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■ *Celebrate Nature!*

■ *Indian Bayou*

■ *Conservation Awards*

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On the Cover.... Adonica Reed of Baton Rouge models the latest in ear wear at the Baton Rouge Earth Day celebration. The familiar green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) is sometimes called a chameleon because of its ability to dramatically change its skin color from brown to gray to green to blend into the background habitat. It is not a true chameleon, which is another lizard altogether, and one that does not occur in Louisiana. The green anole is in the iguana family and is a voracious insect predator that helps keep termites and fire ants and other nuisance bugs at bay in the yard and garden. It is active during the day, and males often can be seen in spring and summer extending their pink dewlap ("Mista lizard, show me your gizzard.") in territorial display. A large adult can grow to 8 inches long. Females deposit a small egg (about hummingbird egg size) under leaves or other yard debris at two-week intervals throughout the breeding season. Its prodigious appetite for insects makes the green anole a great friend of gardeners, and who knows, maybe of fashion lovers, too! Photo by Jon Barry.



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Magazine Staff
Randy P. Lancot: Editor

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Joe L.
Herring*



So far, 2003 has been good to the LWF. We had a very successful convention and conservation awards banquet in Shreveport. The



LWF executive director Randy Lanctot addressing the students, teachers and volunteers at the dedication of Lakewood Elementary School's schoolyard habitat project.

convention programs were very informative and resolutions submitted by our clubs and directors were debated in the conservation committees. We are working on those that

passed. The Shreveport Mardi Gras parades passed in front of our hotel, so there was some extra entertainment - beads for all.

At the convention, LWF District 5 at-large director Jim Marsh, on behalf of himself and his wife Denise, presented me with a \$5,000 unrestricted donation to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Since we are establishing an endowment to provide financial support to the LWF, I have recommended to the LWF Board of Directors that the Marsh's generous donation be designated the first contribution to the LWF Endowment. I am now looking forward to others following Jim and Denise for great conservation projects to be carried out by the Federation.

One of LWF's convention traditions is reading of the "Sportsman's Prayer" by T. Roger as the invocation at the commencement of the Conservation Awards Banquet. T. Roger was a member of the Bonnet Carre Rod and Gun Club, a founding affiliate of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. He along with Walt Day and Francis Braud was one of the fathers of that great organization that regretfully is no longer part of the waterfowling scene in the greater New Orleans area. One of the LWF's newest board members, Wayne Hammons of Choudrant representing District 4, was attending the awards banquet for the first time at the Shreveport convention and was so impressed with the words that T. Roger

wrote that he asked us to share them with all of you by printing it in the magazine. So, printed at the end of my column is the "Sportsman's Prayer" by T. J. Roger, Jr.

We received a very good compliment on



LWF staffed the display on Elmer's Island at the City Park Fishing Rodeo in New Orleans, sponsored by the Jefferson Rod and Gun Club.

the LWF magazine from Dr. Peter Brown, Editor in Chief, Museum of Natural History in New York. Dr. Brown complimented the special issue we published in November of 2001 featuring the monarch butterfly. Dr. Brown remarked, "I cannot believe you published a magazine of that quality with the limited funds and the small staff the Federation has." This compliment was conveyed to LWF life member Dr. Gary Noel Ross, recently appointed to the New York Museum of Natural History's board. Dr. Ross provided

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Randy
Lanctot*



Seems like there's nothing left but lists to include as I'm getting ready to send this issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine to layout and printing. But they're very important lists. There's the list of contributors who included LWF in their year-end giving as we closed the books on 2002 and leapt into 2003, and the list of new members for the first 6 months of the year. Elsewhere in the magazine is the list of hunters and sporting clubs who have con-

tributed to the LWF's CWD campaign (read about it on page 11). Our Shreveport convention was a grand success thanks in large part to the many sponsors (listed in the convention coverage on page 14). Thanks to all of these individuals, businesses and organizations who have supported LWF in these special ways. If you received this magazine in the mail, you're also on a very important list of affiliate and individual contributing members - those who maintain their support of the LWF through faithful renewal of their annual membership. Thank you for being in that number and showing confidence in LWF's mission in such a tangible way.

Another list you'll see here is a list of legislation that was adopted during the just-completed session of the Louisiana Legislature. The list is long, so rather than commenting further, here it is. Your calls or

emails (lawildfed@aol.com) are welcome should you have questions about any bills or resolutions of particular interest. So happy reading, and let me know what you think.

Enrolled Bills and Acts of the 2003 Louisiana Legislature Pertaining to Natural Resources and the Environment

HB 1 by LeBlanc. **APPROPRIATIONS.** Governor's executive budget - \$42,803,133 (\$21, 947,299 general fund [GF]), 113 positions; Dept. Agriculture & Forestry - \$92,489,802 (\$21,947,299 GF), 765 positions; State Parks - \$21,637,356 (\$20,025,721 GF), 351 positions; Dept. Natural Resources: Atchafalaya Basin Program - \$703,513 GF, 4 positions; Office of Coastal Restoration and Management -

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National Wildlife Refuge Friends Group Tops Conservation Award Lineup

The Friends of Black Bayou (FoBB) National Wildlife Refuge near Monroe, Louisiana were honored March 1st with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Governors' Award. The award is presented annually to the person or organization deemed to have made the most outstanding contribution



Members of the Friends of Black Bayou pose with the LWF Governors Award for the most outstanding conservation achievement for the year 2002. Holding the eagle statuette are FoBB president Ann Smith and past president Bob Eisenstadt

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 8 other awards was made by a panel of independent judges with expertise in a wide range of conservation fields.

FoBB received the award, a handsome statuette of a bald eagle, at the 39th Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Holiday Inn Downtown/Riverfront in Shreveport where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation convened for its 64th Annual Meeting. The awards were presented by Jerome C. Ringo, Central



Jack C. Caldwell, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, received the Professional Conservationist of the Year award from Jerome C. Ringo (L), Central Region Vice-Chair of the National Wildlife Federation and Joe L. Herring, president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Region Vice-Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation and LWF President Joe L. Herring, along with Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

FoBB was cited for excellence in developing the facilities and educational programs of the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. In the 5 years since the 4,500 acre refuge one mile from the City of Monroe was established, FoBB has grown to a 350-member volunteer support group for the Refuge. During that time it has raised over a half million dollars in contributions to establish a visitor and education center and arboretum, a handicap-accessible fishing pier and wildlife observation tower, and provide supplies for education programs. This amount has been matched by in-kind contributions and the value of volunteer service hours contributed by FoBB members. Now that many of the "infrastructure" projects have been substantially completed, FoBB's



Paul M. Dickson is presented with the Volunteer Conservationist of the Year award for 2002 by LWF president Joe L. Herring (R) along with Jerome C. Ringo, NWFF vice-chair.

emphasis is on developing a suite of conservation education programs for school children, teachers and the general public in the community. It's success has earned Friends of Black Bayou acclaim as one of the top "friends" groups in the country by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Five individuals, an organization, a corporation and a publication were also recognized for their outstanding conservation achievements in 2002. They are:

(Professional Category) Jack C. Caldwell, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, for bringing national attention to Louisiana's coastal land loss crisis and leading the state's efforts to implement projects and plans to arrest the

most significant loss of real estate on the continent;



Blake Martin Whittington, Youth Conservationist of 2002, with his award presented by Jerome Ringo (L) and Joe Herring.

(Volunteer Category) Paul M. Dickson of Shreveport for developing the concept for and leading the effort to establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge which is authorized to ultimately restore, conserve and protect 80,000 acres in the Red River alluvial plain;

(Youth) Seventeen-year-old Blake M. Whittington of Benton for organizing a Christmas tree recycling/coastal restoration project, an Arbor Day tree planting project, volunteering at Cypress/Black Bayou Nature Center and mentoring other youth in outdoor skills and ethics.

(Corporation) BP America Production Company of Houston for innovation in environmental protection in association with its oilfield operations and for the donation of over 70,000 acres of wetlands and



BP America Production Company's Director of Public Affairs, Hugh Depland, receives the Conservation Corporation of the Year award presented to BP. NWFF Central Region Vice-chair Jerome C. Ringo on the left and LWF President Joe L. Herring on the right presented the award announced by Master of Ceremonies Don Dubuc, center- background.

agricultural lands in Vermilion Parish to the state for conservation, scientific research and education purposes;

(Educator) Melissa M. Whittington of

Benton, education director for the Cypress Nature Study Center in Bossier Parish, for teaching 6,000 youth and over 100 teachers the importance of conservation and protect-



Melissa M. Whittington, Conservation Educator of the Year, with her award presented by Jerome Ringo (L) and Joe Herring.

ing the quality of the environment through training workshops, the establishment of an after school nature club and activities and events associated with 4-H, Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation and other conservation groups;

(Elected Official) Senator W. Joe McPherson of Woodworth for continuing to be the Louisiana Legislature's staunchest and most consistent advocate for natural resource conservation statewide, and particularly for acting to sustain the state's hunter education program, facilitating the addition, at no cost, of over 3,000 acres to the state's



State Senator Joe McPherson is presented the Conservation Legislator of the Year award by NWF's Jerome Ringo and LWFF's Joe Herring.

wildlife management area system, and challenging the White Lake scheme of private management of public wildlife lands;

(Communication) The East Ascension Sportsman, a monthly newspaper produced totally by volunteers from the East Ascension Sportsman's League, for providing coverage of a wide range of conservation issues as well as club activities and items of personal interest to the members of the EASL;

(Organization) The Blind River Boss Gobblers, the Gonzales, Louisiana chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, for being a national leader among NWTF chapters in fundraising and educational programs

like JAKES (youth) and Women in the Outdoors.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide conservation education and advocacy organization with over 13,000 members and 30 affiliate groups. Established in 1940, it is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation and represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, fishers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

LWF Governors' Award Conservationists of the Year Friends of Black Bayou

History has taught us the key to achieving the highest level of success, more often than not, is the ability to meld diverse inter-



Terry Melancon receives the Conservation Communication of the Year award on behalf of the East Ascension Sportsman. Terry served as the paper's editor for 2002.

ests and skills into a positive force. From the simple example of crossbreeding dogs to produce the hardiest of the species to the very root of the unprecedented success of our great country, the "melting pot" theory holds true.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Ouachita Parish is a perfect example of accomplishment through diversity. The refuge was previously a privately-owned farmland and fishing and hunting camp, but through grants, donations and other forms of group support crossing environmental, governmental, industrial, academic, business and yes, even political lines, it is now a 4,500 acre public treasure. Just a mile outside of Monroe, the refuge hosts school trips for environmental education, teacher education, scientific research, bird watching, hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting and for some – just a tranquil, natural setting to escape to. All of these activities are available to the public due largely to the hard work of a non-profit organization, the Friends of Black Bayou Inc. FoBB has been instrumental in securing nearly \$500,000 in donations, membership dues, fundraising projects and grants. Throw in the value of in-kind transfers and volunteer effort and FoBB, in all, has raised a total of approximately \$1 mil-

lion. The results – a 400 foot handicapped-accessible observation pier; a 1.2 mile raised asphalt and boardwalk wetlands nature trail; an observation tower/platform with a spotting scope to view the lake and a renovated and landscaped 110-year old planter's home that has been transformed into a welcome center that also serves as a multi-media education center.

At last October's Fall Celebration hundreds of visitors of all ages turned out. A school bus brought inner-city kids who along with local families fished in the stocked catfish pond, enjoyed environmental exhibits, learned about snakes and alligators, studied lake water through microscopes, helped with a baby turtle release, took walking tours and were served food and drinks by



Joe Cagnolatti representing the Blind River Boss Gobblers accepts the Conservation Organization of the Year award on behalf of the Gobblers from LWFF President Joe L. Herring (R) and NWF Central Region Vice-chair Jerome C. Ringo.

volunteers. And that was only the beginning of a week's worth of educational activities!

Five and a half years ago, FoBB was 15 members meeting in the local library. Today they are 350 strong who have made possible an urban Wildlife Refuge that promotes public education with an emphasis on the young, accommodates access for the disabled, and simultaneously allows public fishing, hunting and other outdoors-related recreation for thousands.

Jack C. Caldwell

Professional Conservationist of the Year

Even a coach with the most shapely legs would find it very difficult being the team's cheerleader as well as head coach. But that's exactly how Jack Caldwell, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, has been described. Let me clarify – as a coach and cheerleader, that is. Forget the shapely legs part. And more important than the toughest Superbowl competition, halting the loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands is the

Continued on page 12

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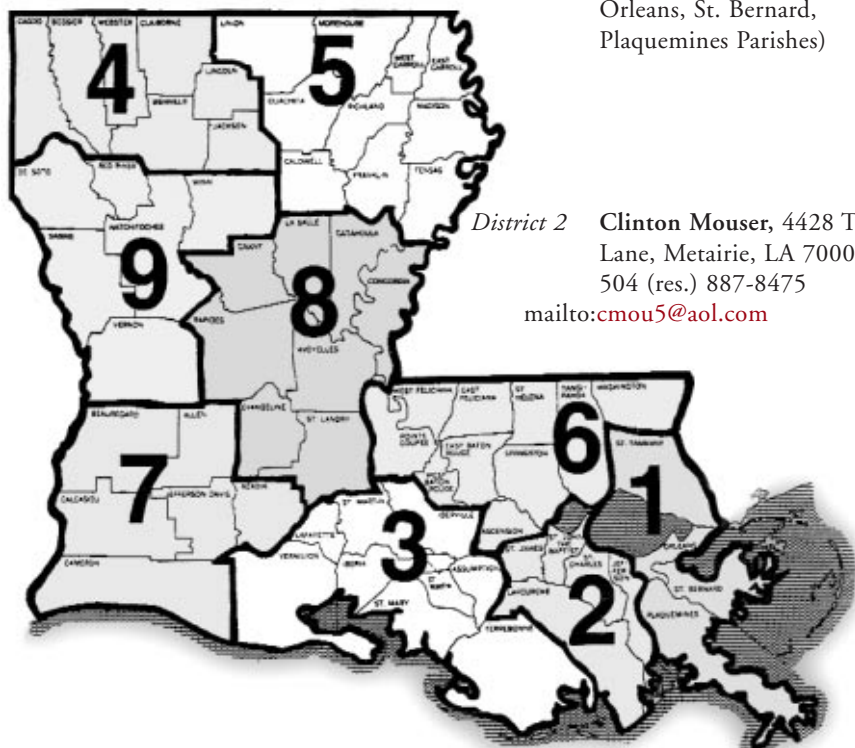
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Indian Bayou

A Great New Place for Outdoor Recreation in South Central Louisiana

by Jay V. Huner

Are you a hunter or angler? If so, the Indian Bayou Recreation Area offers public hunting for all of the state's game species and



A stand of bald cypress in the swamp at the Indian Bayou Recreation Area.

fishing for bass, crappie, bream and catfish. Are you a birder? If so Indian Bayou Recreation Area offers you access to in excess of 175 bird species during the year including nesting neotropical songbirds in the spring and summer. Do you hike, canoe, or trail ride - horses or ATVs? Indian Bayou Recreation Area offers you miles of marked paths and bayous to get out and enjoy "nature".

The Indian Bayou Recreation Area is



You can really get around on the Indian Bayou Recreation Area canoe trail when the water is up in the Atchafalaya Basin.

located north of I-10, south of US-190, east of the main western Guide Levee for the Atchafalaya Basin and west of the Atchafalaya River. Indian Bayou was expanded to 28,500 acres in December 2001 with the purchase of an additional 10,500 acres in St. Martin Parish. The contract to monument and survey the boundary has been awarded and the contract is in progress and near completion.

Site improvements have been impressive

during the short time that the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS) has acquired responsibility for the Indian Bayou Recreation Area. Of special note is the work done during the fall of 2002 to make the area available to the public following the passage of two major tropical cyclones - Hurricane Isidore and Hurricane Lili.

During 2002, the ABFS office was authorized 11 personnel, but had only 5 personnel on board. These personnel were responsible for all Corps properties in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System. Furthermore, much of the Indian Bayou Recreation Area is 20-30 miles distant from



The Indian Bayou Recreation Area has several miles of maintained ATV trails that are convenient for hunters and birders alike.

the unit's office in Port Barre, Louisiana. The work accomplished to make the Indian Bayou Recreation Area truly available to and accessible by both consumptive and non-consumptive users is, therefore, all the more meaningful. A significant amount of overtime was clearly involved.

The ABFS office will soon be fully staffed and even more work and development is taking place at Indian Bayou. Visitors to the area will be truly impressed with developments even in the past several months.

Site improvements in St. Martin Parish have been impressive and extensive in scope providing excellent public access in less than a year for both consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor activities by the general public. Three and a half miles of trails were converted from existing hunting club trails including 0.75 miles of foot trails, 1.5 miles of all terrain vehicle (ATV) and 1.125 miles of Physically Challenged ATV trails. All ATV

trails were installed with filter cloth and four to six inches of gravel on the surface. Four



A popular activity at the Indian Bayou Recreation Area is the annual turkey hunts for hunters with disabilities.

additional parking areas were created in 2002 and layered with limestone to provide ample parking for public visitation. New signage has been placed according to Corps sign standards and ensures that visitors are clearly aware of access and parking areas.

Improvement to lands in St. Landry Parish within the Indian Bayou Recreation Area includes opening of phase one of a nature trail following its design by the LSU Forest Recreation Class in 2001. This includes 5.25 miles of trail options. During 2002, 4.75 miles of ATV trails were improved in this portion of the area and all 15.5 miles of trails in the parish were graded, mowed and cleared of overhanging trees and limbs. In addition, the first leg of a canoe trail was



Horsemen and women gather for a trail ride on the Indian Bayou Recreation Area.

developed in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Atchafalaya Basin Program. This Bayou Courtableau Canoe Trail follows approximately 13 miles of marked trail.

Other improvements to the Indian

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Celebrating Earth Day in Baton Rouge

by Gary Noel Ross

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day celebration premiered across the nation and ushered in what has become known as the modern environmental movement. Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S.



Baton Rouge Earth Day kicks off with the "All Species Parade." Photo by G. N. Ross

Senator from Wisconsin, and Dennis Hayes, the national coordinator, organized massive coast-to-coast rallies to shake up the political establishment and force this issue (environmental stewardship) onto the national agenda. Over the past three decades, this grass-roots movement has become a prominent and effective vehicle for championing environmental responsibility, and is credited with providing the impetus for the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Although Baton Rouge saw some events that first year, the celebration was mainly

a consensus of opinion that Baton Rouge would not follow in the footsteps of most rank and file Earth Day events that preached environmental activism, often with religious fervor. After all, Baton Rouge boasts a distinctive south Louisiana mind set of "Joie de Vivre" (Joy of Life) and *Laissez les bon temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!), and is the venue for two major universities (Louisiana State University, Southern University), state government, and major petro-agro-chemical industries. Therefore, the organizers opted to produce an event that would educate in an upbeat, non-confrontational forum. "We were determined



Baton Rouge Earthday means food too!

government, industry, civic groups, and private citizens. Basically, city-parish government would furnish the physical space and associated amenities, industry and business would furnish crucial funds and advertisement, and educators, civic-environmental groups and citizens would supply creativity and manpower.

What emerged was a non-profit, volunteer organization termed Baton Rouge Earth Day, Inc. (BRED) that featured a festival with attendance levels each year topping out between 45,000 to 90,000, ranking the event not only the largest in the South, but oftentimes, the largest in the nation. And true to its mission, Baton Rouge Earth Day remains the one day of the year when people of all ages, cultures, races, and political/environmental affiliations put aside differences, join hands, and with one, loud voice, rejoice and proclaim the glory of Creation.

But what actually takes place at a Baton Rouge Earth Day festival?

The striking of the Noon hour on Sunday is the cue for the All Species Parade to roll. Elementary, middle, and high school students, their teachers and a smattering of high-spirited parents, friends, and local dignitaries — most donning creative costumes depicting animals and plants — parade with police escort, marching units, and banners. Over the years, the parade has proven an effective and fun way to foster educational awareness of Louisiana and world ecosystems.

However, the backbone of the noon-to-dusk event features exhibits (usually under tents) with specific environmental themes. For example, over the years visitors have been able to learn about: the importance of



Educational exhibits and hands-on activities are a hallmark of the Baton Rouge Earth Day Celebration.

quiescent until 1990 when a small group of Baton Rouge community leaders with various backgrounds and talents met to plan a celebration for the 20th anniversary of the 1970 event. From the beginning, there was

to eliminate the polarized view of industry versus the environment," reflects Paul Davidson, Chairman of the 1990 Earth Day celebration and Director of The Black Bear Conservation Committee. "We wanted all to come together to promote the protection of our natural resources. Collaboration was our key."

And so, a unique mission statement was drafted: A collective force that promotes environmental awareness and response through year-round educational activities and dialogue involving the entire Baton Rouge community. But to achieve such lofty goals, the Baton Rouge celebration had to bring together in a revolutionary, seemingly unholy alliance, such diverse groups as environmental activists, scientists, educators,



coastal marshes and how they protect us from hurricane damage; converting a conventional backyard into a wildlife friendly habitat; alternative (no fossil fuel) lawn

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Arthur Van Pelt, The Man and the Legend

by Charles W. Frank

At a recent board meeting of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association

Only three of the LOWA board members, Bob Dennie, Dave Hall and I, had known this man who for seventeen years had

and the estuaries that spawned our seafood and the marshes that hosted what at the time seemed a limitless plethora of wintering waterfowl and shore birds was vanishing. He was one of the first to see that the migration was threatened, that the purple martins were visiting in smaller flocks and that the raptors were under siege. For many years it appears that he had only limited access to a typewriter, and when one was available, used the ribbon till it was no longer legible. Another sign of hard times.

On graduating from Minnesota State College he began his journalism career as an outdoor writer for the Chicago Tribune. In 1913, after moving to New Orleans, he began writing a column for the Item and still later for the Times Democrat (1914 thru 1916), the predecessor of the Times Picayune. He left the New Orleans paper for a position with the Houma Chamber of Commerce. But journalism was in his blood, and in a very short time he was back as sports editor of the Times Picayune, a post he held for the last seventeen years of his life.

In the days when syndication was in its infancy, he sent his columns to a number of Louisiana news outlets. The articles were titled "Outdoors South" and were published in Houma, Hammond, and in the Colfax Chronicle. Among his papers is a form letter threatening publications against using his work without sending him his fee of \$2.50 per month. He was a man whose abiding interest in all aspects of conservation led him to track legislation in the State House in



Arthur Van Pelt (L) interviewing Herb Parsons, perennial member of the All American Skeet Team.

(LOWA), some of the younger members questioned just why the most prestigious award LOWA gives was named for a man they had never heard of. The Arthur Van Pelt Award is presented annually to an individual who has had a lifelong record of conservation achievement.

written a series of tomes for the Times Picayune under the heading "ALL OUTDOORS." I thought, no one has had more of an impact on our craft and its practitioners than this gentleman, yet he was all but forgotten.

Van Pelt was a child of the depression. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1882, he grew up when postage was two cents and a quarter would buy you a moon pie, a soft drink and a Po-boy sandwich. Some of his notes are handwritten in pencil on paper that is rapidly turning to yellowed dust. Many of his early efforts were unpublished, and thanks to the habits of retired Federal Wildlife Agent Dave Hall, himself a legend, many of Van Pelt's ramblings have been preserved.

I was a youngster just starting to shoot skeet when I first met Mr. Van Pelt. It was at the South Louisiana Skeet Club, a single muddy field in what was then a cow pasture under the then-new Huey P. Long Bridge. Up until then, I knew him only through his writing. I was an avid reader of his "ALL OUTDOORS" columns in the Times Picayune. I would describe him as small in stature, dynamic, balding, serious, but with a twinkle in his eye when he was amused at the lack of knowledge of some of his peers. He was blessed with a breath of interest and of knowledge that was truly astounding. Ahead of his time, he recognized that our coastline



A young Van Pelt stands near a deer stand in Houma, Louisiana.



Field ONE at the South Louisiana Skeet Club. The recently completed Huey Long Bridge is in the background. This Club is still in operation, the oldest in the state.

Baton Rouge and to monitor the Corps of Engineers and efforts to dam a waterway or create a spillway that he felt might have a negative impact on the wetlands that he saw being destroyed by some of these projects.

He saw before it became a "cause celeb"

that pollution was also a major problem. This was an era when oil exploration was running roughshod over the marshes in a burgeoning Louisiana oil and gas industry.

His observations on the migration and nesting habits of such diverse avian species as rails, song, shore and wading birds are extremely interesting. This in an era when birdwatching was more or less relegated to "little old ladies in tennis shoes." His observations encompassed any and all wild creatures - crows and turkeys, deer and raccoons - all observed with the hunter's eye and the journalist's pen.

He did a piece on the great storm of Sunday, October 1, 1893 that killed almost a thousand vacationers on Isle Dernieres when the Grand Hotel there vanished in the swirling mists that followed this monster of all hurricanes that have visited our coastal

water. Many reached with dip net. Ducks heard 10 to 10:30 PM. Lights thrown upward reveal thousands of birds about 200 feet above water. Believe flight coming from Yucatan peninsula heading for Texas and Louisiana coasts. Western and scarlet tanagers, purple martins, orchard orioles, and Florida gallinule, vermilion flycatchers, tree swallows, night hawk, hooded and yellow warblers, redstarts, black and white, yellow throat, Nashville, and blackpole warblers, olive sided and yellow bellied flycatchers (and all of this observed in failing light and strong winds, seas so rough that the Oregon lost 800 foot of line and anchor). This is quite an astounding display of the depth of his knowledge of species. He listed dates and sightings all through the years, giving dates of first sightings and frequency of recurrence.

During the war years he reported game was plentiful, but ammunition was scarce. His articles are graced with wonderful photographs yellowed with age, but recording an era that fewer and fewer of us were there to remember. Shrimpers dancing on wooden platforms to dehead drying shrimp for shipment to the armed forces. Chairmakers like Adolph Naquin of Lake Jean Charles who plied a trade now vanished. Stately palm trees on Ludwig Lane, Grand Isle, now gone, replaced with moss festooned live oak trees. These are the scenes he recorded indelibly on those of us who read his words. No detail of the passing scene was too mundane to be recorded.

He wrote of the Houmas Indians, with their blue-black hair and brown eyes, attesting in many cases to their mixed lineage. He wrote of Le Temple, La Isle L'Jean Charles, of Bay Negresse, Coon Road and Lac Felicity, with a depth of feeling that catches at the heart. He wrote with compassion of the people of the Houma, Choctaw, Acolakusa, Laeusa, Avoye, Tangipahoa, Okelousa, Bayougoula, and Quiuepissa - tribes that at one time dominated the lower Mississippi valley, now mostly vanished in the mists of time. He could evoke the pathos and the feeling of decaying vegetation and the fresh sweet smell of clover in the spring, of gentle fall evenings and harsh winter squalls - all while writing another column on hunting or fishing in his beloved Louisiana wetlands.

Van Pelt also gave of himself to service organizations, as president and board member in the Louisiana Sportsman's League, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, as Secretary of the Houma Chamber of Commerce, and served several years in the State Department of Revenue. In

many of these and other hook and bullet groups, he was a founding member, sought for his expertise in many venues.

His birding activities were all-encompassing and much ahead of his time. He recorded his foray into the nesting colonies of sea birds on the barrier islands, and the tiny nests of ruby-throated hummingbirds. No observation went unrecorded, always on loose pages of paper with penciled details underlined and carefully dated.

My own memory is of a more lasting tribute to this giant of all outdoor writers. It is the Van Pelt Oak tree that marked the entrance to a humble trenasse that led into what was once the most outstanding bass fishing I've ever had in all my years of trying to land a record "green trout." If you take Hwy 90W from New Orleans, to Houma and bend around south to Bayou du Large, in about an hour and a half, you'll be in the small community of Theriot. Look close, or you'll surely pass it by. About 3/4 of a mile past Theriot, you'll reach the Falgout Canal (also poorly marked). Launch your flat boat here and it's about a mile to Lake De Cade. Bear slightly to the north of west and you'll see a gnarled old live oak that marks the entrance to the Linnus Canal. When I was a young man, this was the way to get into Lake Penchant. We called it at that time Lake Penance because it was a brute of a trip on bad roads (now paved) and a rather long ride over choppy water to get to the Van Pelt Oak. Van Pelt wrote about this paradise and we caught a heck of a lot of big bass there. The Linnus brothers (probably misspelled) charged a buck to lift a plank that retained the water level of the lake. The spring fishing was wonderful, but getting through that ditch was an experience I'll never forget. The banks were just a foot or so away from our pirogues, we left the flat boat with the Linnus brothers, and paddling through that narrow ditch was Hell on wheels. The darn place was literally covered with water moccasins ... big cotton mouth suckers that frequently struck at our paddles. The spring lake water was dotted with floating islands of blooming water hyacinths that by midsummer made fishing there impossible. But, oh that spring fishing was something else! We cast flies at the striking largemouths and it was not unusual to land several five and six pounders each morning. My last trip there, the lake was lined with summer camps, and waterskiing had taken over. Bass fishing was a long lost memory. Only the Van Pelt Oak had stood the test of time, a lasting memorial to a great outdoor scribe.



Don Dubuc was honored with the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement at the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's annual conservation awards banquet last March in Shreveport. Presenting the award is LOWA secretary Jerald Horst

cheniers. His description of the approach and final destruction are lyrical. He wrote with the passion of belief that the written word should create a mental image that was lasting.

Tales of rod and gun were mixed with observations on birdwatching that make a wonderful read. He knew the people. The rich and famous and the hunter, the trapper and the fisherman - they all considered him a friend. The woodcock's lovesong, the splash of a striking bass and the tight line when a speck or red hit the bait were recorded with equal enthusiasm.

His neatly handwritten notes recorded observations on the annual migration of bird life. Typical are his notes of April 6-7, 1942.

Mass bird migration observed in northern gulf, 60 miles off the Louisiana coast. A low overcast sky, and slowly falling barometer, fluctuating winds- southerly shifting to northerly. Late PM 6 April broad winged hawk, warblers alighting on rigging, then flying off northward. At 9 PM hundreds of small birds flying around lights, some striking rigging and falling into the

Deer Hunters Help Raise Funds For Chronic Wasting Disease Testing

Deer hunters are aware of the challenge faced by Louisiana and other states in protecting the wild deer resource from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). According to Joe L. Herring, president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, this past year the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) engaged in an extensive sampling program to determine if any of the state's native white-tailed deer had been infected with this lethal and poorly understood disease. In all, 1260 samples were taken from deer harvested by hunters and from deer pens and other sources. Fortunately, none of the samples tested positive. The cost of this monitoring and sampling effort was approximately \$51,250. Although the lab tests were paid for by the US Dept. of Agriculture, Herring said that there is no guarantee this support will continue. During 2003 and the '03/'04 deer hunting season, the LDWF plans to continue its monitoring program and to take 1,000 samples. This preventive effort will continue for the foreseeable future.

Herring, who is a former secretary of the LDWF and chief of that agency's wildlife division, said that most of the state wildlife agencies in the Southeast work with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) lab at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia to test for and diagnose wildlife diseases. Understandably, wildlife professionals are more comfortable working with a wildlife health lab operated and staffed by wildlife-oriented veterinarians and researchers than a lab set up under the Department of Agriculture to deal primarily with livestock. SCWDS is the preferred CWD testing lab for the LDWF and other southeastern wildlife agencies and it is likely that its workload will increase substantially as states gear up for more testing.

According to Herring, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has been challenged by the Florida, Georgia, and Alabama Wildlife Federations to raise at least \$5,000 to help pay for the laboratory equipment and testing instruments needed by the SCWDS lab to service the CWD testing needs of the wildlife agencies in the Southeast. To help meet that challenge, the Federation has asked deer hunters and hunting clubs throughout the state to make small contributions to its CWD

Monitoring Fund. So far, 68 individuals and 107 clubs have contributed a total of a little over \$4,000. These funds will be used to support the capacity of the SCWDS lab to test for CWD and for the LDWF monitoring program. A listing of donors to the fund, through June 30, 2003 follows this article.

Potential donors should keep in mind that:

- ✓ Testing at SCWDS will be directed toward meeting the needs of state wildlife agencies for monitoring wild deer populations.

- ✓ SCWDS has a history of providing wildlife health services (since 1957) to member state agencies (including LDWF) and most participating states have expressed their preference that SCWDS conduct their CWD testing.

- ✓ The cost of one large capacity CWD testing instrument is about \$60,000.

- ✓ The cost per each sample tested, in addition to the cost of the testing equipment, is about \$7.00

- ✓ The SCWDS lab is staffed by wildlife disease specialists with a working relationship with state wildlife agencies and therefore puts the needs of the wildlife resource and conservation first without undue influence from agriculture and livestock interests.

Contributions can be sent to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Attention CWD Fund, P. O. Box 65239, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239. For further information contact the LWF at 225/344-6762;

<mailto:lawildfed@aol.com>.

CWD Monitoring Fund Contributors

Wade Abadie, Sr., Grosse Tete
Nelson Abell, Monroe
Abundant Life Game Management - *David Knapp, Ferriday*
Acadiana Sportsman's League
Apache Louisiana Minerals, Inc. - *John Woodard, Houma*
Arrowhead Hunting Club - *George Elias, Monroe*
Steve Babin, Gonzales
Backwater Hunting Club - *Chris J. Bayard, New Iberia*
Robert J. Barham, Oak Ridge
Baton Rouge Sportsman's League - *Carl Gremillion, Baton Rouge*

Bayou 'D' Hunting Club - *Art Thigpen, West Monroe*

Bayou Plaquemine Hunting Club

Bayou State Bowhunters Association

Bel-Reeves Hunting Club - *Dale Trahan, Westlake*

Belle Haven Hunting Club - *Richard Reed, Norwood*

Blake Field Hunting Club - *Brady Fruge, Washington*

Jimmy Blanchard, Youngsville

Boeuf Ouachita Wildlife Club - *Rodney Ewing, Harrisonburg*

Catherine R. Bordelon, Marksville

Bosco Fine Arts Society Hunting Club - *Morris Funderburg, Monroe*

Johnny Boudreaux, Gonzales

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Buck Busters of Castor Creek - *Mary Varnell, West Monroe*

Buddy's Hunting Club - *J. B. Blake, Jr., Dry Creek*

Buddy's Hunting Club (Tensas Parish) - *Douglas Hutchinson, Flora, MS*

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Easley Hunting Club - *Shannon Easley, Walker*

East Ascension Sportsman's League

Roy & Juanita Fink, Gonzales

Gabriel Fortier, Jr., Jeanerette

Carey Frederic, Saint Amant

Continued on page 29

biggest challenge faced by the leader of the DNR. But Jack Caldwell is a quick study with a sharp mind and, most importantly, a can-do attitude that he has infused throughout the State's coastal restoration effort. The level of his leadership is extraordinary in state government.

The first step in addressing the state's devastating wetland loss, the worst in the nation, is bringing its significance to the attention of the rest of the country and the world. Secretary Caldwell has made his plea before Congress and has led many officials, lawmakers, and media personalities, by land and air, directly to the problem to prove his case. At the same time, he has focused on the solutions to restoring the coast and has become the catalyst for cooperation among scientific, business and cultural interests. He has been an undaunted and extremely persuasive advocate, working with Congress, the Louisiana Legislature, and other State and Federal agencies to move things forward.

Last year under Caldwell's leadership, the Louisiana Coastal Area Study, co-funded by the DNR and US Army Corps of Engineers, set the stage for a \$14 billion coastal protection and restoration program. The \$120 million Davis Pond Mississippi River Freshwater Diversion Project, designed to protect more than 700,000 acres, began operation. And the state announced the support of Shell Oil Company as its "world partner" in a public awareness campaign to explain the importance of protecting and restoring coastal wetlands to energy production, seafood harvest, our port system and wildlife habitat. Secretary Caldwell was instrumental in the negotiation of a cost-share agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the \$22 million West Bay Sediment Diversion Project, the first such project of its kind, expected to begin this spring. Eliminating a huge backlog, 20 Coastal Wetland Planning Protection and Restoration Act projects were completed in 2002. The state also signed a cost-share agreement with the Corps to spend \$8.6 million on a Coast 2050 Feasibility Study.

We've got a long way to go to solve the problem, but thanks to Jack Caldwell's work, this ecological crisis is now recognized and plans to rectify it are underway.

Paul M. Dickson

Volunteer Conservationist of the Year

Good things seldom happen overnight. That's exactly the case with the establishment of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge here in Northwest Louisiana. This environmentally significant portion of the Red River Valley will eventually comprise 54,000 acres in 5 focus areas extending from the Arkansas border to just north of Alexandria. The Red River Refuge will provide habitat and sanctuary for migratory birds as well as enhanced recreational fishing and hunting opportunities in and around the Red River. The Refuge will also feature an environmental learning center near Shreveport in conjunction with a visitor center that will serve as training and laboratory facilities available to local students. Educational access for all citizens of the Red River Region through the creation of "Refuge Field Classrooms" is also a refuge objective.

After 10 years of hard work and dedication, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge is now a reality thanks largely to Paul Dickson and the Friends of Red River Refuge, an organization that he chairs. Some 15 years ago when his family purchased land in the Upper Red River Valley near Loggy Bayou, Paul began his long-range goal to protect and/or restore 10% of the fish and wildlife habitat in the Valley. Along the way he has worked tirelessly to gain public support, and passage of legislation and budgetary authorizations necessary to create the new refuge.

The effort to preserve this invaluable parcel of natural Louisiana included participation not only by the federal government, but also by organizations such as the Conservation Fund, Nature Conservancy and utility companies. Dickson was the tie that bound the four groups together eventually resulting in a collective investment of several million dollars. He was ever present to promote the Red River Refuge idea – on field trips, at meetings in cities around the proposed refuge area, and in Washington, DC where he gave crucial testimony before Congress, all done on a volunteer basis at his own expense.

An indication of Paul Dickson's effectiveness, Congress recently appropriated another \$3.9 million to acquire additional acres for the growing refuge.

Blake Martin Whittington

Youth Conservationist of the Year

At some point most folks feel obligated to give thanks for their good life experiences by sharing them with others. It's what we

call "giving something back" and normally comes later in life than sooner. Not so with Blake Whittington of Rocky Mount, Louisiana. You see, last year at the ripe old age of 17, he decided it was time to give something back to his community. Growing up in a rural area with a family who loves the out-of-doors, Blake learned a lot about wildlife conservation, gun safety and the environment from his mom and dad. His involvement extended beyond the family farm and he participated in the 4-H Outdoor Skills Shooting and Hunting Program, 4-H Wildlife Habitat Judging, Cypress Wildlife Nature Club, Hunter Safety Course, Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Day, National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes Day and the Cypress Black Bayou Youth Volunteer Program.

Blake says, "Involvement in these activities kindled a desire to give back to my community. What better way than to put into practice what I have learned by organizing programs that provide a service related to the environment?" And with that Blake went to work in 2002. He wrote a Community Tree Grant that involved acquiring three hundred trees and a hundred pots, then organized an Arbor Day 2002. That day the trees were planted at various locations including the Cypress/Black Bayou Recreation Area and that has initiated a three-year reforestation project to benefit the park's wildlife. Last summer he qualified for and attended a National 4-H Outdoor Skills Program in Raton, New Mexico. With his newly gained knowledge Blake taught local Nature Club members about orienteering, hunting scenarios and other skills. While volunteering at Cypress Black Bayou he helped rehabilitate numerous injured or orphaned animals, created wildlife habitat by building brush piles and even a new home for the park's resident raccoon, Loretta. He manned "Shoot/Don't Shoot" educational stations for youngsters at a DU Greenwing Day and during a National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes Program. For the past two winters, Blake organized a committee to collect Christmas trees in the Shreveport area and then load them for transport to Lafourche Parish ultimately to be used in the Yuletide Christmas Tree Recycling Program to prevent wetland loss along the coast. Blake has not only put something back in his and other communities, he hasn't forgotten about his roots. You see Blake is taking a 4-H wildlife course that requires evaluation of habitat and teaches how to write a wildlife management plan. He's already been giving the family some

ideas about improving areas for better hunting.

BP America Production Company Conservation Corporation of the Year

There's an old saying that sometimes "you can't see the forest for the trees." If the White Lake Property in Vermilion parish is the "forest" then controversy represents the "trees." The question of how this state-owned 71,130 acres of freshwater marsh is to be managed, and by whom, has been the source of much discussion. And like the trees in the adage, the argument has overshadowed the significance of the donation. Consequently, the donation has not received the recognition deserved.

Last July, BP America Production Company of Houston donated the tract to the state of Louisiana, one of the largest freshwater wetland tracts in the southeastern United States, for the purpose of preserving the natural resources and allowing public utilization and enjoyment. The White Lake Property consists of natural and cultivated areas of significant aesthetic, scenic, ecological and scientific value and has substantial value as a natural ecological and scientific resource. Plans for the property include the establishment of an environmental education and research center.

To protect the integrity of White Lake, BP included conservation restrictions in the donation. For example, marshland areas must be preserved, cultivated lands must remain committed to rice or alternative crops of value to shore birds and waterfowl, no surface mining or industrial uses can be allowed, nor commercial hunting or waste disposal.

BP is also widely recognized as an industry leader in developing and implementing programs and technology to reduce adverse environmental impacts. An example of this is the construction of a major pipeline to bring oil in from offshore production that has been designed, at great additional expense to the company, to avoid damages to barrier islands and coastal wetlands, to be consistent with the state's coastal restoration plan.

Melissa M. Whittington

Conservation Educator of the Year

"We will conserve only that which we love. We will love only that which we understand. We will understand only that which we are taught." If you believe in those words from an Indian chief who was a conservationist before his time, then you know the

important role of teachers when it comes to preserving our natural resources. One of our state's educators who fully understands that importance is Melissa Whittington, an environmental education instructor from Rocky Mount, Louisiana who describes herself as living with her husband Julian, son Blake, daughter Anna Kathryn, 2 horses, 4 calves, 2 goats, 5 dogs and diverse groups of wildlife. Despite all the work that must be done on the family farm, Melissa in 2002 saw the Nature Club she formed swell to 24 students. That group undertook several projects including a Christmas Tree Recycling program, a local Arbor Day celebration; they worked with the National Wild Turkey Federation to organize a youth training day and with Ducks Unlimited on its Greenwing Day to educate young waterfowl enthusiasts. Her club members have also organized public programs such as "Nature's Christmas" "How to Age a Deer" and fishing clinics. Melissa, as the teacher/administrator for the Cypress Nature Study Center for the Bossier Parish School Board in 2002, taught over 6,000 youth and over 100 teachers on the importance of the environment to wildlife and other natural resources.

Perhaps Melissa's mother summed up her daughter's reason for being so proactive in the outdoor arena. According to Melissa, "My mother says I just love playing in the dirt and always have. Maybe she is right, but I am teaching children how to play in the dirt, too. These activities have allowed me the opportunity to share my knowledge and love for our natural resources. Only with knowledge will our environment be preserved for future generations."

Senator W. Joe McPherson

Conservation Legislator of the Year

Politicians and attorneys – it's a toss up for which is the most criticized line of work. Except, there's no contest when it comes to lawyers who happen to be politicians also. (Not the case for this honoree, for although he makes laws, lawyering is not one of his businesses.) The most common complaint about a politician is he doesn't represent the views of his constituency. But in the case of conservationists, they can't say that about Senator Joe McPherson who year after year represents diverse groups of outdoor users in a wide range of issues.

Even though the 2002 Legislative session was limited to fiscal matters, McPherson managed to advance the cause of conservationists and his outdoors constituency. Faced with the possibility of the

state losing its Hunter Education Certification Program, and therefore the ability to certify thousands of youngsters and other new hunters to be able to hunt last season, he authored a resolution to direct the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to place the coordination and administration of the Hunter Certification & Education Program in a more appropriate division. He backed that up with an amendment to the wildlife agency appropriation, assuring compliance with the resolution. This action was responsible for allowing LDWF to continue to provide hunter education courses for those requiring them. Other resolutions and bills McPherson co-authored included actions to address a flooding problem on Lake Larto in Catahoula parish. As a result of McPherson legislation previously enacted, over 3,000 acres were added to the state's wildlife management area system at no additional cost to citizens, including a new bowhunting area along I-49 in St. Landry Parish and additions to the Dewey Wills WMA. Always ready to protect the rights of citizens of Louisiana, Joe took a leadership role in challenging the action that allowed the management of public wildlife land by a private corporation, relative to the donation of the White Lake Property.

East Ascension Sportsman

Conservation Communication of the Year

Thirty-one years ago when you picked up a copy of the East Ascension Sportsman you'd see a few pages with mostly stories about hunting and fishing. Pick up a copy of the same publication today and you'll see hunting and fishing stories, but you'll also see a lot more. You're just as likely to read about local, state, national and even international issues concerning conservation and environmental issues such as air, water and soil pollution. The 12-page monthly newspaper also serves to keep East Ascension Sportsman's League members informed about the organization's ongoing activities and prints photos of members' latest catches and kills. It also mentions meeting dates, times and places and announces each monthly meeting's speaker and recaps details of each program in the following issue.

The entire staff of the East Ascension Sportsman, from its editor to its writers and sales people, is all volunteers. Terry Melancon was the editor for 2002 and Theresa Landry served as advertising and sales manager.

Features appearing in 2002 included

information and stories on a wide range of topics including freshwater diversions, animal rights activists, the arctic wildlife refuge, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries news and profiles of individual members.

Blind River Boss Gobblers

Conservation Organization of the Year

At first glance the name "Blind River Boss Gobblers" might sound like a rock music group or a bush league soccer team. But make no mistake they are all about turkey hunting and conservation. The Blind River Boss Gobblers consists of 207 regular and 42 Women in the Outdoors members as well as 283 Jakes or youth members.

For past accomplishments the group has been recognized as a "Five Star" affiliate of the National Wild Turkey Federation and its female contingency known as "Sassy Hens" earned top fundraising honors in 2002 for having the highest net to gross ratio. In their community of Gonzales they distribute turkey education boxes complete with turkey posters, lesson plans for teachers, and a "Wildlife Forever" CD that teaches the story of conservation in America to local elementary schools.

The Gobblers conducted shooting instruction events with BB guns at the JAKES events and with shotguns at the women's event. They also participated in a "Skeet and Eat" event in conjunction with the Boy Scouts. The organization's "Women in the Outdoors Event" is designed to attract and educate women about shooting, hunting, outdoor cooking, making birdhouses and other outdoor-related activities. Its JAKES event informs, educates and involves youths in wildlife conservation. It also promotes passing on the hunting tradition with emphasis on ethics and safety.

The Blind River Boss Gobblers raised \$51,508 at its 2002 banquet and donated net proceeds for projects across Louisiana such as restocking wild turkeys, habitat improvement on public lands, reforestation, education and contributions to Operation Game Thief and the Hunting Heritage Fund. The group also spread its conservation and hunting heritage messages by manning a booth at the Louisiana Sportsman's Outdoor Expo held in their community.

LWF Convention: Continued from page 27

LDAF and LDWF to determine what additional regulations may be necessary to insure the health of the wild deer population in the state.

RES. 15C/E, 2003 - SUBJECT: YAZOO BACKWATER PUMPING PLANT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the President of the United States and the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to oppose any further funding for the Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant and requests that all planning for this project be halted and that the project be deauthorized.

RES. 16B, 2003 - SUBJECT: GULF (OF MEXICO) WIDE OFFSHORE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to seek the funding necessary (estimated at ten million dollars) to establish and maintain a Gulf Wide Offshore Communications Network (i.e., cell phone relay system/VHF radio relay system).

Sponsors and Donors

Special thanks go to the following persons, organizations and businesses for supporting the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's 64th Annual Meeting with their generous donations.

Whitetails

Avoyelles Wildlife Federation
Ken & Cindy Dancak
Isle of Capri Casino, Bossier City

...

Red River Waterway Commission
Petro Marketing, Inc. - Shreveport, LA
East Ascension Sportsman's League

Largemouths

Ron & Jackie Bartels
Tom & June Butler
CLECO Corp. - Mansfield, LA
Jerry & Sybil Haas
Gene Hilliard
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Jimmie & Denise Marsh
Keith & Cindy Saucier
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Gobblers

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Slabs

Laura Gregorio
Randy Paul Lanctot

.....

Acadiana Bottling Company
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Little River Bluffs - David Campbell
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
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Top Brass Tackle
Water's Edge Nursery & Landscape
Wild Birds Unlimited
- Jack & Rose Must
Wright & McGill/Eagle Claw
Randy Ziegler

the text and photos for the monarch component of the magazine. We are proud of Dr. Ross in receiving this prestigious appointment and proud of our magazine and editor, Randy Lancot. The museum's magazine is a very classy publication, so the compliment is an honor.

LWF members have been busy representing our organization at several conservation functions. Executive Director Randy Lancot and I attended the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at Lakewood Elementary School in Luling (St. Charles Parish) for their school yard wildlife garden project sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Randy made an excellent presentation on behalf of LWF congratulating the class of 5th graders, their teachers, principal and parent volunteers on their accomplishment.

LWF 1st VP "Smitty" Smith, Secretary Dr. Jay V. Huner, District 7 VP Jerry Haas, Randy Lancot and I attended the Acadiana Sportsmen's League Awards Banquet in May. The Acadiana Sportsmen's League recognizes their workers, as well as conservation workers in other parts of the state that have a lifetime of conservation work. It is good that this organization recognizes those from other areas that have accomplished outstanding work in the state.

Jay and Judy Huner, Ken and Cindy Dancak, Carl and Delores Gremillion, Bobby Fulmer, Randy Lancot and I attended the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation's Awards Banquet in Mansura, Louisiana a couple of weeks ago. It is great that many of our affiliate clubs have banquets to recognize conservation workers for doing outstanding conservation, environmental and wildlife management projects in their parishes. The Avoyelles Wildlife Federation has an excellent youth award program involving all of the elementary and high schools in the parish. This awards program is one that other Federation clubs should look at for possible implementation in their own parishes.

Randy and I also attended the City Park Fishing Rodeo at the invitation of event sponsor and LWF affiliate, the Jefferson Rod and Gun Club. Not only is this a fishing rodeo, but it also serves as an educational event with educational displays around the headquarters area. Our display was on Elmer's Island.

Randy, Kathy Wascom, Robbie Robinson and I staffed an educational booth at Earth Day in Baton Rouge. The theme was "Nature in Your Neighborhood" and we had

information on habitat conservation along with small terrariums with geckos, green lizards, a toad and insects. Robbie displayed his handicraft of bird, bat, butterfly and squirrel nest boxes and feeders and we had members of the Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association there also providing educational materials and displaying several of their live animals that they are rehabilitating like a baby nutria, opossum, striped skunk and a snapping turtle that had gotten caught in a six-pack ring and managed to survive.

I attended the Bayou State Bowhunters annual banquet in Alexandria, Louisiana, another awards banquet with approximately 500 in attendance. I spoke on Chronic Wasting Disease and the LWF.

In other good news, the Rapides Wildlife Association has reactivated. For many years a strong force in Louisiana for conservation work, the organization dwindled and became inactive. District 8 Vice President Ken Dancak reports the association has now had two meetings and has set a schedule for regular meetings. We are certainly looking forward to the Rapides Wildlife Association becoming the leader it once was with their new president, Rick Bryan. Ken says you will hear more from this group on their plans and activities.

LWF's Deer Committee, chaired by Terry Melancon, has been very active this quarter. There were several bills in the legislature pertaining to deer and deer management. The most important subject being worked on by the committee is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). LWF, along with NWF affiliates in other southeastern states, has agreed to help finance the testing of deer samples for CWD at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. We have mailed letters to Louisiana deer clubs and LWF members for contributions to finance these studies. CWD is similar to "Mad Cow Disease", and it has the potential to seriously affect deer hunting in Louisiana if deer herds are not protected. This is certainly a project for deer hunters to support their sport. A one dollar bill from each deer hunter would more than adequately support this study.

Other committees have also been very active this quarter. The White Lake Committee is chaired by Smitty Smith. The LWF filed to intervene in the lawsuit and is now the lead plaintiff. LWF's Elmer's Island Committee, chaired by Keith Saucier, is making good progress in trying to get the state to purchase this private coastal property for public use. The Legislature has included funds for this purchase in the capital outlay budget.

Another active committee chaired by Smitty Smith, the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap Constitutional Amendment Committee, had legislation in the 2003 Legislature for this purpose. Although Senate Bill 47 by Joe McPherson died in the House Natural Resources Committee, Smitty is preparing for the next legislative session.

LWF membership renewals have been very good, with contributing members continuing a steady support for LWF. Two organizations have recently affiliated with the LWF. They are the Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association and the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists. We are most happy to have these groups join our ranks. Wildlife rehabilitators are a very dedicated group of wildlife workers - taking in injured wildlife and treating the animal to full recovery for release back into the wild. This is a volunteer group with no compensation for medicines, feed, travel, time, etc. The affiliation of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists is also a great asset to the LWF. The expertise of these individuals will definitely be a plus for our organization. I welcome both groups to the LWF. Readers will hear from them in future issues of our magazine.

It is a very good feeling to be president of such a prestigious conservation organization as the LWF. Thanks again for your support in re-electing me for a second term. I will continue to spend time and work hard for you. The LWF is growing, so don't watch us grow, come grow with us.

Yours in conservation,
Joe L. Herring
President

A SPORTSMAN'S PRAYER

By: T. J. Roger, Jr.

"O, God, who made the earth round and hurled it into space with infinite power and accuracy, bless us who are gathered here tonight, whose aim is to imitate Thy divine action in the field of conservation.

Grant us a portion of Thy power, smoothness, and accuracy. Give us poise, perseverance and patience in our hunting efforts. Implant in our hearts a love for this great sport, but a greater love for our fellow man on and off the fish pond or the duck marsh. May brotherly love reign supreme in all our hunting and fishing activities.

Bless our staff, our officers, our crack shots and our poor shots. Increase their proficiency and decrease their misses. Lengthen their leads

and straighten their aims. Control their bass bugs in high wind, and guide their fly to a quiet place behind the sunken log. But above all, O Lord, bestow on them a saving sense of humor and balance, so that they may always hunt and fish in the spirit of charity, humility and reverence in Thy name.

Finally, O Lord, bless this spirited and social gathering and this food we are about to take, in the realization that all good things, even good hunting and good fishing, come directly from You.....Amen."

Indian Bayou: Continued from page 7

Bayou Recreation Area include replacing 32 culverts, many of which have gate valves in order to improve water control, drainage, and access. Two portable restroom units are being leased and have been placed on the area until permanent restroom facilities are purchased and installed in 2003. Current plans are to have two or three vault type restroom facilities in place before 1 October 2003.

Approximately 288 acres of supplemental wildlife food plots were planted and maintained in 2002. Some 38,600 tree seedlings were planted in an attempt to reforest 126 acres of cropland back to a bottomland hardwood forest. In addition, 65 wood duck boxes were maintained throughout the area.

If you care to visit the New Orleans' District web page for the Atchafalaya Basin that includes Indian Bayou, it is: http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/Recreation_Sites.asp.

Getting to Indian Bayou

Access to the Indian Bayou Recreation Area can be a challenge in wet weather. The Corps personnel are working as rapidly as possible to improve this situation. Currently, one of the better areas to visit is located from one to five miles north of I-10 at the Butte Larose exit. Without a 4-wheel drive the road at the toe of the levee is impassable in wet weather, so one needs to drive on top of the levee and do so with considerable caution. This area can be accessed by traveling south from Krotz Springs on LA 105. LA 105 is "paved" after a fashion to a point about four to five miles north of the north end of the Indian Bayou Recreation Area. In wet weather, visitors will have to get on top of the levee when the pavement ends. Is the trip to the Indian Bayou Recreation Area worth the effort? You bet.

From the Executive Director: Continued from page 3

\$34,442,915, 133 positions; Dept. Environmental Quality – \$137,580,076 (\$12,263,810 GF), 1,004 positions; Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries – \$83,172,577, 792 positions / 261 Enforcement Division (\$20,663,173), 213 Office of Wildlife (\$29,667,978), 226 Office of Fisheries (\$21,461,381).

HB 2 by Hammett. **CAPITAL OUTLAY.** Provides for the state's capital outlay budget including \$17,590,000 (P1), \$2,640,000 (P2) and \$49,585,000 (P5) for state park acquisition, planning and development; \$4,580,000 (P1), \$2,000,000 (P2) and \$8,000,000 (P5) for the Atchafalaya Basin Program; \$1,300,000 (Conservation Fund), \$950,000 (Duck Stamp Fund), \$1,750,000 (Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust, \$250,000 (Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund) and \$3,000,000 (P2) and \$3,000,000 (P5) to the LDWF Office of Wildlife for wildlife habitat acquisition and \$1,750,000 (Artificial Reef Development Fund) to the LDWF Office of Fisheries for a new marine lab; \$300,000 (P1), \$750,000 (P2), \$1,750,000 (P5) for Allen Parish Reservoir; \$20,000 (GF), \$300,000 (P2) for Morehouse Parish Reservoir Feasibility Study; \$300,000 (P1), \$300,000 (P2), \$1,500,000 (P5) for Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir; \$100,000 (P1), 400,000 (P2), \$1,000,000 (P5) for Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir; \$35,000 (P1) for Bayou DeLoutre Reservoir; \$400,000 (GF), \$100,000 (P1), \$600,000 (P2), \$1,250,000 (P3), \$1,250,000 (P4), \$1,000,000 (P5) for the Washington Parish Reservoir.

HB 30 by Baudoin (Act 77). **DISABLED H & F LICENSE FEES.** Makes persons receiving disability retirement benefits from any retirement system eligible for reduced hunting/fishing license fees upon presentation of I. D. and a letter from the SSA or retirement system granting disability benefits.

HB 131 by Baldone (Act 357). **SHRIMP MARKETING/FRESH PRODUCTS LICENSE.** Limits the use of the Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account to the development of markets for shrimp produced in Louisiana waters; further provides for a secondary Fresh Products License for the spouse of a commercial fisher, not to exceed \$5, to allow one spouse to sell the seafood while the other spouse is fishing.

HB 165 by Powell (Act 565). **CRAB**

TRAPS. Changes the date for allowing obstruction of escape rings on crab traps from March 1-June 30 to April 1-June 30 (also Sept. 1-Oct. 31).

HB 170 by Powell (Act 566). **FISH TRAP.** Allows a licensed crab fisherman to keep up to 25 finfish/day caught in crab traps for personal consumption, except for specks and reds, and provided the fish are within the legal size limits; also provides for the maximum size of crab traps and the opening of entrance funnels.

HB 174 by Doerge. **WEBSTER PARISH WATERSHED DISTRICT.** Creates the Webster Parish Watershed District to protect, conserve and develop the surface and groundwater resources in Webster Parish.

HB 236 by Townsend. **HUNTER EDUCATION / DEER HUNTING/GAME BIRD RELEASE.** Requires that any rules set by the LWFC pertaining to the antler characteristics of a legal buck deer be uniform statewide, except for WMAs and for hunters under 16 years of age; requires that the Office of Wildlife within the LDWF perform the functions of the state relative to the administration and coordination of the firearm safety and hunter education programs required under R. S. 56:699 through 699.6; authorizes the release of domesticated wild game birds to the wild under LWFC rules and LDWF license.

HB 250 by Daniel (Act 1015). **ARTIFICIAL REEF FUND.** Allows money from the Artificial Reef Development Fund to be used for evaluation of the Artificial Reef Program.

HB 271 by Pitre (Act 261). **LIFETIME GEAR LICENSE.** Allows holders of a lifetime recreational license to purchase lifetime recreational gear licenses for a fee of ten times the annual fee for each gear license desired.

HB 280 by DeWitt (Act 262). **PROPERTY DONATION/LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT.** Requires the

Commissioner of Administration to evaluate any offer of donation of immovable property to the state and determine whether or not it is in the best interest of the state to refuse the offer or accept it, and to negotiate terms of the donation. Further requires oversight of the donation agreement by the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees to determine if the donation should be accepted or rejected. If rejected by the oversight committee, the Commissioner of Administration may rene-

gotiate the donation agreement and resubmit it to the oversight committee.

HB 424 by Pitre. **LIABILITY LIMITATION/COASTAL RESTORATION.** Proposes a constitutional amendment limiting the liability of the state for the taking of, loss or damage to property rights affected by coastal wetlands conservation and restoration projects.

HB 454 by Jack Smith (Act 1026). **CATFISH LABELING.** Revises the package labeling requirements, and the penalties for violation, for catfish sold in Louisiana and prohibits the possession/representation of fish in the family Pangasiidae as catfish.

HB 458 by Welch (Act 915). **WEST BATON ROUGE LEVEE BIKE PATH.** Authorizes the construction of bike paths and walkways along the tops of the Mississippi River levees in West Baton Rouge Parish.

HB 531 by Pitre (Act 583). **COASTAL RESTORATION/PROPERTY RIGHTS.** Limits the compensation for the taking of property rights as a result of coastal restoration projects to that allowed by the 5th amendment to the US Constitution and applies limitation retrospectively.

HB 544 by Daniel (Act 375). **STAY OFF DUNES.** Prohibits altering a sand dune in the coastal zone including operating any mechanical vehicle on a dune unless permitted by a state or federal agency; makes exception for landowners inspecting or making improvements to their land; authorizes Cameron Parish to set vehicle speed limits on beaches.

HB 545 by Daniel (Act 918). **AIR EMISSIONS/PERMIT EXEMPTIONS.** Exempts from permitting the construction or operation of air emission sources that emit less than 5 ton/year of a regulated contaminant (15 tons for all contaminants) and less than the minimum emission rate for toxic air pollutants unless a permit is required by the Clean Air Act; authorizes the issuance of permits by rule (to be promulgated by DEQ) for minor sources of air emissions of 180-day or less duration.

HB 552 by Baldone (Act 90). **ELECTRONIC LICENSING/COMMERCIAL FISHING.** Authorizes the issuance of all fishing licenses through the electronic licensing system, including commercial licenses.

HB 553 by Daniel (Act 91). **EXOTIC FISH PERMITS.** Adds snakeheads, walking catfish, Asian swamp eels and pencil catfishes to the list of exotic fish a person is required to have a permit from the LDWF

secretary to possess, and further provides that releasing a permitted fish to the wild is prohibited.

HB 555 by Kenney (Act 268). **BASS FINGERLINGS/SALE.** Authorizes the sale of black bass and striped bass fingerlings up to 10 inches in length (previous limit was 6 inches).

HB 558 by Pierre (Act 920). **OYSTER SEED GROUNDS.** Creates the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account in the Conservation Fund to maintain and enhance the state's public oyster seed grounds from funds and materials contributed to mitigate for damages to public oyster grounds.

HB 559 by Pierre (Act 27). **LDWF SUNSET.** Recreates the LDWF until July 1, 2008.

HB 560 by Jack Smith (Act 921). **BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATION.** Requires persons born after Jan. 1, 1988 to successfully complete a boating safety class approved by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators to operate a motorboat powered by a motor of more than 10 HP; makes exception for cases where there is immediate supervision by a person 18 years of age or older who has met the requirements of the act.

HB 561 by Jack Smith (Act 323). **RECREATIONAL TRAWL.** Provides for the use of a recreational trawl up to 25 feet in length for a \$80 gear license fee and allows up to 250 pounds of shrimp to be harvested per day per boat under the license.

HB 640 by Winston (Act 98). **SCENIC RIVERS/PENALTIES.** Increases the criminal penalties for intentional violation of the Natural and Scenic Rivers Act to Class 3 with the exception of forfeiture.

HB 712 by Hammett (Act 328). **LK. ST. JOSEPH WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.** Creates the Lake St. Joseph Recreation and Water Conservation District in Tensas Parish to control the future taking and use of water from the lake for the benefit of persons residing and owning property in the district and to otherwise conserve the water resources of the lake.

HB 749 by Cazayoux (Act 271). **NATIONAL GUARD H & F LICENSE.** Makes current members of the Louisiana National Guard eligible for the special resident military hunting and fishing license for a \$5 annual fee.

HB 766 by Pitre (Act 652). **COASTAL RESTORATION.** Limits liability of the state and its political subdivisions due to coastal restoration projects in accordance

with Article XII, Section 10 of the Louisiana Constitution, retroactively and prospectively, and applicable to all pending, existing and future claims.

HB 789 by Daniel (Act 653). **RENEWABLE ENERGY.** Allows and encourages the use of net energy metering in Louisiana.

HB 807 by Durand. **RIGHT-TO-KNOW/HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE FEES.** Extends to June 2008 the fees assessed under the "Right-To-Know" law.

HB 812 by Townsend. **BLACK, CLEAR, PRAIRIE LAKES.** Relative to Black, Clear and Prairie Lakes under the jurisdiction of the Northwest Louisiana Game and Fish Commission, the use of gill or trammel nets with less than 3 "bar and 7" stretch is prohibited and prohibits unattended yo-yo gear from 2 hours after sunrise to hour after sunset; sets a \$25 fine for violations payable to the NLGFC.

HB 874 by Damico (Act 165). **DEQ SETTLEMENTS.** Requires that penalty settlements that require payment to the Central States Air Resources Agencies Assoc. or the Southern Environmental Enforcement Network be used for studies or other projects directly benefitting Louisiana and that such payments shall be considered civil penalties for tax purposes.

HB 886 by Damico (Act 441). **OZONE NONATTAINMENT FEES.** Authorizes DEQ to adopt a fee, mandated by the Clean Air Act, to be paid by stationary sources of volatile organic compounds in ozone nonattainment areas.

HB 896 by Pierre (Act 104). **DNR SUNSET.** Recreates the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to July 2008.

HB 900 by Gary Smith (Act 379). **SHAD GILL NETS.** Defines "strike fishing" and "shad gill net" and provides for a license, season and rules for taking shad and skip jack herring in Lac Des Allemands.

HB 901 by Devillier (Act 274). **SHAD SEINE.** Defines "shad seine" and provides for a license, season and rules for taking shad and skip jack herring in all freshwater areas of the state except where the use of seines are prohibited and the Pearl River.

HB 932 by Pitre. **AMERICA'S WETLAND PRESTIGE PLATE.** Authorizes the establishment of the "America's Wetland" prestige license plate to be available for a \$25 fee in addition to the standard vehicle license tag fee, the funds so raised to be provided to the America's Wetland Foundation. Further provides for the use of

the slogan "Sportsmen's Paradise" on the standard vehicle license plate for pickup trucks.

HB 991 by Pierre. **OYSTER LEASES.** Provides for conditions for renewing oyster leases impacted by coastal restoration projects.

HB 1115 by Triche (Act 703). **WILDLIFE AGENT RETIREMENT.** Adjusts time of service and age requirements for wildlife enforcement officers to receive retirement benefits and increases employee contribution rate and the benefit accrual rate.

HB 1116 by Landrieu (Act 941). **AMERICA'S WETLAND TRAIL.** Establishes the America's WETLAND Trail along the Louisiana Coast to foster understanding of the importance of wetlands and call attention to Louisiana's dramatic coastal land loss.

HB 1133 by Odinet (Act 448). **OYSTER SIZE.** Makes the 3-inch size limit on oysters applicable year-round.

HB 1136 by Odinet (Act 278). **OYSTER TASK FORCE.** Adds a member from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation to the Oyster Task Force.

HB 1137 by Townsend. **BOBCAT HUNTING.** Authorizes the taking of bobcats by hunters with a big game license per LWFC rule.

HB 1155 by Odinet (Act 449). **OYSTER LEASES.** Limits the size of an oyster lease to 1,000 acres and increases the total number of acres under lease to any one party to 2,500.

HB 1156 by Odinet (Act 450). **OYSTER LEASE REPORTING.** Deletes the requirement that an oyster lease holder report the amount of marketable oysters removed from the lease each year.

HB 1167 by Odinet (Act 451). **OYSTERS.** Requires a vessel monitoring system for those vessels taking oysters from Louisiana waters and landing them in another state.

HB 1170 by Damico (Act 280). **LANDFILLS/GROUNDWATER.** Requires DEQ to permit the use of innovative technologies to prevent migration of landfill leachate if such methods are at least as effective as confining the leachate with high density polyethylene.

HB 1173 by Triche (Act 945). **BOWFIN.** Sets a 22-inch minimum length limit on choupique for commercial fishermen and a 16-inch minimum length limit for recreational fishermen.

HB 1264 by Salter (Act 295). **TOLE-**

DO BEND LAKE LEVEL/POWER GENERATION. Sets a 168' msl minimum lake level at which no power generation can occur at the dam except to supply firm or non-interruptible power users, draw down for dam repair or inspection, or to satisfy downstream flow requirements.

HB 1281 by Baldone (Act 950). **LITTERING.** Modifies and increases the penalties for simple and intentional littering.

HB 1296 by Triche (Act 380). **TAX EVASION/H & F LICENSE.** Authorizes the revocation/non issuance of hunting and fishing licenses to state income tax evaders.

HB 1321 by Karen Carter. **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE.** Directs DHH in collaboration with DEQ and other appropriate entities to study the development of an environmental health surveillance system to get a continuing picture of the health of the citizens of Louisiana and establish a data base to facilitate examining the relationship between chronic diseases and environmental hazards.

HB 1334 by Beard (Act 382). **EFFLUENT BANKING.** Requires the promulgation of rules by DEQ to set up an effluent reduction banking system for watersheds where TMDLs are in place and provides methodology and guidelines for establishing such a system.

HB 1432 by Daniel. **LOUISIANA PURCHASE/PUBLIC LAND.** Establishes the Louisiana Purchase Commemorative Act (LPCA) to encourage "smart growth" for the next 100 years of development of the state by strategically acquiring public green spaces and parks and establishes the Louisiana Purchase Commemorative Act Commission within DCRT to identify such suitable open spaces and encourage "smart growth" principles and funding for such acquisition; further establishes the LPCA Rural Land Acquisition Fund, the LPCA Urban Green Space Fund, and the LPCA Linear Park Fund.

HB 1468 by Schwegman. **DANGEROUS & PRIMATE PETS.** Requires the LDWF to promulgate rules regulating the importation and possession of non human primates, nonindigenous constrictors in excess of 12 feet, and venomous snakes.

HB 1587 by Walsworth (Act 784). **WEST OUACHITA RESERVOIR.** Creates the West Ouachita Parish Reservoir Commission to select a site for a reservoir, golf course, park and other related facilities and to purchase, develop and manage property for such complex not to exceed 6,000

acres in size; further authorizes the WOPRC to sell water from the reservoir.

HB 1733 by Damico (Act 1127). **HAZARDOUS LIABILITY.** Defines and limits liability for remediation of owners of land containing hazardous substances if they did not cause the problem and were unaware of the situation at the time they took ownership of the property, provided they exercised due diligence in examining the property before acquiring it.

HB 1797 by Kenney. **DEER/ELK IMPORTATION.** Prohibits import of deer, elk and other cervids to the state that have been declared to be susceptible to chronic wasting disease (CWD). Makes violators liable for the cost incurred by the state for actions required to prevent the spread of CWD if a CWD infected animal is brought into the state. Authorizes the LDAF commissioner to allow importation of CWD susceptible cervids if the applicant is in compliance with all requirements for records, identification and health for each animal to be imported, including criteria for the herd of origin being certified CWD free by the state of origin. Establishes standards for herd of origin certification. Further authorizes the LDAF commissioner to issue a quarantine order on the importation of any cervid from any location outside the state if he believes it necessary to prevent introduction of CWD to the state.

HB 1809 by Thompson (Act 890). **JET SKI/STATE PARKS.** Prohibits the use of jet skis on waters that are either managed by the Office of State Parks or are completely surrounded by land owned by OSP. Further authorizes OSP to regulate recreational uses on such waters, consistent with and subject to the authority of the LWFC.

HB 1827 by Thompson (Act 145). **MASTER FARMER PROGRAM.** Authorizes LDAF to certify farmers and ranchers who have completed the Master Farmer Program and who maintain a comprehensive conservation plan for their property.

HB 1894 by Wooten (Act 463). **CHARTER BOAT LICENSE.** Provides that the license requirements for charter fishing boats apply only to motorized vessels.

HB 2003 by Baldone (Act 1164). **COMMERCIAL SPECKLED TROUT SEASON.** Provides for a 500,000 to 1,000,000 commercial quota for speckled trout harvested with a commercial rod/reel license in a season that runs from the second day of January thru the last day of July,

exclusive of weekends and the hours between 10 PM and 5 AM.

HB 2013 by Townsend. **AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.** Establishes an aquaculture council and an aquaculture development program in the LDAF to regulate and develop the aquaculture industry in the state, including the designation of species approved for aquaculture and the importation and transport of such species.

HB 2016 by Beard (Act 985). **RECLAIMED WATER.** Creates the reclaimed water program and prohibits the use of potable groundwater for irrigating grassy areas and other uses for which reclaimed water is suitable where there exists an available reclaimed water source; requires the consideration of reclaimed water for cooling tower and industrial application and encourages the use of reclaimed water in irrigating crops not intended for human consumption; requires DEQ to report to the Legislature on the use of reclaimed water.

HCR 80 by Fauchaux. **VESSEL DUMPING.** Memorializes the U. S. Coast Guard 8th District to coordinate with the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office to prevent dumping materials from vessels in coastal waters.

HCR 83 by Hudson. **LAFAYETTE SEWAGE.** Urges DEQ to review the permits issued to the Lafayette Utility System for its sewage sludge land farm in St. Landry Parish for deficiencies.

HCR 89 by McDonald. **DUCKS.** Memorializes Congress to cease all funding for programs which encourage farmers to leave grain in the field to supply food for migrating ducks and other aquatic avian species and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to study the impact of such programs on the migration of these birds.

HCR 116 by Baldone. **ELMER'S ISLAND.** Urges the Governor and Commissioner of Administration to take the necessary steps to enable the state to purchase Elmer's Island.

HCR 216 by Thompson. **TENSAS/ROOSEVELT NWR.** Urges Congress to rename the Tensas River NWR the Theodore Roosevelt Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

HR 156 by Johns. **BIG LAKE/BUCKHORN WMA CAMPGROUNDS.** Urges the LDWF to establish public camp grounds at the Big Lake and Buckhorn Wildlife Management Areas.

HR 160 by Hutter. **MISS. R. POLLUTION DISCHARGES.** Urges DEQ to

cease issuing permits to facilities in St. Bernard Parish for discharges into the Mississippi River that do not have fixed, permanent points of discharge until rules are established or until July 1, 2004.

HSR 31 by Martiny. **BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW.** Requests the House Committee on the Environment to study the feasibility of implementing a mandatory bottle deposit law.

SB 2 by Dupre (Act 176). **COMMERCIAL LICENSE.** Exempts commercial fishermen from having to possess a "mobile food vendors permit" while selling catch from his boat or home.

SB 39 by Dupre (Act 466). **AMERICA'S WETLAND STICKERS.** Authorizes the placement of America's WETLAND stickers on state vehicles, watercraft and aircraft.

SB 45 by McPherson (Act 48). **CRAB TRAP REMOVAL.** Authorizes the LWFC to establish a program to remove abandoned crab traps from state owned water bottoms and river beds including a prohibition on crab trap use for consecutive days up to 16 between Feb. 1 and Mar. 31 and for consecutive days up to 14 which would include the opening of the spring onshore shrimp season.

SB 49 by Dupre (Act 182). **SEAFOOD LICENSES.** Authorizes the LDWF to issue seafood wholesale/retail/transport licenses for a duration of 4 years at 4 times the fee of an annual license.

SB 98 by Lentini (Act 802). **CRIMINAL TRESPASS.** Makes it a crime to be on any property without expressed, legal or implied authorization; repeals guidelines for posting property boundaries; places the burden of proof on the person charged with trespassing to prove that he had authorization to be on the property; makes exceptions for law enforcement officers in the performance of duties, firefighters, emergency responders or government employees performing duties authorized by law; etc., establishes the following penalties: \$100-\$500 and/or up to 30 days for first offense, \$300-\$750 and/or up to 90 days for second offense, \$500-\$1,000 and 60 to 180 days and forfeiture of any property seized in connection with the violation for third and subsequent convictions. Limits liability of owner for any injury of a person not authorized to be on the property. Repeals the prohibition against posting property illegally and destroying posted signs.

SB 99 by Cain (Act 49). **GROUND**

WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. Designates the management of groundwater resources as a function of the Office of Conservation of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; places the Ground Water Resources Commission in the Office of Conservation; gives the Commissioner of Conservation broad powers over the groundwater management program including requiring the registration of water wells and the collection of well data and specifying conditions and limits for drilling and deploying such wells based on the status of the groundwater source affected; continues the development of a statewide groundwater resource management program; specifies procedures for appealing a decision of the Commissioner of Conservation that restricts placement or use of a well; specifies procedures for designating a Critical Ground Water Area and developing a plan to manage and recover the CGWA; requires oversight by the House and Senate Committees on the Environment; retains the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force to assist with the development of the statewide water management plan.

SB 210 by Barham (Act 50). **WILDLIFE LAND EXCHANGE.** Authorizes the LDWF secretary to sell approximately 615 acres near Monroe to the US Fish and Wildlife Refuge for incorporation into the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge at fair market value or for exchange of land of equal value.

SB 213 by Dardenne. **COASTAL RESTORATION.** Proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund in the state treasury from 20% of any additional tobacco settlement funds secured by the state.

SB 214 by Dupre. **COASTAL RESTORATION.** Proposes a constitutional amendment to raise the \$40 million cap on the mineral revenue in the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund (WCRF) to a minimum of \$500,000, makes the WCRF eligible to receive nonrecurring revenue designated by the Revenue Estimating Conference and requires that \$35 million annually be allocated to the WCRF from the Mineral Revenue Audit and Settlement Fund.

SB 402 by Fontenot (Act 217). **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS.** Deletes requirement for annual environmental compliance inspections for permittees and directs the DEQ secretary to develop a compliance monitoring strategy for each permitted facility to

achieve meaningful results. Provides guidelines for developing the strategy.

SB 475 by Thomas (Act 71). **WASHINGTON PARISH RESERVOIR**. Creates the Washington Parish Reservoir District in DOTD to conserve soil and water for agricultural, recreational, commercial, industrial, sanitary, purposes and to create and maintain lakes, reservoirs and engage in economic development.

SB 504 by Dardenne. **COASTAL RESTORATION FUNDING**. Enabling legislation for SB 213.

SB 568 by Dupre. **WETLANDS FUND**. Enabling legislation for SB 214.

SB 577 by Fontenot. **DEQ ENFORCEMENT**. Authorizes DEQ to establish a pilot enforcement program involving the issuance of citations in the field for minor or moderate violations of environmental law not to exceed \$1,500 per violation and \$3,000 per violator; requires DEQ to evaluate the program and report to the House and Senate Committees on the Environment by March 1, 2004.

SB 693 by Ullo (Act 542). **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL NOTIFICATION**. Requires notification of the local legislative delegation in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes 30 days prior to a zoning application hearing regarding a facility that stores hazardous material.

SB 715 by Bill Jones (Act 503). **LAKE D'ARBONNE/TROT LINES**. Regulates and limits the use of trot lines on Lake D'Arbonne.

SB 716 by Bill Jones (Act 504). **LAKE D'ARBONNE/YO-YOs**. Regulates and limits the use of yo-yos on Lake D'Arbonne.

SB 732 by Romero. **CRAWFISH TRAPS**. Adjusts the minimum mesh size for wild crawfish traps.

SB 829 by Barham (Act 233). **MOREHOUSE PARISH LAKE COMMISSION**. Creates the Morehouse Parish Lake Commission.

SB 873 by Johnson (Act 238). **NEW ORLEANS DUMPING**. Raises the authorized penalty to \$10,000 for dumping in New Orleans.

SB 953 by Dardenne (Act 243). **LEEVE BIKE PATH**. Authorizes the construction of bike paths and walkways along the tops of the Mississippi River levees in East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension and St. James Parishes.

SB 1024 by Romero (Act 784). **ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND**. Establishes an "enforcement emergency response account"

in the Conservation Fund from civil penalties assessed by the LDWF for violations of wildlife laws, to be capped at \$100,000 and to be used solely for emergency response, preparedness and search and rescue by the LDWF Enforcement Division.

SB 1067 by Dupre (Act 250). **COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN TAX CERTIFICATION**. Provides for an endorsement by LDWF on a commercial fisherman's license if the fisherman possesses an exemption from sales and use taxes.

SB 1080 by Ellington (Act 789). **WASTE TIRES**. Provides for 5% of the Waste Tire Management Fund to be used to develop marketable products from waste tires generated and processed in Louisiana for the next 5 years.

SB 1117 by Gautreaux. **ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM**. Makes technical changes to the law pertaining to the Atchafalaya Basin Program so that it is clear that the DNR secretary has legal authority over the program.

SCR 15 by Gautreaux. **CLIMATE CHANGE**. Recreates and continues the study commission to coordinate state policy to address climate changes as they impact business and environmental issues.

SCR 18 by Dupre. **SHRIMP IMPORTS**. Memorializes Congress to improve the enforcement of food import restrictions on seafood products that contain antibiotics.

SCR 19 by McPherson. **LDWF FUNDING**. Establishes a study commission to develop a plan for achieving long-term reliable funding for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. SCR 20 by McPherson. **MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY DUCKS**. Urges and requests the LDWF to document the number of ducks wintering on federal refuges in the Mississippi Flyway including the 24 refuges in Louisiana.

SCR 38 by Fields. **CHEMICAL PLANTS/RISK ASSESSMENT**. Urges the DHH, DEQ, DWF, DAF and the U. S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to cooperate in a study to determine the risks to humans, wildlife, and fisheries living in close proximity to chemical plants, and the environmental impacts of such facilities to the areas where they are located.

SCR 58 by Holden. **MERCURY CONTAMINATION/SEAFOOD**. Creates a special legislative committee to study the issue of mercury contamination of Louisiana seafood.

SCR 64 by Mount. **WATERFOWL**

STUDY COMMISSION. Creates the Louisiana Waterfowl Study Commission to evaluate the waterfowl situation in the state and to recommend solutions and management plans for Louisiana's waterfowl.

SCR 66 by Romero. **HENDERSON LAKE**. Urges the Atchafalaya Basin Program to study Henderson Lake in the Atchafalaya Basin and make recommendations to the Legislature of what steps need to be taken to preserve and enhance the quality of the lake over the long term with consideration given to ownership of the lake bottom, improving drawdown capabilities through channel deepening compatible with recreational activities, rehabilitating the control structure, etc.

SR 12 by Smith. **IATT LAKE**. Requests the LDWF to terminate the draw down of Iatt Lake and use grass carp to help control aquatic vegetation in the lake.

SCS 2 by Holden. **CHEMICAL PLANT SECURITY**. Requests the House and Senate Committees on the Environment to study the practicality of developing and implementing a comprehensive security strategy for the state's chemical industry in an effort to protect citizens of the state from releases of hazardous materials.

New Members (to \$49) 12/1/02 through 6/30/03

Kyle Aymond, Delhi
Stephen N. Carville, Baton Rouge
Rex & Miriam Davey, Baton Rouge
Kenneth E. Davis, Buras
Cas Fontenot, Mandeville
Kieth J. Fontenot, Des Allemands
Tim E. Ford, Jr., West Monroe
B. G. Granier, Jr., Baker
Gerald A. Grau, PhD, Lafayette
Jessie J. Laborde, Hessmer
Lisa Madry, Austin, TX
Melissa Marie Miller, Monroe
Kevin Rhame, Lake Charles
Floyd H. Sanders, III, Lafayette
Cam Smith, Monroe
James C. Smith, Monroe
Mary A. Wilson, Shreveport

New Members (\$50 to \$99) 12/1/02 through 6/30/03

Robert H. Gardiner, Jr., Cumberland
Foreside, ME
Harry H. Roberts, Baton Rouge
Thomas W. Scott, Saint Bernard

**New Members (\$100 and up)
12/1/02 through 6/30/03**

Caleb Don Burkett, Many
David F. Dares, New Orleans
William E. LeJeune, Sr., Kenner
Wayne E. Reulet, Baton Rouge
Matt Stuller, Broussard
-Stuller Family Foundation
Ronald Thibodeaux, Baton Rouge
Robert A. Uthoff, Slidell

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- Physical Therapy Clinic of
Carencro
Michael R. Sharp, Hammond
- Lakestar Land Company
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Eddie Stogner, Angie
Reynold R. Terrebonne, Sr., Westwego
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- Laura Weems Interiors
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LWF Joins White Lake Lawsuit

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) has been granted intervener status in the lawsuit seeking to overturn the agreement made by the Foster Administration and BP America Production Company that places management and control of a newly donated state wildlife preserve in the hands of a private corporation.

The 70,000-acre Vermilion Parish wetland, known as the White Lake Property (WLP), was donated to the state by BP last July. The LWF and other groups welcomed

matter, state senator Joe McPherson filed a lawsuit last September contesting the WLP management agreement on the grounds that it violates provisions of the Louisiana Constitution pertaining to the relative powers of the executive and legislative branches of government. At a hearing held Monday (April 14) before Judge Morvant in the 19th JDC in Baton Rouge, the judge ruled in favor of BP's motion challenging McPherson's standing to bring the lawsuit. However, that same day, Judge Morvant grant-

Senate Finance Committee but was defeated on the Senate floor by a 17-19 vote. Most of the senators voting against expressed concern that the legislation would be contrary to provisions in the act of donation and therefore cause the state to lose the property.

According to LWF executive director Randy Lanctot, regardless of the legislation, neither the Legislature nor the Governor has the authority to change the way the White Lake deal has been set up without agreement of WLPI and BP. "That was determined by the cooperative endeavor agreement (CEA) between the state and the private corporation, White Lake Preservation, Inc. (WLPI)," Lanctot said. "Unless WLPI agrees to make changes, which would then have to be approved by BP, only a court order voiding the CEA will enable renegotiation with the donor to provide for state management of the White Lake Property," Lanctot concluded.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide conservation education and advocacy organization with over 13,000 members and 30 affiliate groups. Established in 1940, it is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation and represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, fishers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. It is being represented in the White Lake litigation by the McKernan Law Firm in Baton Rouge (225/926-1234).



the donation, but objected to private control of state property.

Soon after the donation was announced, the LWF expressed its concerns and proposed specific remedies to the Governor and BP. Those were reiterated and elaborated on in another set of correspondences sent last January. But so far, the Governor and BP have either disregarded or been unresponsive to the group's concerns.

According to Joe L. Herring, LWF president, the federation's main objection to the WLP management scheme is that it does not guarantee public participation and legislative oversight.

"The way this is set up," said Herring, "there is no accountability to the citizens of the state in the management of 70,000 acres of state land. We are left with no recourse but to seek help from the court to resolve this problem."

After being unsuccessful in getting the Legislature to hold oversight hearings on the

ed LWF's petition to intervene in the case. While McPherson's attorneys appeal Morvant's ruling denying his standing to sue, the litigation will proceed with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as plaintiff.

Several bills aimed at fixing the White Lake problem were filed in the recent session of the Louisiana Legislature. Two bills aimed at preventing a White Lake deal from occurring in the future were adopted. Two of the bills that would have had an impact directly on the White Lake situation were not. One that proposed to set up a White Lake Commission in the Governor's Office to manage the WLP was referred to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, but the committee chairman refused to schedule the bill for a hearing. The other would have set up a special fund in the state treasury to help finance the management of the WLP and an advisory board within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to help direct the proper management and funding of the WLP. This bill passed the

The White Lake Land Deal

Legal Issues:

(1) The state may have conveyed ownership of minerals on state water bottom to the donor of the property via stipulations in the Act of Donation.

(2) The state authorized, without legislative approval as required by the Louisiana Constitution, a private entity to collect and expend state assets (i. e., the revenue derived from the use of, and activities on, state property, e.g., agricultural lease revenue, etc.)

Management/Organizational Issues:

(1) A private corporation with a self-perpetuating board of directors was authorized to manage the White Lake Property which is state-owned wildlife conservation land. Such lands are customarily managed and regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. These governmental entities were established by the Louisiana

Constitution and state law to be responsible for and to carry out the stewardship functions for the state on state-owned wildlife conservation lands. The actions of these governmental entities are subject to legislative oversight and they must follow the administrative procedures established to protect the interests of the citizens of the state.

(2) The private corporation, White Lake Preservation, Inc., that has been given the management responsibility for the White Lake Property, is not subject to the state's open meetings law and is not required by law to accept public participation in decision making that affects a state asset.

Other pertinent considerations:

- The state has given two "official" reasons for turning over management of the White Lake Property to a private corporation. One is that the donor required that it be handled that way. The other is that the state, through the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, was not financially able to maintain and manage the property.

- Another reason, stated by representatives of the donor of the property, is that the donor intended to contribute financially to support the management of the property and there was concern that the donated funds might not be used for their intended purposes if they were given to the state.

- An unstated reason for seeking an alternative (to LDWF) to manage the property is scepticism about LDWF's capability to manage it in the best interests of its natural resources and Louisiana citizens, that is, some folks have a philosophical difference with the traditional management practiced by the LDWF.

- An issue relative to LDWF management of the WLP is that the Act of Donation requires the maintenance of agricultural leases (which in some cases include private hunting privileges) on about 16,000 acres of the property, and LDWF does not normally allow private agricultural and hunting leases on the state-owned wildlife refuges and management areas it manages.

- It is useful to know that the donor has stated its willingness to renegotiate the management arrangements for the property if the state wants to do that, as long as the conservation requirements of the Act of Donation are sustained.

- It is particularly critical to understand that the contract the state has with the private corporation to manage the property cannot be broken or changed by the state, but can only be done with the consent of the majority of the directors of the private corporation.

Earth Day: *Continued from page 8*

mowers; creating art from recyclable objects or objects from nature; NASA's space program; alternative motor fuels that reduce ozone emissions; and the holistic approach to body health and well being. One of the largest tents houses an elaborate exhibit by the LSU Agriculture Center. Here visitors can pet young animals in a 4-H Mini-Farm, marvel at the complex world of insects (including a demonstration of the Formosan termite now rampaging throughout New Orleans), learn how to fine-tune their hunting and fishing skills, learn about Louisiana's increasingly important aquaculture industry, and even experience a high-tech, sustainable house that reduces environmental and disaster impacts unique to Louisiana. Another tent focuses on recycling and features an on-site location where visitors can drop off recyclable materials.

Another popular component of the festival is called Earth Walk, a sort of gallery of environmentally oriented organizations (Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Wildlife Federation, BREC Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, B.R. Zoo, Hilltop Arboretum, B.R. Green, and others). Representatives eagerly converse with visitors about their group's specific agendas and solicit new members. Here, too, visitors can learn more about environmental programs offered by state and federal agencies such as DEQ, DNR, EBR Mosquito and Rodent Control, DAF, US EPA and the City Planning Commission. And there are lots of handouts to be taken home in the form of flyers, brochures, packets of seeds, cups with seedlings, and even bare-rooted tree saplings. By proclaiming that each and every person should and can become part of a solution, Earth Walk encourages citizens to think globally, but act locally.

Of course, no festival in Louisiana would be complete without music and food. Here again, the Baton Rouge celebration excels. The event features not one but four different outdoor stages. Such entertainers as the Elements, the Boogie Kings, Marcia Ball, Bobby Blue Bland, Irma Thomas, Wayne Toups and Zydecajun, Rockin' Dopsie, Jr., Frog Man Henry, and the Dixie Cups have performed on the main stage. There is also a Louisiana venue with cajun music and international and children's venues featuring a range of performances.

"Way back in 1990 we decided that in order to get Baton Rougeans out in large

numbers we would need a sure-fire draw," explains Susan Hamilton, long-time BRED Executive Director, and Director of Recycling (EBR Parish). "Here in south Louisiana, that's music. So, each year we schedule an impressive line-up of musicians, including a regional headliner for the evening climax. The music entices people to come out; we then expose them to our environmental messages. It is a win-win situation."

To individualize each year's celebration, the developers of Earth Day create an attractive T-shirt bearing the year's logo. Additionally, since 1996, full-color theme posters have been produced by local professionals. The posters and T-shirts are marketed at nominal costs (the money helps defray festival expenditures). Following the festival, the posters are distributed free of charge to science teachers and other environmental educators throughout the state.

And perhaps the best part about the celebration is that everything except food and memorabilia is FREE! This extraordinary feature is possible because of the organization's partnerships with businesses and government like International Paper, Entergy, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Guaranty Broadcasting, Browning Ferris Industries, Louisiana Lottery, The Advocate newspaper, and The City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge. But in spite of overall success, the unique alliance of sponsors has not gone without criticism from those who view BRED as little more than a public relations festival for industry.

Such is just not true. In fact, festival fundraisers emphasize to potential sponsors that involvement does not constitute corporate lobbying or favoritism; in other words, sponsorship has no strings attached. With a budget approaching \$100,000, the annual event requires the level of funding that only big business and industry can provide.

In conclusion, Baton Rouge Earth Day, Inc. is a positive force in a world that often tends to sensationalize the negative. By focusing on environmental education in an annual fun-filled setting, the community-based organization inspires appreciation of the environment and environmental stewardship. As such, Baton Rouge Earth Day, Inc. may be viewed as part of the New Age philosophy of hope.

For more information on Baton Rouge Earth Day go to <http://www.earthdaybr.org>.

Freedom to Hunt, Fish, Trap Report

by E. R. "Smitty" Smith, LWF 1st VP

As reported in a previous issue of this magazine, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, with the help of Senator Joe McPherson and several other sportsmen's groups, hoped to pass a bill during the 2003 legislative session proposing a constitutional amendment to protect our freedom to hunt, fish, and trap (Senate Bill 47). However, just as in the 2001 legislative session, history repeated itself, and SB 47 never made it out of the House Natural Resources Committee.

SB 47 did pass the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate with a unanimous 37-0 vote. It was then referred to the House Natural Resources Committee on April 30th. However, it was not scheduled for a hearing, even when requested by the bill's author. Finally, after engaging the help of the Speaker of the House, a special meeting of the HNRC was called for June 10th to consider the remaining Senate bills referred to it. A last minute change in meeting time caused those of us planning to attend that meeting to scramble to get to the capital on time, but to no avail as not enough committee members showed up to make a quorum to conduct business. Thanks to those of you who missed work and other appointments to be at that meeting. After raising a stir, we were able to get another meeting scheduled for June 17th, some 48 days after SB 47 was referred to committee and only 6 days before the Legislature adjourned. The night before this meeting, in a small gathering with the HNRC chairman, vice-chair and staff held outside the House chamber, the Louisiana Landowners Association (LLA) threatened to oppose the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap unless Senator McPherson agreed to amend it. McPherson was not able to attend the hastily called HNRC meeting the next day and SB 47 was never taken up by the committee.

Senator McPherson felt that he could still get Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap to the House floor by amending another proposed amendment to Article 1 of the constitution, SB 60, that was on the House calendar-subject to call. With the predisposed opposition of several HNRC members and the apparent resistance of the

administration, the session-long opposition of the LLA to the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap could not be overcome in the few days left, even though Senator McPherson added the LLA's language to the House floor amendment drafted for SB 60. In the final hours of the session on Monday, June 23rd, the Clerk of the House ruled that the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap amendment proposed for SB 60 was not germane and could not be considered. The germaneness question is debatable since the proposed amendment would have stripped the original bill (with the author's permission) and added language that would have affected the same article of the constitution as SB 60. But at such a late hour there was not enough time to contest that ruling and the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap was dashed.

Some have said that this was an unnecessary bill and mere window dressing. However, one need only look at this past session for an example of an attack on our freedom to hunt, fish, and trap. Just a few days before the session ended the House acted in the nick of time, and by a fairly narrow margin of 37 yeas to 63 nays, to defeat a bill by Senator Irons that would have made it a crime to kill any living animal!

I want to thank all of you who helped in our attempts to pass this bill. Your hard work didn't go unnoticed. The opponents had to work long and hard to defeat this bill surreptitiously, without House members having to vote on it. The mere fact that there is resistance to putting this proposition on the ballot is proof enough that we need to protect our ways of life from inevitable attacks and somnolent bureaucrats in Baton Rouge.

When contemplating your support for the candidates in this fall's elections, I hope you will remember those who failed us. Maybe we will have some new faces on the House Natural Resources Committee in the coming term, possibly even a few who fish, hunt, or trap. Wouldn't that be a nice change for the benefit of conservation and the "Sportsmen's Paradise." We plan to be back next time, girded by our experience and more determined than ever to give all of us a chance to vote on the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap.

Don Dubuc: Continued from page 25

can only be described as a media personality, with syndicated columns in newspapers and a monthly outdoors magazine, a television feature series that he produces and hosts, and his nationally known radio programs on WWL radio, a powerful 50,000 watt station.

Dubuc's affiliations are almost too numerous to list, including the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the Southeastern Outdoors Press Association, the Outdoor Writers Association of America, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, the International Game Fish Association, Bass Anglers Sportsmen's Society, Coastal Conservation Association, Pontchartrain Flyfishers, National Wild Turkey Federation, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, and Bayou State Bowhunters, among others. Don has received numerous awards for his work. He was selected twice as "Conservationist of the Year" by different organizations, and his radio and television programs have been chosen numerous times as best in their field by fellow journalists.

It is not for these reasons, however, that Don is being recognized. Many personalities have built media businesses, but most of them have done so by focusing all their energies on business-building, to the exclusion of doing the right thing. In contrast, Dubuc is the ultimate volunteer, giving freely of his time; he is a man without hubris. Because he is so approachable, the path to his door is well worn. He will privately mentor the youngest of outdoor writers, but at the same time has the courage to take unpopular, but well-grounded public stands on controversial issues.

Whether the issue is fish and wildlife allocation or natural resource management, Dubuc's position is always based on the best science, ethical actions, and the fairest, most equitable allocation options. It is very seldom that an outdoors journalist has the respect and power to produce positive outcomes in natural resource issues. Dubuc not only has these attributes, but also is willing to use them for the greater good of all who love the outdoors.

For these reasons, the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association has named Don Dubuc the recipient of the Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement.

Bank Fishing!

by Lyle Johnson

A story I recently wrote about a trip to Eglin AFB in Florida and some speckled trout I caught fishing on the bank got me to thinking about one of my favorite pastimes – “bank fishing.”

When I was a kid, that's what I spent most of my time doing during summer vacation. You could see me, my brother Cliff and my cousin Jeff Bourque roaming the streets of Gonzales on our bicycles with our fishing poles in hand trying to catch some bream or anything else that would hit on the end of our lines. We got chances to fish with the adults in our lives, but those road trips hold precious memories



C. J. Powers does a little bank fishing from his wheeler at the East Ascension Sportsman's League Kids Fishing Rodeo in July. Photo by Joe L. Herring

that will never fade from my mind.

A few years ago it was those very memories and the picture of my Uncle Donnie fishing along the banks of New River that stirred something inside me to give my favorite boyhood pastime another shot. I started from the places I fished as a kid and to my pleasant surprise I began to catch fish. As I drove around the parish I added more places that became regular “holes” to catch fish.

You can go as simple as a cane pole and some live bait such as crickets or worms to all your favorite bass tackle and

the paraphernalia you need. There are some distinct advantages to this kind of trip and some disadvantages. Weather is not a big concern because you can just get in your vehicle and wait it out or just go home.

Fish hold to structure so you may have to change your definition somewhat. Bridges are excellent structure and one of my top choices to fish. Any place canals intersect is a good spot. Sloughs or run-outs are very good, but those are few and far between. Culverts take the place of sloughs in our urban environment, so fish the culverts. Patches of grass qualify, limbs in the water, even grocery carts although I promise you I didn't put any of them in New River. Anything can be structure, so keep an eye out for objects in the water.

As far as which artificial baits to use, plastics are tops. Since access is limited to the bank, when your bait hangs you can't go to the bait, plastics can be rigged weedless and don't hang much. This can help keep your expenses down so you don't lose many of those high dollar baits. Plastics are very versatile; you can put them in places that you wouldn't even try with other baits. But look at your surroundings and choose accordingly.

Bank fishing is truly unique. Most of the strikes occur with less than 10 ft. of line out, so you have to hold on. I have caught bass as big as 4 lbs. in water less than 8 inches deep, so put those baits in every crack and crevasse. On my best day I caught over 25 bass, 12 sac-a-lait and 10 bream. I also won the EASL's big bass of the month with a bass weighing 4lb. 4 oz. You don't have to have a lot of time to do this, even an hour or two gives you plenty of time to bank fish. Once while running some errands all over the parish I caught 8 bass in three different bodies of water – New River, Bayou Conway and the Diversion Canal. Don't overlook any place that holds water because it could hold a fish or two.

It may not appear as glamorous as big time boat fishing, but it can be every bit as fun without as much effort, and it is an excellent way to introduce a youngster to fishing. If he or she gets bored, get back in the vehicle and go get a snowball.

Don Dubuc Honored by Outdoor Writers

Each year, the Louisiana Outdoor Writer's Association recognizes an individual for a lifetime of conservation achievement. This year's winner is a relatively young 52,



Don Dubuc was honored with the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement at the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's annual conservation awards banquet last March in Shreveport. Presenting the award is LOWA secretary Jerald Horst.

but has packed a lifetime of conservation efforts in those years.

Don Dubuc is the conservationist's conservationist and the sportsman's sportsman, cut from the same cloth as Aldo Leopold and Teddy Roosevelt. Don has devoted a lifetime to his love of the outdoors, including hunting and fishing, and the conservation of those natural treasures that make the outdoors special.

After several other jobs, including a stint as a salesman, fate led Don to his true calling — outdoors journalism. Today he

Continued on page 24

Shreveport Convention Fun, Productive and Educational

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation held its 64th Annual Meeting last March in Shreveport. The last time LWF met in the Shreveport area was in 1989, over 13 years ago. A lot has changed since 1989, for one, the redevelopment of the downtown and river front area with entertainment, food, education and recreation



Major Sandy Dares (L) with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries responds to a question in the Boating and Fresh/Saltwater Fish Committee.

venues. Due to the meeting date being on the weekend before Mardi Gras, and not having a local affiliate host club, the participation by affiliate club members was down from past years, but the turnout of board members was outstanding resulting in productive business and conservation committee meetings. Sixteen affiliates were represented, with large turnouts from the East Ascension Sportsman's League and the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, last year's convention host club. AWF took on the roll of non-local host club, volunteering to help staff the registration table and the Friday night auction. Although attendance at the auction/raffle during the Friday night fish fry was about half of last year, the event netted over \$4,000, the second highest amount since LWF began to hold a friendly auction in conjunction with its annual meeting in the mid-1980s. Convention sponsorships set a record with almost 30 individuals and businesses donating over \$4,000 to support the convention and the work of the LWF. Sponsors and donors are listed at the end of this article. LWF is grateful for their support.

The "meat" of LWF's annual meeting is the consideration of conservation resolutions submitted by affiliate clubs and directors. This process allows delegates to immerse themselves in what amounts to be a mini legislative process, the outcome of which can significantly affect conservation and environmental policy, fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. The resolves of the several resolutions that were finally adopted are recorded later in this article.

While most of the delegates were working in the conservation committees, 23 spouses and children of delegates got to see some of Shreveport from the Red River on the "Spirit of the Red" cruise boat. They continued their adventure at the Sci-Port where they experienced the IMAX film "Lewis & Clark – the great journey west." After all that excitement, they satisfied their appetites with a lunch at the Hollywood Casino's "Epic Buffet." Participants remarked that this was one of the best "spouses tours" they had been on.

This convention also had blockbuster educational programming. Distinguished professor of biology at LSU-Shreveport, Dr. Jim Ingold, highlighted the contributions of John James Audubon and other pioneer naturalists in his presentation on the "History of Ornithology in Louisiana" at the Saturday after-



LWF past president Keith Saucier (R) presides at the Conservation Policy, Laws and Enforcement Committee.

noon general session. Dr. Ingold was followed by local conservationist Paul Dickson who addressed the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System through his personal experience in spearheading the establishment of the Red River NWR. Randy Ashe with the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Environmental Protection Agency and EPA attorney detailed to the CID, Beau Brock, wrapped up the session with an exciting description of their work in Louisiana bringing criminal polluters to justice.

Once again, the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation held its state turkey calling and owl hooting contest on Saturday afternoon in conjunction with the convention. And some of the turkey callers stayed to join well over a hundred other conservationists at the LWF's awards banquet later that evening to see one of their own, the Blind River Boss Gobblers, honored along with 8 other individuals, businesses and organizations.

Plans are to hold the LWF's 2004 convention in New Iberia on February 29, March 1 & 2. Mark your calendars and plan to be there.

2003 RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled, 2 March 2003, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

RES. 1D, 2003 - SUBJECT: SCENIC RIVERS ACT ENFORCEMENT/PENALTIES

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Legislature to amend La. R.S. 56:1851 to provide for an increase in the criminal penalties for violations of the Natural & Scenic Rivers Act sufficient to serve as a deterrent to violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF recommends that, relative to criminal penalties, a violation of the Act be designated a Class IV violation as described in La. R.S. 56:34 (\$400-\$750 fine and/or 120 days in jail for first offense).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges that the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Program, as administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, be reviewed for effectiveness in protecting, managing and conserving the scenic rivers and streams designated in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers Act as amended.

RES. 3D, 2003 - SUBJECT: LAKE MAUREPAS CYPRESS LOGGING

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the State of Louisiana to adopt a policy which includes incentives to discourage the harvest of coastal forests



The East Ascension Sportsman's League had more members than any other affiliate club in attendance at the LWF convention.

when such activity will result in causing or accelerating the loss of coastal wetlands and when such harvest is not likely to be a sustainable forest management practice under ambient conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges coastal forest land owners to work with the Louisiana Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Forestry and the US

Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers in developing and subscribing to "best management practices" in managing their timber resources so that their activities are consistent with the goals of the Coast 2050 plan to restore and conserve Louisiana's coast.

RES. 5B, 2003 - SUBJECT: CONSERVATION OF THE ALLIGATOR SNAP-



LWF past president and representative to the National Wildlife Federation Edgar Veillon (R) receives a distinguished service citation for his long years of service to LWF and NWF. NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew presented the recognition for NWF.

PING TURTLE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to complete the necessary surveys and carefully analyze all available scientific data to determine the status of the population of alligator snapping turtles statewide and, if determined by the research to be necessary, regulate the harvest of this unusual, interesting, and tasty member of our native fauna.

RES. 6D, 2003 - SUBJECT: UNIFORMITY OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS ON LOUISIANA PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the



LWF executive director Randy Lancot (R) is awarded the LWF President's Cup by LWF president Joe L. Herring.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to make uniform all regulations pertaining to deer-hunting with dogs on all public lands within Louisiana that are actively managed for hunting.

RES. 7C, 2003 - SUBJECT: PLACE-MENT AND REMEDIATION OF PIPELINES, FLOWLINES AND LOCA-

TIONS IN WETLANDS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) encourages regulatory agencies to require the lowest impact methods of constructing new pipelines, flowlines, and locations, such as directional drilling, end-on construction, and backfilling of canals, to minimize wetlands destruction and impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF supports creation of a fund, supported by a tax on new pipeline, flowline, and drilling infrastructure, that will be used to restore and correct past damage created by pipeline, flowline, and drilling canals and associated spoil banks.

RES. 9B, 2003 - SUBJECT: RECREATIONAL WATERS PROTECTION ACT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to support HR 3673



The Conservation Award winners assemble with their wildlife statuettes for a group photo after the banquet.

introduced by Rep. Jim Saxton that will permit the discharge of sewerage treated by Type 1 A Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD) in waters that are currently designated as No Discharge Zones, thereby encouraging the proper use of MSDs and improv-



LWF officers are sworn in for the next term after being elected at the Board Luncheon.

ing the quality of the water in marine environments.

RES. 10A, 2003 - SUBJECT: NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) strongly recommends that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries review the effectiveness of the existing Nuisance Wildlife Control Program

and consider the possibility of financially supporting, through stipends and such, a trapper in every district, and/or work with individual parishes to establish their own Nuisance Wildlife Control Program.

RES. 11B, 2003 - SUBJECT: MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH LABORATORY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' efforts to establish a marine fisheries research laboratory in southeastern Louisiana.

RES. 12D, 2003 - SUBJECT: LONG TERM FUNDING PLAN FOR THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Legislature and the Governor to establish a study commission to develop a plan for achieving reliable long term funding for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

RES. 13A, 2003 - SUBJECT: QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT/6-POINT RULE

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to thoroughly review the 6-point rule program for the Tri-Parish Area prior to continuing it for the '03/'04 deer season and further to give due deference to the liberty of private landowners and hunting club lessees who wish to have the freedom to practice sound conservation of the deer resource on their properties using other effective harvest management strategies within the overall season and bag limit set by the LWFC.

RES. 14D, 2003 - SUBJECT: PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE WILD DEER HERD IN LOUISIANA

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Legislature to prohibit the issuance of any additional alternative livestock and game breeders permits for deer and elk, prohibit the import of deer and elk into the state, and require the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to monitor existing alternative livestock permittees and game breeders permittees for compliance with the alternative livestock and game breeders program regulations and fully enforce compliance with those regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Legislature to hold hearings to review the captive deer/elk programs of

Continued on page 14

Create a Home for Wildlife

by Alice Martin, National Wildlife Federation Education Coordinator

Do you know what crop covers the



If you create a home for wildlife you might get ... a possum in your fig tree, or....

most American land? According to an article entitled *To Mow or Grow: The Choice: A Lawn or an Ecosystem* written in 1996 by Bret Rappaport, "Collectively, the USA boasts 25 million acres of residential lawn, an area roughly the size of New England." You may be asking yourself, "What's wrong with that? I like my lawn the way it is!" These lawns, which comprise the majority of our typical urban and suburban landscapes, require a lot of extra attention and pampering since most of them are planted with non-native species that need more water, fertilizers, and pesticides. To get an idea of just how much our lawns need in order to remain green and healthy, take a look at the following estimates of consumption.

Lawns consume 30-60% of potable municipal water yearly; more than 70 million tons of chemical pesticides and 70 million tons of fertilizers are used each year on lawns; per hour of operation, a typical lawn mower emits approximately 10-12 times as much polluting hydrocarbons as a typical

automobile; Americans spend as much as \$20 billion a year on lawn maintenance.

The good news is you can stop being a slave to your yards by creating a place that birds, frogs, butterflies and other creatures can call home! Ken Druse, author of *The Natural Habitat Garden*, challenges, "If even a fraction of America's 38 million gardeners turned a quarter of their landscape into a wild garden (only one tenth of an acre each) there would be a measurable impact...a tremendously positive gain for America's and the world's, ecology." The conversion of your lawn into a natural habitat landscape also helps offset the impact of commercial and residential development where it has eliminated most of the natural areas that are critical for wildlife. You can do your part to make the world a better place, starting in your own yard, by participating in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program.

The National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program can help you save a place for wildlife while opening your eyes and heart to the natural world at home, school, work, and in the community. All it takes is providing the four basic elements that all wildlife needs to survive: food, water, cover to protect against the elements and predators, and places to reproduce and



a mourning dove nesting outside your kitchen window, or....

bear young in safety. In providing food for wildlife, keep in mind that providing native vegetation that produces fruit, nuts, berries, nectar, and seeds throughout the seasons is the key to a successful habitat. This vegetation also doubles as valuable cover that is crucial to having wildlife in your habitat. If you would like to find out more about native plants in your area, contact the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. You can search their native plant database by state at www.wildflower.org/search or receive native plant Factpacks or a Native Plant Species List from their clearinghouse by calling

(512)292-4200.

To learn more about what you can do to



make a welcoming place for your favorite critters, you may visit the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program's web site at www.nwf.org/habitats or you can order a step-by-step instruction packet by calling (410)516-6583. These packets containing prepaid applications for certification of your wildlife habitat are also available at all Wild



a brown thrasher chick, and its Momma (above) looking out for your neighbor's cat.

Birds Unlimited stores. Visit www.wbu.com or call 1-800-326-4WBU to find a store near you.

Another wonderful resource is the gardening message board at NWF Network, the Internet service provider of the National Wildlife Federation. At www.nwfnetwork.com/Gardening you can discuss backyard wildlife stories and issues, ask questions about gardening and native plants, and participate in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat community.

If you think that your yard already meets all the certification criteria by providing food, water, cover, and places to raise young for wildlife, then you may download an application for certification from the web site or call (703)790-4100. The certification component of the program is a way we like to acknowledge your efforts for providing a special place for wildlife and for being a

responsible steward of the land. Since 1973 over 27,500 properties have been certified as



Gary Ross tends his butterfly garden, an excellent wildlife habitat.

official Backyard Wildlife Habitat sites. Once your application is approved you will receive a certificate with your own unique habitat #, an optional press release to go out to your local paper, the Habitats Newsletter every quarter, a letter from NWF president Mark Van Putten, additional information about habitats, and the option of purchasing an attractive metal, weather resistant yard sign.

Your participation in the Backyard Wildlife Habitat program is an easy and enjoyable introduction to nature that can yield a lifelong commitment to conservation. It is one of many NWF efforts to educate, inspire, and assist people in protecting wildlife and the environment. So get involved today by checking out the many resources mentioned in this article or by contacting the Education Coordinators at NWF's Gulf States Natural Resource Center



Participants in Louisiana's first Habitat Stewards Workshop conducted at the Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center (Baton Rouge) by naturalist Angela Evans practice identifying plants with a plant key

in Austin, Texas at (512)476-9805.

The nation's largest member-supported conservation group, the National Wildlife Federation unites people from all walks of life to protect nature, wildlife, and the world we all share. NWF has educated and inspired families to uphold America's conservation tradition since 1936.

CWD Campaign Contributors: *Continued from page 11*

Joe Freeland, Crowley
G.P. Hunting Club - *Gene Patin, Lafayette*
Mark J. Gaillard, Plaquemine
Bradley Gautreaux, Gonzales
Mildred Gautreaux, Gonzales
Steve & Brenda Gautreaux, Gonzales
Glendora Plantation Hunting Club - *Thomas W. Winkler, Sterlington*
Lee Grush, River Ridge
James R. 'Goosie' Guice, Prairieville
Jason Guidry, Saint Amant
James Guillory, Plaquemine
Jerry Haas, Jr., Sulphur
Happy Hollow Hunting Club - *Billy Craft, Woodworth*
Hart Land Property - *Dorothy Hart, Winnsboro*
Paul Haworth, Kenner
Helena Wildlife Management Co. - *Mac Bullock, Baton Rouge*
Jason & Teri Henry, Gonzales
Joe L. Herring, Baton Rouge
Highland Wilderness/Ascantia Clubs - *R. Robert Rackley, Baton Rouge*
Highpoint Hunting Club - *David Villeneuve, Baton Rouge*
Hole in the Woods - *Stephen J. Lafleur, Opelousas*
Home Place Hunting Club - *Frank Thomas, Ruston*
Katydid Hunting Club - *Mack Lancaster, Monroe*
Kellogg Hunting Club - *Charles D. Van Zile, West Monroe*
Merritt King, Kinder
Tom B. King, Monroe
Tom Kliebert, Convent
K.O.L.A. Hunting Club - *Louis DeJohn, Jr., Greenwell Springs*
Daniel Lacombe, Hessmer
David Lafargue, Marksville
Lafouche Point Hunting Club - *John Glass, Mangham*
Paul Lapoint, Bunkie
The Last Stand Hunting Club - *Mike LeBlanc, Jeanerette*
Legendre Land - *Gus Legendre, Thibodaux*
Blaine Lemoine, Mansura
Cory Lemoine, Moreauville
Gerald Lemoine, Moreauville
Jeremy Lemoine, Moreauville
Lime Creek Hunting Club - *Maurece Joyner, Shreveport*
John M. Lindsly, Bunkie
Lizard Nest Hunting Club - *Jerry W. Coleman, Bossier City*
Lonewa, Inc. - *Bishop Johnston, Monroe*
Carl Luce, Jr., Gonzales
Jeffrey Luce, Gonzales
Lucky 12 Hunting Club - *Earl Andrus, Port Barre*

Lucky 13 Ranch - *Frank Holt, Dry Prong*
Lynn Schexnayder Hunting Club - *Lynelle Schexnayder Gay, New Roads*
M&S Hunting Club - *Kenneth R. Winberry, Olla*
Madewood Hunting Club - *Stacy Leonard, Pierre Part*
Brian Maiocchi, Gonzales
Manchac Point Hunting Club - *Bill Moore, Lafayette*
C. B. McCauley, Lake Charles
Felton O. McDonald, Homer
McElroy Hunting Club - *M. Duane Lee, Prairieville*
Joe McPherson, Woodworth
McGowan Brake Club - *Kent Anderson, Monroe*
Wayne & Becky Michel, Mansura
Archie Molliere, Gonzales
Moore Hunting Club - *H. D. Moore, Bastrop*
Nulen Moses, Marksville
Mt. Pleasant Hunting Club - *Grady Phillips, Baton Rouge*
North Paradise Point Hunting Club
Oak Hollow Hunting Club - *Richard Morton, DeRidder*
Oak Ridge Hunting Club - *A. M. Barr, Ruston*
Oli Hickory Jac Hunting Club - *Jack Surles, Lake Charles*
Burtman Ortego, Franklin
Outback Hunting Club - *Roger Doody, Hammond*
P & P Hunting Club - *J. W. Parker, Jr., Springhill*
Panola Brake Club - *Hugh Bateman, Ferriday*
Thomas D. & Vickie Rambin, Saint Amant
Kent Richei, Evergreen
Riddle - *McKowen Hunting Club - Albert Mills, III, Zachary*
Rifle Point Hunting Club - *Todd Broussard, Ferriday*
Rocky Bayou Hunting Club - *Jack Dailey, Extension*
Romero Hunting Club - *James H. Romero, Lafayette*
Rougarou Hunting Club - *E. E. Moore, Jr., Covington*
Bill Ryland, Effie
Safari Club International - *La. Chapter*
St. James Boat Club
Keith & Cindy Saucier, Gonzales
Keith Savoy, Hessmer
7 Cis Hunting Club - *Tom Ortego, Lafayette*
7 Pt Hunting Club - *Jud Hale, Minden*
Michael Sharp, Hammond
Harold L. Sicard, Baton Rouge
A. D. Smith, Texarkana, AR
Smithland Hunting Club - *Joel Smith, Wyanoke*
Solitude Hunting Club - *Ink Cobb, Monroe*
South Paradise Point Hunting Club
Southpoint Hunting Club - *Sam Henry, III, West Monroe*

Southwest Louisiana Wildlife Association
 Spike Buck Hunting Club - *Don Sutton, Jr., Gibsland*
 Square D Hunting Club - *Roy Dupree, Goldonna*
 Stelly's Hunting Club - *C. L. Jack Stelly, Lafayette*
 Carl Steven, Hessmer
 Sunset Hunting Club - *Frank E. Barry, Sunset*
 Superior Deer Hunting Club - *James Saltzman, Kaplan*
 T-Kellis Hunting Club - *Dean Tekell, Lafayette*
 Tangico Hunting Club - *Bud Campbell, Hammond*
 Robert W. Taylor, Jr., Prairieville
 Ten Shot Hunting Club - *Blackie Medlen, Plaquemine*
 John Tieken, Jr., Houma
 Time Out Hunting Club - *Dwayne Coulon, Port Allen*
 Togo Island Hunting Club - *Harry Dendy, Clinton, MS*

Tomahawk Hill Hunting Club - *Andrew Walker, Shreveport*
 Lyle Torres, LaPlace
 Trails End Hunting Club - *Troyce F. Thompson, Westlake*
 Triple S Farms - *Jimmy Street, Winnsboro*
 Turkey Creek Hunting Club - *Isaac C. Eley, Gilbert*
 Twelve Mile Club - *John Stiles, Greensburg*
 Twin-Tac Hunting Club - *Nathan W. Bush, Bogalusa*
 Upper Woods Hunting Club - *Bobby G. Fulmer, MD, New Roads*
 Vidal Island Hunting Club - *Randy Michiels, Alexandria*
 Rep. Monica Walker, Bunkie
 Walnut Creek Hunting Club - *Ronald Maner, Haughton*
 Warnicutt Hunting Club - *Jack H. McLemore, Jr., Vidalia*
 W.E.L.P. - *Randy Elliott, Ruston*
 W.F.P. Laurel Hunting Club - *Jim Fowler,*

Baton Rouge
 White Flag Hunting Club - *John H. Barber, Jr., Baton Rouge*
 White Rock Hunting Club - *Jim Colvin, Winnfield*
 Whitetail Hunting Club - *Tommy Hines, West Monroe*
 Wildlife Technical Service, Inc. - *Bill Tomlinson, Vicksburg, MS*
 Willow Bayou Hunting Club - *Bill Chapman, Sulphur*
 Willow Bend Hunting Club - *Don Bordelon, Cut Off*
 Woodlawn Hunting Club - *William Lockwood, Jr., Baton Rouge*
 Wyche Hunting Club - *Emmett Wyche, Jr., Benton*
 Zemurray Hunting Club - *Kent Robbins, Loranger*
 Zoar Hunting Club - *Allen Roy Reeves, West Monroe*



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Ole Tibby



"Well, they just showed up, Peacocks that is. They stay in the back yard, on the back patio. They mess everywhere. They visit all the neighbors and chase all the small pet dogs. They drive my Yorkie, Mattie, crazy. I feed them corn down

whenever the peacocks come in at about 8:00 a.m., they peck on the rear glass door to let them know they are there. Whenever the dog goes in the yard, they peck him and chase him away. Kitty is trying to find out whom the birds belong to.

I do not go fishing or hunting anymore. With my leaking and mumming heart, the doctor advised me to go slow and not to exhaust myself. You better believe that it is hard on me also not to drive anymore. I watch a lot of hunting and fishing programs on TV in order to occupy myself, but that is a poor pacifier for me. Sometimes I go to the pond at my grandson's home, and have been invited to go



Peacocks One and Two in Tibby's granddaughter's yard in Greenwell Springs. "They just showed up," Tibby says.

the hill by the Amite River in Greenwell Springs. They are two male birds and are young according to the Internet web site I looked at. My son, Cole, named them One and Two. One is the one with the hurt foot. Both peacocks look to be healthy birds, except for the foot that looks like it has been broken. They are very loud, and my neighbor, Jon, says they keep him up at night with their loud yelling."

I hope everyone has been enjoying the outdoors this season and getting out to fish, watch birds and garden. My granddaughter, Mrs. Bruce Holden (Kitty), wrote the above description of peacocks in the neighborhood. The birds flew in at their home. Evidently, the metal rooster weather vane above their home is what attracted them. She told me that they frequently go near the vane on the roof, and it is very difficult to approach them. However,

to two other ponds that I have yet to visit.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest last fall. Due to my health and the previous 47 years of chairing the contest, it was time for me to quit doing that. The businesses and people who sponsored the contest with donations are much appreciated, "MERCI BOUCOUP, and my family, too." Carl Gremillion is now the contest chairman, so your continued support will be greatly appreciated. Carl, who is president of the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League, is a very capable man for the position. GOOD LUCK, Carl. Of course, I will still be available to help at the contest. You will still be hearing from me.

OLE TIBBY

AFFILIATE CLUBS

DISTRICT 1

Little Tchefuncte River Association
Pontchartrain Hunting Retriever Club

DISTRICT 2

Clio Sportsman's League
Jefferson Rod and Gun Club
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

DISTRICT 3

Acadiana Bay Association
Iberia Rod and Gun Club

DISTRICT 4

Claiborne Parish Hunting and Fishing Club

DISTRICT 5

DISTRICT 6

American Sportsmen Against Poachers
Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League
Citizens For A Clean Environment
CFACT
East Ascension Sportsmen's League
Lake Maurepas Society
Triangle "T" Sportsmen's League

DISTRICT 7

Acadiana Sportsmen's League
Southwest Louisiana Wildlife Association
Westlake Hunting Club

DISTRICT 8

Avoyelles Wildlife Federation
Bayou Bassmasters of Alexandria
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 Association of Professional Biologists
La. Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
La. Chapter Safari Club International
Louisiana Charter Boat Association
Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association
Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
United Commercial Fishermen's Association





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National Resources
and Your Right to
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- ☐ Sustaining – \$35 (LWF lapel pin or logo license plate)
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- ☐ Business – \$50 (LWF logo T-shirt; M - L - XL)
- ☐ Corporate – \$1,000 (framed, limited edition s/n wildlife print)
- ☐ Basic/Student – \$15
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