopnet fees are too expensive for noncommercial use of hoopnets, and

WHEREAS, Act 437 was passed with little consideration given to the impact it would have on noncommercial, subsistence hoopnet users.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges that senior citizens that have a basic recreational fishing license be allowed to use up to two freshwater hoopnets to take nongame fish for home consumption, in compliance with any existing limitations on length and bag for such nongame fish, or that seniors be given a discount on the commercial hoopnet fee to use hoopnets to catch nongame fish for noncommercial, home-consumption purposes.

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WATER HYACINTH, HYDRILLA, SALVINIA AND OTHER NOXIOUS AQUATIC PLANT SPECIES IN PUBLIC WATER BODIES THROUGHOUT LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, L. R. S. 56:328 prohibits the importation of certain aquatic plants into the jurisdiction of the State of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, water hyacinth, hydrilla and salvinia, three invasive exotic aquatic plant species, are already present in many public waterways of the state, and

WHEREAS, the rapid and continuous spread of these noxious aquatic plant species has significantly restricted boating and fishing access, contributed to the decline of native aquatic plant diversity, reduced valuable fish, furbearer and waterfowl habitat, negatively impacted drainage and flood control capabilities, and interfered with commercial navigation, and

WHEREAS, if left uncontrolled, the continuing proliferation of these noxious exotic aquatic species will ultimately result in widespread loss of access to waterbodies for multiple and diverse user groups, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is charged with the responsibility for aquatic plant control in public waterbodies statewide, and

WHEREAS, LDWF is not funded sufficiently to implement control activities that are adequately effective against water hyacinth, hydrilla, salvinia and other problem aquatic plant species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges and requests the Governor and Legislature of the State of Louisiana to fund the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' expanded program budget request necessary to adequately address the problems presented by invasive and noxious exotic aquatic plant species in the state.

SUBJECT: COLLECTING FISHERY DEPENDENT INFORMATION

WHEREAS, Louisiana's fisheries are both socially and economically important to the State and its people, and the Nation, and

WHEREAS, it is essential that Louisiana's fisheries be managed using the best available scientific data, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department

of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has implemented a Trip Ticket Program to gather more comprehensive and accurate commercial fisheries statistics, and

WHEREAS, LDWF is conducting several recreational SURVEYS designed to gather information from recreational fishers, including the Marine Recreational Fishing Survey, the Davis Pond Creel Survey and, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, a charterboat and headboat survey to provide more comprehensive and accurate recreational fisheries statistics.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation continues to support the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Trip Ticket Program for commercial fisheries (excluding the price per pound, name and owner of vessel) and its recreational fishing SURVEYS, and encourages all commercial fishers and seafood dealers to cooperate in providing the information required by the Trip Ticket Program and further encourages all recreational fishers and charterboat and headboat operators to cooperate in providing information about their fishing experience to LDWF employees when approached at boat landings and other points of fishing access.

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR BLACK BEAR REPATRIATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*), the official state mammal, is listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has cooperated with the Black Bear Conservation Committee (BBCC), the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and the USFWS to develop a restoration plan for the black bear, and

WHEREAS, the USFWS Recovery Plan calls for a minimum of two subpopulations with a wooded corridor connecting them before the species can be considered for delisting, and

WHEREAS, recent research in Tennessee and Louisiana has identified a mechanism to move bears into unoccupied areas with good chances of them remaining in the area by moving mother bears with cubs from their winter dens to prepared dens at the release sites, and

WHEREAS, the USFWS, LDWF, and BBCC have identified the area in northern Pointe Coupee, eastern Avoyelles, eastern St. Landry, and southern Concordia Parishes, called the Three Rivers/Red River Complex,

as a suitable site to try to repatriate bears, and

WHEREAS, the Three Rivers/ Red River Complex contains over 100,000 acres of public land, tens of thousands of acres of privately owned forest land, and is considered a conservation priority area for Wetland Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program enrollments, and

WHEREAS, local landowners are being contacted to provide input into the repatriation effort and a comprehensive outreach effort has already been initiated, and

WHEREAS, there seems to be broad support for this attempt to speed up the recovery process for the Louisiana black bear.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the cooperative effort to enhance the recovery of the Louisiana black bear by repatriating bears to the Three Rivers/Red River Complex.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recovery effort continue to be inclusive and involve the general public as much as possible so that Louisiana citizens can share in the pride of restoring this magnificent animal to viability.

SUBJECT: PROHIBITING THE TRAINING OF DEER HUNTING DOGS AND THE USE OF DOGS TO CHASE COYOTES, FOX AND HOGS ON THE KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST FROM MARCH 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) is the only public hunting area in Louisiana where dogs are allowed for the hunting of deer during certain periods of the hunting season, and

WHEREAS, KNF is the only public hunting area in Louisiana where the running of deer-hunting dogs nearly year-round is allowed, and

WHEREAS, KNF is the only public hunting area in Louisiana where dogs are allowed to pursue unregulated quadrupeds (coyotes and hogs) nearly year-round, and

WHEREAS, the running of chase dogs like deer dogs, fox dogs, coyote dogs and hog dogs during Spring can adversely impact reproduction in various wildlife species (by disturbing pregnant does, nesting turkeys, etc.), and

WHEREAS, the running of chase dogs during Summer can adversely impact reproduction in various wildlife species (by negatively influencing fawn survival, turkey poult survival, etc.), and

WHEREAS, the game species' populations on Kisatchie National Forest are below carrying capacity, and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the running of deer, fox, coyote and hog dogs during Spring and Summer might increase the populations of game species available on KNF for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts, and

WHEREAS, KNF would still remain the only public hunting area in Louisiana which allows the running of deer, fox, coyote and hog dogs during Fall and Winter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Kisatchie National Forest to prohibit the running of dogs from March 1st through September 30th each year.

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PLAN FOR THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has developed a comprehensive master plan (Plan) for the Atchafalaya Basin that, in collaboration with responsible federal agency partners, will conserve habitat and fish and wildlife resources while maximizing opportunities for public enjoyment of the Basin's environment, consistent with the rights of private landowners and leaseholders, and

WHEREAS, the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin was developed with the participation of a Citizens Advisory Committee, eight state and six federal agencies including the Corps of Engineers, local governments and essentially all other public and private interests which have a stake in the use and management of the Atchafalaya Basin, and

WHEREAS, the 15-year Atchafalaya Master Plan includes projects to provide and enhance public access, water management and recreation, and land use easements to protect the Basin's natural habitat, and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this comprehensive plan for the Atchafalaya Basin over the next 15 years will help preserve an extraordinary resource for the citizens of Louisiana and visitors from around the nation and the world while maintaining the Basin's vital flood control function and the rights of Basin landowners, and

WHEREAS, last year the Louisiana Legislature approved the Atchafalaya Master Plan and authorized its funding (up to a total of \$85 million) over the next 15 years by adopting Act 920 of the 1999 Regular

Session, and further approved general fund appropriations and capital outlay funding for the first year of plan implementation, and

WHEREAS, to accomplish one of the Plan's keystone projects, the visitor's center and children's fishing pier at the I-10 Butte LaRose rest area on Lake Pelba, it will be necessary for the Legislature to approve a land swap with St Martin Land Co., and

WHEREAS, land has been secured immediately north of the planned visitor's center by the National Rehabilitation Resource Center for potential development of an Atchafalaya Basin summer camp for physically-challenged youth, and although not originally included it is consistent with the State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin, and Act 920 of 1999 provides for the inclusion of additional projects as long as Plan implementation does not exceed \$85 million over 15 years, and

WHEREAS, along with the commitment to coastal restoration and the development of the Coast 2050 "Plan", the development of the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin is a hallmark of conservation leadership for the Foster Administration and the Louisiana Legislature and demonstrates an astute understanding of natural resource conservation priorities and their related future economic benefits, and

WHEREAS, even with the current difficult fiscal situation facing state government it is wise to "stay the course" in implementing the State's Atchafalaya Plan by continuing to provide the necessary modest level of funding required in the upcoming fiscal year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Legislature to (1) approve the appropriation requested by the Atchafalaya Basin Program to continue implementing the State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin for fiscal year '00/'01; (2) approve the land swap between the State and St. Martin Land Co. so that development of the visitor's center and children's fishing pier at the Butte LaRose rest area along I-10 on Lake Pelba can continue as planned; (3) authorize a study of the proposed Atchafalaya Summer Camp for physically challenged youth that would be located north of the planned visitor's center at the I-10 Butte LaRose exit.

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR COASTAL RESTORATION

WHEREAS, coastal land loss in Louisiana continues at the rate of about 30

square miles each year, representing 80% of the annual coastal land loss in the continental United States, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal wetlands are a nursery habitat for most of the estuarine dependent fish in the Gulf of Mexico that support recreational and commercial fisheries worth \$billions to the state's economy, and provide protection to the infrastructure of coastal Louisiana, including roads, navigation channels, flood protection levees, oil and gas facilities and pipelines, waterlines and port facilities from tropical storms, and

WHEREAS, the state has invested over \$70 million in coastal restoration efforts since the late 1970s and the Federal Government has invested \$millions more through the Breaux Act (CWPPRA), and

WHEREAS, the State's commitment to coastal restoration has increased with the adoption of Act 919 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which adjusted the formula for accruing state mineral revenue to the Coastal Restoration Trust Fund so that there would be enough money to match Breaux Act restoration funds, and

WHEREAS, the State's strategic coastal restoration plan, Coast 2050 estimates a \$14 billion price tag for halting coastal land loss and recovering a substantial portion of what has been lost to erosion and subsidence, and

WHEREAS, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) now being considered by the U. S. Congress proposes to provide hundreds of millions of dollars more to combat coastal land loss in Louisiana but the funding is conditioned on the State not diminishing its financial and policy commitment to coastal restoration, and

WHEREAS, along with the commitment to the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin, the development of the Coast 2050 Plan and strong support for coastal restoration is a hallmark of conservation leadership for the Foster Administration and the Louisiana Legislature and demonstrates an astute understanding of natural resource conservation priorities, and

WHEREAS, even with the difficult fiscal situation currently facing the State, it is vital that the State continue its commitment to coastal restoration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Legislature to maintain the funding for the State's Coastal Restoration Program at the authorized levels.

SUBJECT: CONTROLLING INVA- SION OF EXOTIC FISH SPECIES

WHEREAS, Louisiana has been and continues to be invaded by exotic fish species released in other states; recent examples include grass carp, bighead carp and silver carp, and

WHEREAS, two of Louisiana's sister states have legalized the introduction of exotic black carp, a species that will eventually invade Louisiana waters, and

WHEREAS, invasion and establishment of exotic aquatic species is often detrimental to native species and their habitats, and

WHEREAS, introduction and invasion of exotic aquatic species into Louisiana waters should be curtailed and the pathways of invasion closed, and

WHEREAS, preventative action should begin now at the regional, state and local levels.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges and requests the National Nuisance Species Task Force and the Invasive Species Council to form an interstate organization composed of states with common watersheds and river basins, and that the states prepare a cooperative plan addressing the release, control and management of exotic species.

SUBJECT: MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF WATER QUALITY PROJECTS IN THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Legislature have endorsed the State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin and provided funding for initial plan projects, and

WHEREAS, both recreational and commercial fishing are the major public uses of the waters within the Atchafalaya Basin, and

WHEREAS, construction projects to improve and manage water circulation to improve water quality are an integral part of the Atchafalaya Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, monitoring fish and important crustacean populations by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to assess the effects of water quality projects is part of the master plan but has not yet been funded, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to understand the effects of water quality improvement projects on fish populations so the projects can be properly constructed and man-

aged to provide the greatest benefit to Basin fisheries, and

WHEREAS, the massive fish kills resulting from water quality problems generated by Hurricane Andrew is a vivid reminder of the importance of water quality to healthy fish populations and to the well-being of the Basin, and

WHEREAS, the LDWF has historically conducted limited monitoring of fish populations in the Atchafalaya Basin and has the expertise to conduct pre and post project monitoring of fish populations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation requests the Governor to approve and the Legislature to appropriate state general funds to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct monitoring to determine the effects on fish and important crustacean populations of Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan projects for improving water quality, or alternatively, to dedicate a portion of any fishing license fee increase that the Legislature may approve to this purpose.

**SUBJECT: RAISING THE
PRIORITY OF LOUISIANA
COASTAL RESTORATION AT
THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

WHEREAS, since the 1950's Louisiana has lost about one million acres of coastal wetlands to erosion and subsidence and for over 20 years the State of Louisiana and the Federal Government have been working on various plans and projects to slow coastal land loss, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal restoration effort got a big boost with the establishment of the Coastal Restoration Trust Fund, the Coastal Restoration Task Force, the Coastal Restoration Program and the enactment by Congress of the Coastal Wetlands Protection, Planning and Restoration Act, also known as the Breaux Act, nearly 10 years ago, and

WHEREAS, in late 1998 a milestone was reached with the publication of a strategic "plan" for coastal restoration, Coast 2050, a document developed through the collaboration of state and federal agencies, local governments, coastal scientists, and interested citizens, and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers chairs a Task Force created by the Breaux Act to evaluate and approve coastal restoration projects to be built with the \$40 - \$50 million provided each year by the Act, thus imposing on the Corps significant adminis-

trative responsibilities associated with Act implementation that are crucial to an efficient and successful coastal restoration program, and

WHEREAS, the corps is undertaking a Feasibility Study of the Coast 2050 Plan which will have major ramifications for future coastal restoration efforts and funding, and

WHEREAS, as the Nation's chief construction agency with a role in coastal restoration work, the Corps of Engineers will garner even more coastal restoration responsibilities should Congress adopt the Conservation and Reinvestment Act directing more than \$300 million a year to Louisiana for coastal impact assistance, and

WHEREAS, due to the frequent change in command at the district, and many competing programs, it is difficult for the Corps to increase the priority for its coastal restoration responsibilities that is warranted by the importance of the work and the funding that is now and perhaps soon will be available, and

WHEREAS, considering its key role in coastal restoration it would be reasonable and proper for the Corps of Engineers to continue to raise the level of priority for the coastal restoration program at its district headquarters in New Orleans and to assign a senior-level person with primary, full-time responsibility for coordinating and expediting all of its coastal restoration work.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers to raise the priority of its coastal restoration work at its New Orleans District and assign a permanent executive with the primary, full-time responsibility of coordinating and expediting all coastal restoration work.

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW AND
INCREASED LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND
FISHERIES USER FEES**

WHEREAS, the various programs and operation of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) are supported by revenue from a number of sources including: mineral and other royalties, bonuses, rentals, fees, licenses and permits for use of, and extraction of resources from, department-owned lands and state waterbottoms; commercial fishing and related license fees; recreational hunting and fishing license fees; motorboat registration fees; and federal funds – primarily from the Dingell-

Johnson/Wallop-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson federal aid in sport fish and wildlife restoration programs, with approximately 25 to 30 percent of LDWF's funding generated by recreational licenses and motorboat registration fees, and

WHEREAS, the last general increase in LDWF recreational license fees occurred in 1987, over 13 years ago, and the costs for the LDWF to provide services to recreational users have understandably exceeded license fee revenue over this period of time, and

WHEREAS, the amounts generated by most sources of LDWF operating revenue have not kept pace with the cost of operating the agency and its programs, and

WHEREAS, as far back as 1995 the Legislature recognized the need for more frequent assessment of the sufficiency of LDWF's license and fee structure and directed that the agency make a biannual assessment of its fee structure and financing needs and report its findings to the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees; the Legislature further authorized the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set nonresident recreational license fees and considered, but did not pass legislation authorizing same for resident license fees, and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for additional financing for LDWF, particularly for operation and maintenance its fish hatchery program and for aquatic weed control, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation adopted a resolution at its 59th Annual Meeting in Gonzales in March of 1998 suggesting modest fishing license and motorboat registration fee increases that would have raised about \$4 million for the LDWF, and offering to work with the agency to generate public support for fair and reasonable fee increases, and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation met with LDWF officials in October of 1998 to discuss appropriate fee increases and offer LWF's assistance in developing public, legislative and administration support for specific fishing license and motorboat registration fee increases, but apparently LDWF was not able or willing to participate in such an effort at that time, and

WHEREAS, as an apparent indication of the severity of its budget problems, last year the LDWF was not able to commit to providing its FY '99/'00 share (\$600,000) toward the implementation of the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin despite LDWF's obvious relationship to the success of this wildly popular conservation initiative of the Foster Administration, and

WHEREAS, as further evidence of its financial predicament, last year LDWF had legislation introduced and passed dissolving the State Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund which freed up the fund's nearly \$3 million in mineral income and interest for agency operation, funds which could have been more appropriately invested in the acquisition of wildlife habitat or some other project with long-term future conservation benefit, and

WHEREAS, on several occasions in the recent past the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has proposed and/or supported measures to generate additional revenue for the LDWF including: (1) raising the age of exemption from recreational license requirements from 60 to 65 years of age; (2) dedicating ATV-related sales tax and registration fees to the Conservation Fund for acquisition and stewardship of state wildlife areas; (3) establishing an annual wildlife management area user "pass" for a reasonable fee dedicated to acquisition and stewardship of state WMAs; (4) allocating the state taxes collected on the sale of fuel used by recreational boaters, anglers and commercial fishers to LDWF to help finance boating access development, aquatic weed control, boating safety, water patrol and other related agency responsibilities; (5) dedication of a small percentage of state sales tax for habitat acquisition and other LDWF programs and functions not directly supported by user fees, and

WHEREAS, should the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) be passed by the U. S. Congress, up to \$5 million will be available to LDWF each year if it can provide a 25% match from the Conservation or other state funds, making it even more compelling to boost the finances of the agency, and

WHEREAS, LDWF is now taking the initiative in proposing a wide range of new and increased resident recreational user fees that, if adopted, is projected to generate \$10-\$12 million per year over the next 5 years; the proposal includes: (1) increasing the basic resident fishing license (which is required to fish fresh or saltwater) and the saltwater license to \$15 each; (2) increasing the various hunting licences (not stamps) to \$15 each; (3) raising the age of exemption from licensing to 65, phased in over 5 years; (4) establishing "senior" licenses for those 65 and older at a fee of \$5 for all fishing and \$5 for all hunting; (5) increasing the 3-year motorboat registration and renewal fee to \$27.50 (by mail); (6) increasing the ATV registration fee to \$24 for 4 years with 50%

of the revenue allocated to LDWF; (7) establishing an annual \$25 fee for "consumptive use" (hunting, fishing, camping, trail riding, etc.) on wildlife management areas; (8) increasing the "cane pole" license to \$5, among others, and

WHEREAS, the LDWF has provided extensive documentation and analysis of its funding sources and the need for additional operating revenue but thus far has not given an accounting to its constituents, who will

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recognizes the need to provide additional revenue to the Conservation Fund for the operation of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and conditionally supports the following: (1) increasing the basic, big game, muzzleloader and archery resident hunting license fees provided a sufficient portion of the new revenues generated by this increase are dedicated to fully funding the LDWF's



The last vote! The general Assembly of Delegates casts the last vote to close the 61st Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

have to pay the new and increased fees if they are adopted, of what continuing and new programs and services it intends to use the new revenue for, but has only threatened to lay off enforcement and fish division personnel and close wildlife management areas if it doesn't get the funds it needs, and

WHEREAS, prior to the last general increase in recreational user fees, LDWF commissioned the Wildlife Management Institute to review its budget, programs, statutory authorities, accomplishments and future needs; WMI issued its report to the LDWF secretary in the spring of 1985 and it was subsequently made public; this review and report was helpful in garnering public and legislative support for a range of user fee increases that the Legislature approved the following year, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has historically supported fair and reasonable user fees provided that their uses are dedicated to specific, appropriate purposes related to the interests and activities of the users who are being asked to pay them.

wildlife and habitat management role in implementing the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin; (2) increasing the 3-year motorboat registration and renewal fees provided that the new revenues so generated are dedicated to the development and maintenance of public boating access facilities, aquatic weed control, boating safety and education, and boating law enforcement; (3) increasing the ATV 4-year registration fee with 50% of that amount dedicated to the maintenance of appropriate trails, roads, and parking/camping areas on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and wildlife habitat acquisition and stewardship; (4) increasing resident basic and saltwater fishing license fees provided that the new revenues generated by these fee increases are dedicated primarily to maintaining the LDWF hatchery program at capacity, fully supporting LDWF's role in implementing the State Master Conservation and Recreation Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin, marine and inland recreational fish/fisheries surveys, research and manage-

ment, lake management, aquatic weed control, and enforcement of laws pertinent to the benefit of recreational fishing; (5) increasing the "cane pole" license fee provided that some of the increased revenue therefrom is dedicated to the development of appropriate bank-fishing and pier-fishing opportunities; (6) raising the age of exemption from standard recreational hunting and fishing license fees to 65 phased in over 5 years and establishing "senior" hunting and fishing licenses to include all hunting and all fishing privileges for persons aged 65 and over, or requiring such "senior" hunting and fishing licenses of persons aged 60 and over, with the new revenue generated from these fees dedicated to a special account in the Conservation Fund to be used to establish and sustain youth hunting and fishing programs throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in light of the recent consideration of raising the state sales tax, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports dedicating a portion of any new state sales tax annually to acquisition and stewardship of wildlife habitat by the LDWF and the support of other general public benefit programs and services of the agency including aquatic weed control, hunter and boating safety education, fish and wildlife management education, scenic rivers, rare/threatened/endangered species research and management, nongame and urban wildlife, natural heritage inventory and registry, and boating law enforcement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation implores the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature to acknowledge that Louisiana's fish and wildlife resources and the habitats they require are important to all people living in this "Sportsman's Paradise" and, considering our changing demography, it is imperative that LDWF be allocated the necessary general fund dollars to accomplish its mandated functions.

**SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF
LOUISIANA SCENIC STREAMS IN
THE NEW SCENIC
STREAMS PROGRAM OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

WHEREAS, the "Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act" was first enacted in 1970 and revised and reenacted in 1988 to protect and conserve some of the State's most outstanding natural resource waters, and

WHEREAS, the Amite, Tangipahoa, Bogue Chitto and West Pearl Rivers are

Louisiana designated scenic streams shared by the State of Mississippi, and are greatly dependent for their quality on the stewardship practiced by the streams' basin and riparian landowners in Mississippi, and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Mississippi State Legislature authorized a voluntary Scenic Streams Stewardship Program to designate outstanding Mississippi streams for special conservation treatment, similar to the protection afforded to Louisiana streams designated by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act, and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, administrator of the Mississippi Scenic Streams Stewardship Program, is soliciting nominations of streams for designation in that program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the designation of all or appropriate segments of the Amite, Tangipahoa, Bogue Chitto and Pearl Rivers in the State of Mississippi for inclusion in the Mississippi Scenic Streams Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests the administrator of the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System to assist in providing the documentation to nominate the Amite, Tangipahoa, Bogue Chitto and Pearl Rivers for designation in the Mississippi Scenic Streams Stewardship Program.

Conservationists Recognized: Continued from page 43

is illegal under the ruse that they originated in Louisiana. From January 1995 through December 1998 a total of 29,896 box turtles were collected for the pet trade and shipped from Louisiana, most to die within the first year of capture. This law will ensure that future generations of Louisiana's children will be able to take a walk in the woods and view box turtles in their native habitat. This is the first time that Louisiana has ever afforded statutory protection for a kind of turtle, and Senator Barham's enthusiastic support in steering the bill through the legislative process was greatly responsible for its successful enactment into law.

As a member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Barham has been a strong supporter of conservation initiatives. In addition to the box turtle legislation,

Conservationists: Continued from bottom column left

Senator Barham has sponsored bills to facilitate the establishment of the Black Bayou Lake Wildlife Refuge near Monroe. When not in Baton Rouge making laws, he practices conservation on the forest and farmland his family owns in North Louisiana.

**The Louisiana Nature Center –
Conservation Organization of the Year**

The Louisiana Nature Center in Eastern New Orleans is one of the leading urban nature centers in the nation. In its 20 years of operation its programs have reached over 2 million people. The Center and its staff have played leading roles in promoting recycling, the Christmas tree marsh restoration project and the establishment of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. In its 20 years it has grown to be a "full service" nature center in the broadest sense.

Last year, the Nature Center received the Wetlands Environmental Excellence Award from EPA – Region 6 in recognition of the quality of its wetland education programming. And its Curator of Education, Mike Boley, was named outstanding environmental educator of 1999 by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association.

The Center produces the free, 3-day Louisiana Youth Environmental Summit with the help of Cleco Corporation. The Summit brings students and mentors together to learn about Louisiana environmental issues and how they can make a positive impact on Louisiana's environmental future.

In 1999 the Center produced and distributed "Treemendous Trees", a booklet with accompanying tree trunk activity boxes, to the leaders in the Southeast Louisiana Girl Scout Council. The program has reached 17,000 scouts in 11 parishes. The Center developed a program, jointly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of day-long wetland workshops at the Bayou Sauvage NWR that oriented 700 students to the importance of wetlands. It collaborated with St. Bernard Parish to provide free field trips to the Nature Center for every 5th Grade student. And it provided 15 free Wetland Workshops involving day-long field trips that allowed inner-city students to investigate and discover the value of wetlands to the environment.

These are just some of the "new" things the Louisiana Nature Center is doing in addition to delivering outstanding nature education opportunities day in and day out.

fowl study leaders. They in turn will use the survey responses to inform the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service concerning the '00/'01 waterfowl season.

I took a random 200 surveys and put together my own "data" and thought the tabulation might interest you.

Over 80% of the survey responders hunted primarily on private leases and of those 60% hunted more than 10 times during the season, 30% hunted 6-10 times and 10% less than 6 times. Thirty-two percent of all responders hunted on WMA's.

When given the choice between extending the season or increasing bag limits, an overwhelming 98% preferred an extended season. Many people commented that the season should start later and last longer. Interesting to me was that most (78%) of those surveyed also hunted big and small game and were saltwater but not freshwater anglers; 28% were both.

Speaking of fishing.....don't forget to renew that license and I hope the summer is productive on the water for you and yours. Remember to wear that life jacket when underway or in rough water and the little guys and gals should wear them all the time.

That's it for me and thanks again to all the new members and those of you who contributed to our Year-End and Spring Appeals.

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FEDERAL AID ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS - TOO MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING

President: *Continued from bottom column to the left*

A good deal has been said, written and even more has been rumored about alleged “misuses” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) of funds from the federal aid sport fish and wildlife accounts—best known as the Dingell-Johnson (D-J) and Pittman-Robertson (P-R), respectively. Much of the vitriol and innuendo is being fueled by agendas that have little or nothing to do with safeguarding and enhancing the delivery of essential wildlife and fisheries program resources to the states, observes the Wildlife Management Institute. Those agendas are varied and almost impossible to comprehend fully, but one thing is clear—the general rancor over the matter is beginning to undermine what collectively is the world’s most successful wildlife and fisheries program.

Much of the problem of use or alleged misuse of funds stems from lack of clarity in the original statutes. By law, the Service is permitted to retain up to 6 percent of the D-J revenues and 8 percent of the P-R revenues to “administer and execute” the two programs. The remaining 94 percent and 92 percent of the funds are allocated to the states. The use of these state funds are not part of the current controversy.

Unfortunately, the current law provides no further qualification of what does or does not constitute “administer and execute.” That discretion has been the Service’s and therein lies the problem. In administering and executing the two programs, the Service has given broad interpretation to allocation of its so-called “administrative funds.” The Government Accounting Office (GAO) has determined that the Service has done a poor job of tracking the expenditures. These situations have given rise to what the investigating GAO has described as “a culture of permissive spending” by the Service.

However, rumors that administrative funds have been granted to an antihunting program are unfounded. Neither has there been any hint of individual impropriety. In fact, the GAO found that “the authority to use funds for program execution is sufficiently broad that these programs [administrative grants] are not prohibited.”

While the Service has acknowledged many of the weaknesses the GAO pointed out, and agrees with many of the issues that have been highlighted, it has not clearly identified

the GAO investigative findings with which it agrees or disagrees. Public and political crowing about this issue might subside if the Service was more explicit in that regard and explained actions it is taking to rectify problem areas. To its credit, the Service had begun to implement many federal aid program improvements even before the GAO commenced its investigation.

However, fully responding to identified shortcomings GAO found may be difficult for the Service, because the GAO currently has no plan to release a final report, despite its July 20, 1999 testimony that it would “provide recommendations on what we believe needs to be done to correct the problems....”

A legislative fix that clearly defines “administer and execute” is in the works. Conservationists widely agree that such clarification is needed, but there is equally prevalent concern that attempts to “adjust” P-R and D-J beyond tweaking these identified shortcomings could irreparably damage vital conservation programs nationwide. Conservationists also agree that, in the absence of a detailed GAO report, the legislative fix may not actually address all the areas that need tweaking, especially the Service’s internal policies and procedures (or lack thereof) that led to the problem(s) at the outset. Without a final report there likely will be no clear remedial response from the Service, and allegations of Service indiscretions will continue to fester. Closure to this controversy is needed, and that will only come about with a final GAO report and the Service’s point-by-point response.

For more information, contact Bob Byrne, WMI (202-371-1808), or Meg Durham

President: *Continued from page 3*

bare minimum number of votes required. According to our executive director, Randy Lancot, who was very involved with the whole process from beginning to end, lobbying by the state Sierra Club chapter and contacts made by Louisiana Nature Conservancy supporters, especially when the bill was in the Senate, were able to swing the few extra votes needed. I’m pleased to say that our federation was instrumental in engaging the assistance of these two important conservation groups in passing this bill.

Looking ahead, we will be playing “catch up” in getting our magazine publication back on schedule and ask your indulgence in bearing with us. We also are hoping to have our own web site up and running soon, perhaps by the end of the year. My own home club, the East Ascension Sportsman’s League, is planning a web site which we will ultimately link with the Federation’s. Developing a web site can be relatively easy and inexpensive so it may be a good project for local sportsmen’s clubs to consider. It will really increase your exposure.

Speaking of increased exposure, members of the Federation’s Development Committee (chaired by Edgar Veillon) are working on some very exciting things which should boost our membership, including a public service announcement video television “spot”. This is exciting news since we haven’t had any such promotional media spots in over 20 years. In fact, the first time I ever heard of the Federation was from a TV commercial I happened to see sometime back in the mid ‘70s.

Another idea that we are considering implementing is a monthly newsletter that we would send via email. In order for this to be effective and worthwhile, we will need to have the email address of a substantial number of LWF members. If you use the internet and have an email address that you have not already provided to our office, please send us an email to lawildfed@aol.com and include your name and physical address so that we can correctly add it to our data base. This will be a big help in determining the feasibility of an electronic newsletter.

As you can see, LWF is a very dynamic organization and we have a lot going on. But there are still too many people in the state who don’t know who we are or what we do. We are making an effort to change this but we need your help. We need members to let us know of upcoming events or activities in their areas where organizations like ours can set up a display booth. If you know of any, please call or email me or our office well in advance so we can plan to be there. I would also love to hear any ideas or comments you may have to make this organization more effective at accomplishing its mission of “conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them”. Please let me hear from you.

Yours in conservation,
Keith R. Saucier
President

The Key to a Conservation Century

by Mark Van Putten, President, National Wildlife Federation

The new millennium has focused attention on the new conservation questions, challenges and opportunities the future may hold, along with speculation about new strategies and technologies to address them. Clearly, difficult questions and challenges lie ahead, and yes, there are exciting opportunities too. Yet the key to a healthier planet lies not only in miraculous technology, but also in sticking with the best of the understanding, commitment and direction humanity developed in the past 100 years in what can rightly be called the "conservation century."

During the past 10 decades, the conservation movement profoundly redefined human thinking. We have come to recognize the toll that so-called progress exacts on the natural world. In response, we have started to embrace the responsibility of stewardship and to develop, in Aldo Leopold's term, a "land ethic." While much more needs to be done to translate this ethic into practice, it has already produced real progress that should give us hope for the future. Our progress can be traced, in part, to conservation heroes like Rachel Carson and other members of the National Wildlife Federation Conservation Hall of Fame. These heroes inspire us by their example, and their ideas provide guideposts for meeting the new challenges ahead. But it is the common thread among their diverse lives and contributions that is the key to the future of conservation.

All of the past century's conservation heroes believed that one passionate person can make an enormous difference. The passion and commitment to making a difference, demonstrated by these heroes, is not, however, limited to them. It's the same spirit of dedication and volunteerism I see manifested every day by members of the National Wildlife Federation and its state affiliates. It's a commitment to a better future, a sense of hope, and a can-do attitude shared by millions of people in the United States and around the world whose portraits won't hang in any Hall of Fame. And it's the most hopeful sign that we will meet the future's challenges; the real strength of any movement is not measured by the leaders who garner most of the recognition, but by the extent to which its

values are widely shared among diverse people and put into action in their daily lives. Only through the commitment of ordinary citizens can we reduce the impacts of our global consumer culture on wildlife and wild places, not to mention on the human spirit. Only the awareness and passion built on the lessons of the twentieth century will inspire us to make life-style changes to avoid overwhelming Earth's natural life-support systems with global climate change; to navigate the social and religious complications associated with stabilizing world population; to restore damaged ecosystems; and to confront the inequities in how the world's natural resources (and, thus, its wealth) are divided.

While these challenges are daunting, our past successes give us hope that we can meet them. We have developed new manufacturing technologies with less pollution; we have restored endangered wildlife such as wolves, alligators and bald eagles to the wild; we have written the plan to restore the Mississippi Coastal Delta and the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration projects in human history. These successes demonstrate that technological innovation and visionary leadership can forge a better future. They remind us of the importance of a broad base of citizens educated about the natural world and committed to its protection and restoration.

It's the unsung heroes, who labor every day for the love of wildlife and the natural world, who must make the difference in the future. And that's where we come in. The National Wildlife Federation will continue to educate, inspire and assist volunteer activists and link them with like-minded individuals in the cause of conservation. To be sure, we will add the wonders of new technology and the leadership of new heroes in advancing common-sense conservation. But our vision of a modern world in which people can coexist with thriving wildlife, abundant wild places and healthy natural resources will remain unchanged. So will our strategy for getting there: building on the passion, commitment and accomplishments of caring people like you.

Thanks to each of you—the true conservation heroes—as we place the capstone on one century and face the challenges of the next with commitment, passion and hope.

NOXIOUS ALGAE BLOOMS

by Jerald Horst

Phytoplankton are tiny one-celled plants (algae) that are the basis for almost the whole food chain in marine waters and much of it in fresh waters. Basically, they use the same nutrients that land plants do, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, to convert the energy from the sun into growth of the plant. Without algae, other sea life would die.

Too much algae, on the other hand, can also be a bad thing. Overgrowths of phytoplanktonic algae are called blooms. Algae blooms can be either natural or caused by human activities. Drawing the line between the two is sometimes very difficult. Many researchers feel that noxious algae blooms are on the increase worldwide. "Noxious" is another word for "harmful or destructive."

Algae blooms occur when some change in water chemistry occurs that favors algae growth. When zooplankton, the almost microscopic animals that feed on the phytoplanktonic algae (and are the next link in the food chain) can't eat fast enough to control the algae, several things can happen.

1) In fresh or near-fresh waters, blue-green algae may multiply until their dead cells form a film that looks like bright green paint on top of the water. In some cases, fish from these waters develop an "off-flavor" making them almost inedible. A few blue-green algae release toxins (poisons) into the water which can weaken or kill fish and other animals. Finally, when blue-green algae cells die off, their decay (which requires oxygen) can remove enough oxygen from the water to kill fish. Blue-green algae were the phytoplankton involved in the toxic algae bloom in Lake Ponchartrain last year.

2) A brown tide may occur. The algae involved in brown tides *Aureocymba lagunensis* does not kill fish. It simply turns the water into the color of tea with a little cream in it. Their effect is to shade out other plant life like seagrasses, from the sun and kill them, changing the ecosystem. Brown tides have occurred for the last 7 years in the Texas' Laguna Madre, a 120 mile long system of bays that used to hold sparkling clear water.

3) A dinoflagellate outbreak may occur. Dinoflagellates are strange, having some the characteristics of plants and some of ani-

mals. They are also one-celled, and for the sake of this discussion will be considered algae.

The first ever red-tide outbreak off of Louisiana's coast was caused by a dinoflagellate called *Gymnodinium breve*. At high concentrations, their cells turn the water a reddish color. They release a nerve toxin which kills fish and other animals including dolphins and birds. The toxin can cause respiratory problems for beach-goers that inhale surf spray and even skin irritation to swimmers. The toxin can also cause nausea, vomiting and neurological problems for people who eat shellfish taken from affected waters.

Another dinoflagellate, *Pfiesteria piscicida*, has caused large fish kills, first in North Carolina estuaries and last year in the Chesapeake Bay. This cell can change into at least 19 different forms. One very aggressive form kills by releasing toxins that stun fish. It then strips away the skin and feeds on the fish's flesh. They can also feed on other algae, and their toxin has been associated with neurological problems and sores on humans.

4) Finally, large algae blooms can cause hypoxic water conditions. Hypoxia is when little or no oxygen exists in layers or throughout the water column in an area. The "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is a hypoxic zone. It occurs when otherwise "good algae" explode in numbers faster than the animals that feed on them can control. These algae have very short lives. When they die in large numbers and sink to the bottom, their decay can remove enough oxygen from the water to suffocate bottom fish and benthic organisms.

The hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico forms in the summer months and may cover 6000 to 7000 square miles. The cause of the condition is believed to be a complicated interaction of very high nutrients carried to the Gulf by the Mississippi River, physical changes to the River such as channelization and loss of natural wetlands and vegetation along the banks, and the mixing of freshwater from the River with saltwater of the Gulf.

A significant portion of the nutrients coming down the River come from human activities, including discharges from sewage treatment plants, and storm water run-off from farms and city streets. Some nutrients also enter the River and the Gulf directly from the air after being released by automobile engines and electrical power plants. The

Noxious algae: Continued on page 37

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The Louisiana Wildlife Federation occasionally receives memorial and honorary gifts from its members, friends, organizations and business concerns. All memorial contributions and honorary gifts so designated, unless otherwise directed by the donor, are credited to the Federation's Conservation Education Scholarship Fund. The interest from the Fund is used to award scholarships to Louisiana educators to attend one of the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Summits where they learn about the wonders of the natural world and principles of resource stewardship. This knowledge is then shared with other Louisiana educators and used in the classroom. Perpetuated through the learning process, your gift is a lasting contribution to the conservation, wise use and enjoyment of our environment and its dependent fish and wildlife resources.

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At last we had the leader in hand and I put the tag in place. I reached over to touch the magnificent fish. It seemed to glow and give off colored light. We took a few pictures and Michael released the bill. It swam away into the deep, cobalt blue water, hopefully none the worse for the outstanding show it had just put on for us. After a few hoops, hollers and "high fives" the baits were back in the water and "smoking". Anticipation was once again high and no one would take their eyes off the baits for at least another hour or so in hopes of seeing the next strike. However, it would be a few hours until the next chaotic outbreak. And what an outbreak it would be!

It was just after lunch and Dwight Moity, a good friend and captain/owner of the 38-foot Bertram "Moiteaser" was the next angler up in the chair. Off in the distance Shannon spotted some floating sargassum. Sargassum weed, actually a type of brown algae that floats in large masses in the Gulf Stream, serves as a haven for small fish and, in turn, larger fish that come to feed upon them. In other words, it's like an offshore buffet line teeming with life and sometimes huge dolphin, tuna, wahoo, and marlin. Shannon steered for the flotsam and everyone took their positions readying for a bite. On our first pass we could see hundreds of small dolphin (not the mammalian dolphin but a highly-prized, colorful gamefish of the same name), some of which came after baits that were as large, if not larger than they were. In fact they were so small that we were able to reel them up and take them off the lures without ever slowing the boat down.

Well, with nothing happening on our first pass, we turned and headed back down the patch of sargassum. I was standing at the stern watching the baits closely when it happened. I could see something huge swim into the baits. It was a tremendous fish, coming across the surface so forcefully that she pushed a wall of water up over her head like a huge submarine surfacing. (I use the pronoun "she" because blue marlin show sexual dimorphism, that is, males and females have different physical characteristics, for instance, growth potential. In the case of blue marlins, males usually

don't grow to over 300 pounds while females can exceed 1,000 pounds.)

I hollered, "short bait". It was a colossal blue marlin and she was coming for the bait we were pulling just twenty or so feet behind the boat. With her mouth open so wide I could have thrown a 55-gallon drum down it (okay, a 5-gallon bucket), she swam forward over the bait and engulfed it like a fat man swallowing a peanut, then turned and swam away. The line began to peel off slowly. Michael grabbed the rod from its holder and struck the fish with two mighty swings of the rod. At that point, just fifty feet or so behind the boat, a fish as large and beautiful as any I'd ever seen rose from the water in one mighty leap. She looked like a huge glowing bird, the Air Jordan of the fish world. When she crashed back into the sea it was as if a thermonuclear detonation had occurred and we were at ground zero. Everyone aboard was awestruck, but our mouths weren't open for long. Because as soon as she hit the water, she began a run of prodigious proportions. The reel sounded as if it would explode as she pulled line off of it faster and harder than if it were tied to a Mack truck.

Dwight could barely get into the chair amidst the commotion in the cockpit. Once in the chair we joked with him that we hoped he had eaten his Wheaties because he was going to need them. It wasn't long after he was strapped in and the fish had taken several hundred yards of line, that the line went limp. I first thought that she was running at the boat or had looped back, but that was not the case. She had somehow managed to dislodge the hook.

Just like many other big fish stories, this one "got away". I believe it's the ones that "get away" that keep us coming back for more. If we caught every fish we hooked or raised into the spread, fishing would lose its appeal. The fact that the beast wins many of the battles, keeps man coming back for more. As it is with everything in life, it's that which we can't have that we want the most. Over the next two days we managed to tag and release another marlin. We even caught a few nice yellowfin tuna and dolphin. The trip was very much a success and highly enjoyable.

The reason I'm relating this story is because the fleeting seconds that this fish spent with me will probably remain in

my mind forever. On those tough days at work, in traffic, or at the house, all I have to do is think back to that beautiful marlin and how free she was, how wild she was, and everything is better.

Before that day, and since that day, I have seen, caught, and tagged other billfish. But for some reason this one stays with me. It's for that reason that I hope all anglers and captains who target billfish will practice catch-and-release. There's much talk within the marine fisheries scientific community about steps to protect and manage billfish. Something must be done soon, as evidence suggests that billfish may be on the brink. Recreational and commercial fishermen all have to do their part, even if that means we never bring another marlin to the dock. Death that comes on the end of a tournament angler's line or on the end of a commercial fisherman's line must stop. These majestic beasts are two awe-inspiring to be lost.

So the next time you are lucky enough to hook a billfish and get it to the boat, release it. Your children and your children's children will be thankful you did. For one day they too may be able to witness the spectacular exhibition put on by the offspring of the "one that got away".

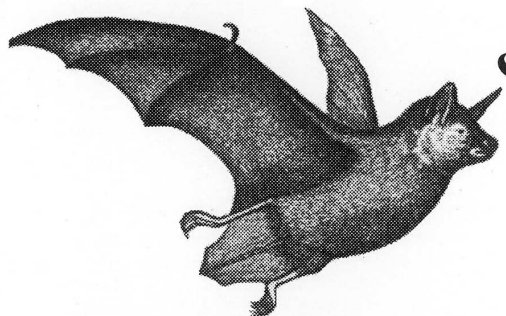
Anyone wishing to get involved or learn more about billfish conservation can contact the Billfish Foundation at P.O. Box 8787; Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-8787 or phone 1-800-438-8247 or visit them on the Internet at www.billfishfoundation.org.

Noxious Algae: Continued from page 35

exact contribution of each source is not known at this time.

Scientists are undecided about whether to do anything about noxious algae blooms. Some say that algae blooms of some kind are a natural event and that nature should be left "hands-off". Others claim that human activities are causing more and larger blooms, and that unless action is taken, ecosystems and fisheries may be damaged.

Reprinted from the Feb. 2, 1998 issue of Lagniappe, a publication of the Jefferson Parish office of the LSU Agricultural Center Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant Program.



Animal Tracks Kids' Page

Welcome to Animal Tracks!

Learn more about the environment and what you can do to make a difference.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The world's smallest mammal is the bumblebee bat of Thailand, weighing less than a penny.
- Fishing bats have echolocation so sophisticated that they can detect a minnow's fin as fine as a human hair, protruding only 2 millimeters (.08 inches) above a pond's surface.
- African heart-nosed bats can hear the footsteps of a beetle walking on sand from a distance of more than 1.8 meters (6 ft).
- Vampire bats adopt orphans and have been known to risk their lives to share food with less fortunate roost-mates.
- The 20 million Mexican free-tail bats that live in Braken Cave in Texas eat more than 181,437 kilos (200 tons) of insects nightly.
- A main cause of bat decline is humans who kill them out of fear.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BATS!

Decide whether the following statements about bats are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

1. Bats are blind.
2. Bats get caught in people's hair.
3. Some bats catch fish.
4. Some bats eat fruit.
5. Lots of bats have rabies.
6. Some bats can eat 1,000 insects in one hour.
7. Mother bats nurse their babies.

ACTION! Things YOU Can Do

- As you learn more about bats, you can help improve other people's bat attitudes and turn their ideas around! By doing this you can play an important part in bat conservation.
- Build a bat house for your home or school. (You can get bat house building instructions from Bat Conservation International, *see below*.)
- When you see a bat, just look, don't touch.
- For more information on bats contact Bat Conservation International, Inc., P.O. Box 162603, Austin, Texas, 78716, (512)327-972, or www.batcon.org

ABOUT BATS

Just as you go to sleep at the end of the day, bats are waking up and beginning their day – at night! While bats fly through the night skies, they eat huge numbers of insects, pollinate flowers, and help spread the seeds of many plants. While most species of bats eat insects, many species of bats eat fruit and nectar, and a few even eat fish and small animals like frogs and lizards.

There are almost 1,000 different species of bats. They usually live in trees and caves and are found everywhere in the world except Antarctica. Bats come in all different sizes, shapes, and colors. Bats are mammals and like all mammals, have body hair and give birth to live young. Mammals also nurse their young with milk and maintain a constant body temperature. Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

BAT ATTITUDES

You are not alone if you have ever been afraid of bats. So many bad things have been said about bats that people who don't know the facts about them often think they are blind, spooky creatures that will attack or bite people and get caught in their hair. These are common fears and are not true. The truth is that bats are among the most gentle, helpful, and misunderstood mammals in the world. Bats can see well. They can navigate in the dark. They don't get caught in people's hair, and they are afraid of people and try to avoid them. Nevertheless, you should never attempt to handle a bat. It might become frightened and bite in self-defense. Any bat that can be caught may be sick, but you do not need to fear even a sick bat if you simply leave it alone.

Lots more COOL stuff for KIDS
can be found on NWF's website.
CHECK IT OUT!
www.nwf.org

Answers: 1. False: Bats are not blind, they can see quite well; 2. False: They "see with sound" and avoid flying into obstacles, including people; 3. True: 4. True; 5. False: Very few have rabies, but bats we can catch are more likely to be sick; 6. True; 7. True: Bats are mammals and produce milk to nurse their young.



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Toll from Coal

New NWF Report Exposes Number One Source of Pollution in the U.S.

Coal is not just bad news when it comes from Santa Claus. As a major fuel source for America's power plants, it causes incalculable damage to our environment, poisoning our air and water, and threatening the health of all living things. In a new report, "The Toll from Coal," the National Wildlife Federation uncovers the serious effects that coal-fired power plants are having on human health and on the wildlife and wild places that we know and love, and offers the tools needed by concerned citizens to help clean up power plants in their own communities and across the nation.

Smog, global climate change, acid rain, mercury pollution – all of these problems are linked, in large part, to one major pollution source: emissions from coal-fired electric power plants, the single greatest source of air pollution and greenhouse gases in the United States.

According to the EPA, coal-fired power plants emit more than 60 percent of the nation's sulfur dioxide and 23 percent of its nitrogen oxides, which contribute to acid rain, smog and nitrogen pollution in our soils and waters. They are also responsible for more than 32 percent of total U.S. mercury emissions, and 31 percent of the nation's carbon dioxide – the gas chiefly responsible for global warming.

Despite this dirty trend, surprisingly little has been done to deal with the full range of environmental problems this pollution source creates. Numerous coal-fired power plants more than 20 years old are exempt from the toughest regulations of the Clean Air Act, although they pollute four to ten times more than newer plants. And while 1990 amendments to the law have reduced sulfur dioxide emissions, equally detrimental nitrogen oxides have been largely ignored. In addition, there are no formal controls on emissions of mercury or carbon dioxide from power plants. And deregulation of electric utilities has fostered

Toll From Coal: Continued on Page 20

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(*Partial List of LWF Members who have joined in the new millennium-to be continued in the next issue.)

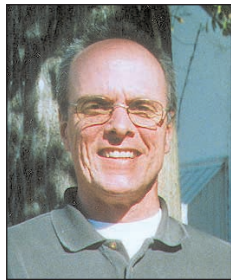
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Bill Ford



How time flies. Here we are already half way through the Year 2000. The world didn't end on 1/1/2000 and everything is pretty much the same as it was on 12/31/99. Although here at the Federation much has happened since the last issue and the new millennium; we've had our annual convention, two extra and the regular legislative sessions are over with and oh yes, the 1999-2000 hunting season is history.

Being mid-year, I need to remember and remind everyone else that their '99/'00 fishing licenses expired on June 30, 2000. I'm one of those people who wants to get every penny's worth out of my fishing license and always wait until the last day of June to get my new license. I have also been known to forget all about it and end up scrambling for a place to buy a license at the last minute when I get asked to go on a July fishing trip. Learn from my experience and don't let this happen to you.

The 1999-2000 hunting season was a good one for me. I ended up with 16 squirrels, 22 ducks, 28 doves and three deer in the freezer. I'm going to have what is left of the two deer (backstraps and roasts didn't make it through February) ground into "burger meat" and tamales (Pete Giovenco-St. Rose makes the best deer meat tamales! deerdepot@aol.com) I'm also going to let Pete take most of the ducks and doves and make them into sausage. I understand he can make anything into a great tasting sausage, including nutria. I'll let you know how this turns out. The squirrels won't make it through the July 4th weekend.....I'll make a sauce picante out of them. So it looks like my freezer will be empty by September, just in time for teal season.....couldn't have planned it any better!

Our annual Sweepstakes was a huge success. David Davis of La Place is the

Grand Prize Winner, and he and his brother will be spending the week of July 7th through the 14th with Jim Flynn of Red Mountain Outfitters, horseback riding, fishing and camping the high country of the Colorado Rockies. He has promised to take plenty of pictures and we should have those for the next issue. 1st prize winner was Bertrum Daigle of Belle Chasse and 2nd prize winner was Eugene Rills of Brusly. Both said "show me the money" and each was given a check in the amounts of \$500 and \$300, respectively. The Year 2000 Sweeps will be kicking off the end of July, once again offering the Grand Prize Winner a choice of a Colorado hunting trip for two, a high mountain summer fishing adventure or \$2000 cash. Keep an eye on your mailbox for your entry tickets.

The convention this year was a little hectic, especially with the last minute change of venue from Toledo Bend to Alexandria, but everything turned out well and we had good attendance and participation. Once again I want to thank the Clio

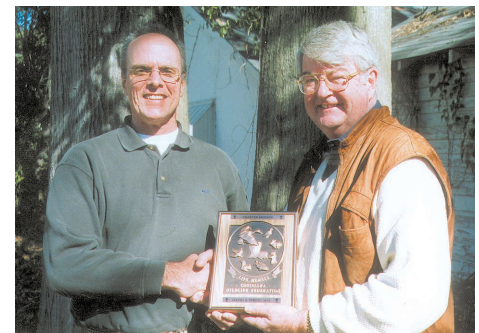


1999 Sweepstakes Grand Prize Winner, David Davis of LaPlace, LA is congratulated by LWF Development Director, Bill Ford. David and his brother will be spending a week with Red Mountain Outfitters camping and fishing the Colorado high mountain lakes in July.

Sportsman's League and their wives and friends that make up the "Kennerettes". This group of ladies, especially Melodie Dauzat, are instrumental in helping me pull off the Friday night auction. Thank you, thank you ladies. Thanks also to our new 2nd V. P. "Smitty" Smith and his wife, Shawn, for their help in putting the Silent Auction items together and just "being there" when I needed an extra hand. Plus Smitty supplied me with Macanudos (no, not the dance [Macarena] – they are cigars) throughout the convention.

During the month of May we conducted the first of our two special appeals. The Spring Appeal along with the Year-End

appeal are essential to the financial well-being of the Federation and help fund our programs. Once again, many of you have come through for us with support above and beyond your annual dues contribution. I humbly thank each one of you and your families for these contributions. Following this article is a list of those generous mem-



Dr. David Spring of Baton Rouge, one of the Federation's newest Life Members receives his Charter Member Life Member plaque from LWF Development Director, Bill Ford

bers that contributed to the 1999 Year End Appeal. I will include the names of Spring Appeal donors in the next issue.

Retired Podiatrist Dr. David Spring from Baton Rouge and Rena Pitts, Pitts Farm Management, of Ferriday are the newest LWF life members. We thank them both for their long-term commitment to the Federation and their generous support. For those of you who would like information on life membership, please contact the Federation office.

So far this year, through May 31st, we have gained over 500 new members. To those I extend a heartfelt welcome and thanks for your support. Our membership is our strength. When we talk with legislators and others that have influence over conservation and environmental issues, they realize that they are talking with representatives of the state's largest and oldest conservation organization, and that our members are also their constituents. Your support allows LWF to be an effective advocate for conservation.

Many of our new members joined through the waterfowl surveys we have been sending out since the beginning of the year. When we have collected them all I will be turning them over to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries water-

FYI: Continued on page 32

“Commitment.” That’s a characteristic found in all of our conservation award honorees. But it applies to no individual or group more than to those who dedicate their lives to the care and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. Noel A. Thistlethwaite is one such volunteer who has made wildlife “rehab” her life’s work.

Thistlethwaite’s property where she lives in Prairie Basse, a small community between Grand Coteau and Arnaudville in St. Landry Parish, is enveloped by an assortment of enclosures and flight cages that house a multitude



Noel A. Thistlethwaite is recognized as LWF's Volunteer Conservationist of the Year.

of creatures in various stages of convalescence. Most of these she has built herself at her own expense. She has been a licensed wildlife rehabilitator since 1994, and during that time has “rehabed” hundreds of wild animals and restored them to their habitat by providing them medical care, proper nutrition and housing.

Rehab work is meticulous and time-consuming. On any given afternoon Thistlethwaite can be found dicing fruits, vegetables and meat for her wards, and measuring medications and filling droppers to feed weakened and very young animals. Then there is the process of teaching young birds of prey to get their own groceries, proceeding in stages from feeding raw meat, to dead mice, to releasing live mice in flight cages for the birds to learn to hunt. On her own, Thistlethwaite has had to learn all of the basics – what the animals eat, their habits and means of survival. She raises the mice and some of the other food needed for the animals in her care, again, at her own expense. And she barely mentions the plentiful bites and scratches that come with the territory.

Last year Thistlethwaite treated dozens of “critters”, from diminutive house wrens and hummingbirds to great-horned owls and even bobcats. She does her rehab work as a member of the organization “Wildlife in Distress”, a group that coordinates wildlife rehab efforts

and helps to cover some of the costs of medical treatment. And in 1999 she began presenting a Wildlife Education Series to elementary school children using slides of her patients and narration tailored to the age interest of the audience.

Marla Elizabeth Adam – Youth Conservationist of the Year

Kids – oops! – I mean, young ladies do the darndest things. And it is especially gratifying when they put their hearts and energy into projects that benefit their communities, wildlife resources, and the future.

“Operation Quackback” may seem like an unlikely program for a teenager to take under her wing, but Kaplan High Senior, Marla Elizabeth Adam, has been a leading ambassador and organizer for this award-winning conservation program.

“Quackback” is a volunteer, farmer-initiated program aimed at providing wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species by flooding rice fields. It is sponsored by the Louisiana Rice Growers Association, the Louisiana Farm Bureau and the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. The winter moist-soil acreage it creates provides a haven for ducks, geese, shorebirds and many other wildlife species while reducing bothersome weeds and maintaining soil moisture for the next growing season. “Quackback” demonstrates farmers’ concern for conservation, and coming from a 6th generation farm family, Adam is especially interested in promoting that program aspect.

Miss Adam was selected last year to chair “Operation Quackback” for her parish by the Vermilion Junior Leadership Group. In this capacity she took the initiative through public



Marla Elizabeth Adam, Youth Conservationist of the Year.

speaking engagements, media releases and personal calls and letters to promote participation in the program. Thousands of people learned about “Quackback” through her efforts and she signed up over 25,000 acres. Many of these areas she visited to help place signs to

further promote the program and enhance its visibility.

This active young woman already has numerous accomplishments to her credit. But the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is especially proud that she has invested her time and talent in educating the farming community and doing something for wildlife.

Cleco Corporation – Conservation Corporation of the Year

For conservation to work for all of us and to have a quality environment to enjoy, the business community must step up to the plate and do its share. But being “good actors” in terms of pollution prevention and good envi-



Cleco Corporation, represented by chairman and CEO Greg Nesbit (CR) and David Eppler, president and COO (CL) received the Conservation Corporation of the Year award.

ronmental practices is not enough. Companies must reach out with their resources and business savvy and lend a hand.

Power company, Cleco, has been doing just that.

Particularly, Cleco has embraced a unique environmental education program called “Louisiana YES” or Youth Environmental Summit. The concept of “YES” was developed by the staff of the Louisiana Nature Center. It brings young people aged 14-17 together to develop skills to create and implement grass-roots environmental and conservation projects within their home communities and provides exposure to “real world” environmental concerns. It also exposes the participants to career opportunities in conservation/environmental fields and requires follow-up reporting and presentations of project outcomes to others in the community.

Not only does Cleco support “Louisiana YES” financially, it also lends its staff to participate in the 3-day “YES” summits and produces and distributes information to recruit students to participate. Cleco has stuck with the program through its formative stages and can be proud of its involvement with this innovative youth education program that is

having statewide impact.

In addition to supporting "Louisiana YES", Cleco is active in retrofitting utility poles in areas frequented by bald eagles to avoid their injury; managing utility rights-of-way for wildlife habitat; sponsoring the Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium; and partnering with Northwood High School near Boyce in the "E-Cool School" project. "E-Cool School" involves landscaping to promote energy conservation, and developing an outdoor classroom.

Tensas River Refuge Association Instructors Corps – Conservation Educators of the Year

The vast floodplain forests of the Mississippi Delta are gone, victim of massive clearing and conversion to cropland – victim of "progress". The once clean-running streams and rivers have been channelized and choked with soil-laden runoff laced with pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The change has occurred so rapidly the landscape today, except for a relatively few tracts of mostly public land set aside for wildlife refuges and management areas would not be recognized by the youth who grew up in the Delta only 50 years ago. But these remnant tracts of bottomland hardwood forest, like the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge, are more than just



Members of the Tensas River Refuge Association Instructors Corps crowd in for the presentation of the Conservation Educator(s) of the Year award.

the last stand for a legendary wild ecosystem. They are a vision for a new generation of conservationists, a vision of what once again could be. At least that's the way the participants in the Tensas River Refuge Association Instructor Corps Program (ICP) see it.

Established in 1997, this unique program consists of young people of high school age who, with the guidance of adult mentors, learn about the Tensas River NWR ecosystem and, in turn, become instructors that bring the message of habitat conservation and restoration to their home and school communities. Instructors complete over 100 hours of experiential training that involves learning the

area's natural history, woodsmanship, and how to teach both younger and older audiences about the Delta's natural bottomland hardwood ecosystem. Instructors also lead field trips on the Refuge and represent the Refuge at various meetings and public events throughout the region. Currently there are 28 trained instructors in the ICP.

In 1999 the ICP reached over 20,000 people through programs and activities on and off the Refuge by giving talks and/or tours and demonstrations. This involved 4600 volunteer hours by the young instructors and their volunteer mentors. The affect of this effort is that literally thousands of people are being exposed to the value of wildlife habitat and the need for stewardship of the environment. They are learning that they are responsible for solving environmental problems, not someone else; that conservation serves everyone's interest.

The ICP's contribution to conservation and society is enhanced by the benefits to the young instructors themselves. Graduates of the program show a marked increase in self confidence, public speaking and leadership skills. They inspire others to learn about the environment and environmental problems that we all face. Their efforts have had a dramatic impact on the environmental awareness of the people in northeast Louisiana and surrounding area – a good sign for the future of the Delta.

The ICP includes instructors: Lega Grover, Eric Stevens, Carole Lee Brown, Garrett Marsh, Stephen Chandler, Myra Arnold, Theresa Arnold, Shawna Wyatt, Paul Powers, Andy Harden, Tabatha Kelly, Pamela Netterville, Brandy Wyatt, Kevin Hampton, David Watson, Amy Stevens, Tecia Paeth, Tracy Weast, Brandon Laughman, Jeremy Purvis, Matt Koestler, Amber Key, Twyla Johnson and adult mentors Joe Walters, James Hendrix, Virginia Whittington, Bonnie Hardin, C. L. Keene, Kim Simmons, and Mike Esters.

Senator Robert J. Barham – Conservation Legislator of the Year

In addition to the essential role of representing their constituent's views at the State Capitol and providing leadership on state policy and fiscal matters, legislators have the opportunity to introduce bills to respond to issues brought to their attention by individual citizens in their districts. Thus began the involvement of Louisiana State Senator Robert J. Barham of Oak Ridge in conserving the state's native box turtles. When Barham

was approached by Bastrop residents and amateur herpetologists Martha Ann Messinger



Louisiana State Senator Robert J. Barham receives the LWF's Conservation Legislator of the Year award from Karen Gautreaux and Dr. Earl Matthew.

and George M. Patton, he was not aware of the decline of Louisiana's 3 native box turtles or the complete lack of laws and rules to provide for their management and protect them from extinction. Working with these two constituents and the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Barham introduced legislation to prohibit the sale of box turtles and limit the harvest and possession of wild box turtles for personal pets.

According to Senator Barham, the "turtle bill" took on a life of its own as dozens of letters and

e-mails poured in to legislators and the governor, not only from Louisiana citizens, but from people all over the country and other parts of the world. The bill became the conservation highlight of the legislative session, ultimately passing without dissent. Even Governor Foster, not much on ceremony, took the time to schedule a photo session when he signed the bill, Act 81 of the 1999 Regular Session, in the company of Barham, Messinger, Patton and LWF President Kathy Wascom.



Bob Marye, director of the Louisiana Nature Center with the Conservation Organization of the Year award earned by the Center.

Act 81 will have far reaching impact on box turtles in other states as well as Louisiana, as it will no longer be possible to smuggle box turtles out of states where commercial harvest

Conservationists Recognized: Continued on page 31

South Louisiana Farms Provide Habitat For Birds

A team of biologists led by University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Dr. Jay Huner have been documenting the value of south Louisiana farms as bird habitats. Huner is director at the ULL Crawfish Research Center located at the university's 600-acre experimental farm at Cade near St. Martinville.

Huner's team includes Michael J. Musumeche, a professional ornithologist

where sugar cane, hay, crawfish and livestock – dairy and beef cattle, horses and swine – are raised. This compares very favorably to the statewide bird count of 450 species.

All major groups of birds normally found in Louisiana are represented in the team's bird list. There are more than 40 species that nest on the Cade farm. Although all farms in the area do not include the diversity of crops and habitats found at the experimental farm, Huner points out



Crawfish ponds planted with rice for crawfish forage provide shallow water marsh habitat for water birds in the fall of the year. Photo by Jay V. Huner.



Little blue herons, great egret, white-faced ibises, white ibises utilize shallow water feeding habitat provided when the crawfish ponds are drained. Photo by Michael J. Musumeche.

and New Iberia High School biology teacher and Bill Vermillion, wildlife biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program. A number of amateur and professional bird watchers from the area have also worked with the team. The birding project is supported by the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette and the Lafayette office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Financial support is also provided by the Louisiana Crawfish Promotion and Research board.

Huner's ornithological team has recorded 223 species of birds on the farm property

that on a landscape basis, every section of land in the area provides birds with the habitats available at the experimental farm.

According to Huner, the availability of crawfish ponds provides artificial marsh habitat that attracts, during the course of a year, 70-100 different species of waterbirds. This is an especially critical consideration as thousands of acres of nearby coastal marshland is lost each and every year. This has forced the waterbirds to take advantage of the artificial wetlands provided by the state's rice and crawfish farming industries, said Huner.

On any given day, visitors to the Cade

farm can expect to find 30-40 bird species. During fall and spring migration periods, as many as 100 bird species may be recorded. A recent inventory in early December 1999 recorded 73 species including cormorants, grebes, geese, ducks, hawks, gulls, terns, shorebirds, woodpeckers, flycatchers, swallows, warblers, robins, wrens, sparrows, blackbirds, cardinals, mockingbirds, doves, kinglets, blue jays, bluebirds, shrikes, finches, crows, egrets, herons and ibises. Huner said his team is confident that an additional 25-30 bird species will be documented this year as more effort is devoted to monitoring birds during migration periods.

For further information about the ULL Agricultural Bird Project, contact Huner at 337/394-7508 or

by email- at jhuner@louisiana.edu.



Tricolored (Louisiana) heron feeding in one of the ULL farm crawfish ponds. Photo by Michael J. Musumeche.

26TH ANNUAL WILDFOWL CARVERS FESTIVAL

The millennium finds the Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers and Collectors Guild about to field our 26th and largest ever Wildfowl Carvers Festival. This event will be one of five featured exhibitions in Competition Magazine, the number one venue for wildlife art and decoys.

Located in the all new John A. Alario Center in Westwego, it is a state-of-the-art exhibit in a 21st century setting with excellent lighting and in-house food service featuring jambalaya, red beans and rice, and a superb gumbo. It's an event you'll never forget. The security and extensive parking area are two added pluses. It's easy to find – just a half-mile from the Huey Long Bridge on the Westbank Expressway. You'll be right next to Bayou Segnette State Park, a



Green-winged teal, 1999 Best In Gulf South Professional by Steve Worona of Port Hope, Canada.

wonderful place to spend an extra day taking a swamp tour.

New Orleans is the number one tourist spot in the United states. Bourbon Street, the Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Zoo and, if you feel lucky, Harrah's Casino are all just a hop, skip and a jump away.

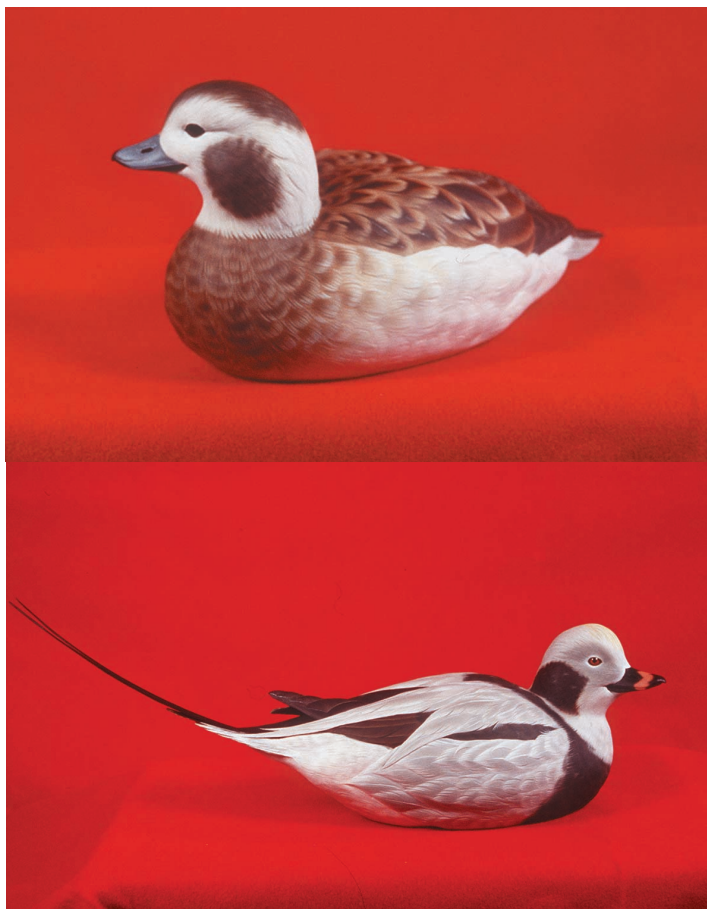
Y'all come pass a good time with us. - *Charles W. Frank, Chairman 2000, Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers Festival* ■

Tibby Sez: Continued from page 46

Plans for the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest which will be held on October 21st are moving very much to my liking. There will be more about this in the next issue of the magazine, but in the meantime practice up on your calling and consider entering the contest. There will be a lot more prizes this year, including a nice shotgun that will be drawn for by the top callers in each division.

Bonne peche,

Ole Tibby



Pair of oldsquaw by Lionel Dwyer of Pickering, Ontario, Canada – 1999 Best In Show-Pairs.



Pied-billed grebe, 1999 Best In Gulf South Shooting Stool by Carl Danos of Lockport, Louisiana.



TIBBY SEZ

Ole Tibby

copter pilot (Viet Nam). The actor, Tom Hanks, who starred in the movie "Saving



Student Hannah Messina from Bellingrath Middle School interviewing Tibby about his WW II experiences for a class project while he recuperates from knee replacement surgery. Tibby conducts informal clinics on boating and hunting safety for neighborhood children who refer to he and wife Erna as "Pa and Ma Tibby". Photo by Erna Thibodeaux.

Bon Jour Mes Amis,

I hope you all are surviving the unusual drought we are having in South Louisiana and the usual heat. This Ole Ecriteur has been confining himself to the house. A new subdivision is being built behind us and the dust, smoke and noise is not easy on wife Erna and me.

I attended the D-Day World War II Memorial dedication in New Orleans on June 6th. Since I do not like to drive in New Orleans I enlisted Richard Dugas, partner with Stan Blouin at the Spillway Sportsman in Brusly, to drive. A fine friend, Richard drove and helped me along and paid for the expenses. I was able to share with him the 3 tickets which were given to me by our Army Division Association (2nd Armored Division, nick-named "Hell On Wheels"). Our unit didn't ride in the parade as the original tank and personnel carrier the Division used have metal tracks that were not permitted on the street. We sat in the bleachers, saw the dedication, went inside the museum and were interviewed by Channel 6 (New Orleans).

I really appreciate Richard doing what he did for me that day. He is a Veteran heli-

Private Ryan" was at the dedication and he took down my name and address for a story he is writing.

The blue birds using my nest boxes put out 2 coveys of young ones. I had to run the sparrows out of one of the boxes – they were not paying rent! We still get woodpeckers, cardinals, doves, mocking birds, and blue jays, coming to the feeder. Putting out only sunflower seeds minimizes the attraction for starlings and English sparrows that have taken over the 2 purple martin houses in the backyard.

A schoolgirl from down the street came over to interview me about WW II. She brought a tape recorder and a publication with some history on the 2nd Armored Division. She did a good job. She reported back later that all of her teachers and classmates enjoyed it and that everyone at Bellingrath Middle School now knew me.

Presently I am recuperating from knee replacement surgery (my 2nd one – the other knee was replaced a few years ago) and it is keeping me confined, which doesn't set well with this Ole Cajun.

Tibby Sez: Continued on page 45

AFFILIATE CLUBS

DISTRICT 1

St. Bernard Sportsmen's League

DISTRICT 2

Clio Sportsman's League

Jefferson Rod & Gun Bass Club

Jefferson Rod and Gun Club

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

DISTRICT 3

Acadiana Bay Association

Iberia Rod and Gun Club

Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's Association Of Dulac

DISTRICT 4

Claiborne Parish Hunting and Fishing Club

Lincoln Parish Wildlife Federation

DISTRICT 5

Waterways Access Association

DISTRICT 6

Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League

Citizens For A Clean Environment

East Ascension Sportsmen's League

Hunters Against Poachers

Lake Maurepas Society

Pointe Clair Hunting Club

Central LA Chapter, Safari Club International

Triangle "T" Sportsmen's League

DISTRICT 7

Acadiana Sportsmen's League

Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club

DISTRICT 8

Avoyelles Wildlife Federation

Bayou Bassmasters of Alexandria

Catahoula Lake Conservation Club

Rapides Wildlife Association

DISTRICT 9

Louisiana Toledo Bend Lake Association

South Toledo Bend Civic Association

Toledo Bend Bi-State Alliance

STATEWIDE

Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs

Bayou State Bowhunters Association

Louisiana Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation

Louisiana Safari Club International

Louisiana Seafood Management Council

United Commercial Fishermen's Association

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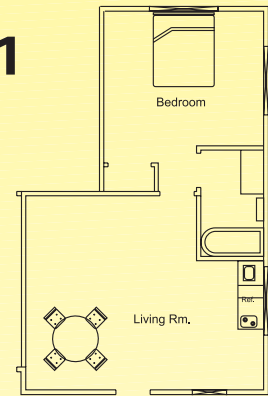
Leases and applications as well as additional information is available for downloading through the internet.

www.rodreel.com/buraspointe

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\$336 to \$650 a month
including boat shed and all utilities.

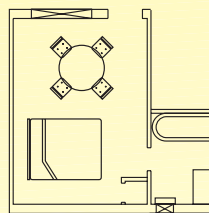


C Units - 580 sq.ft

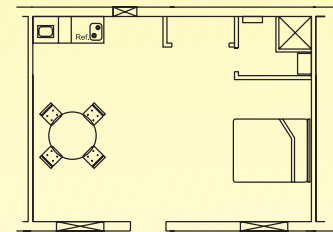


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Unit Includes Kitchenette



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For optimum performance and safety, read the Owner's Manual before operating your Honda Marine Product. Always wear a personal flotation device while boating.

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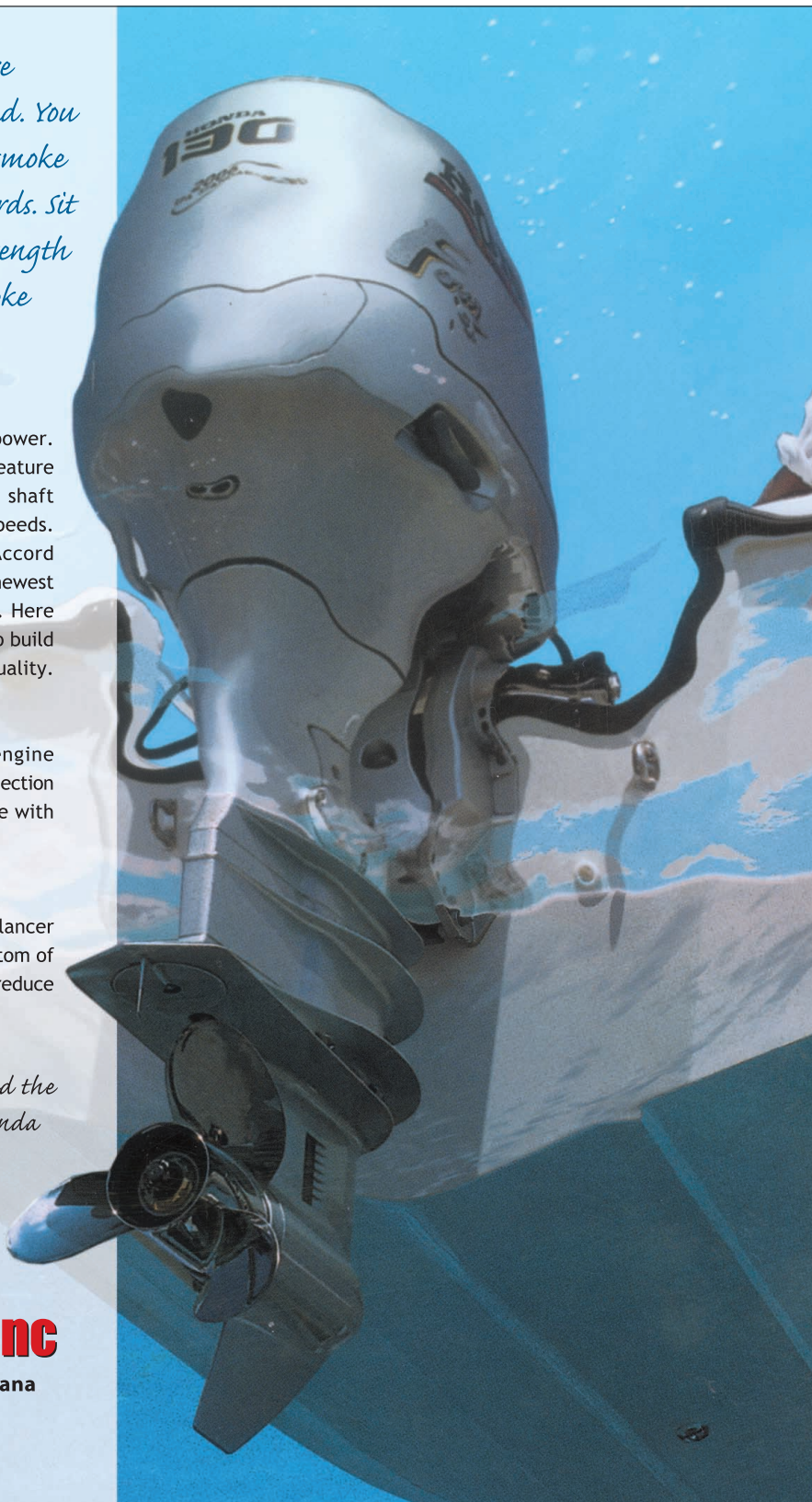
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