



LOUISIANA

# Wildlife

FEDERATION

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■ *Fascinating Flyers*

■ *Freedom to Hunt.....*

■ *Legislation Recap*

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#### *On the Cover.....*

The most sought after coastal saltwater finfish in Louisiana is, and always has been, the spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*). In Louisiana, it goes by the name speckled trout or just "speck." It's why throngs of anglers travel to the coast, especially in the summer, but really, most months of the year. It stimulates a significant coastal economy, and real estate and marine manufacturing industries by creating demand for coastal "camps" and boats, motors and trailers, not to mention beau coup fishing gear. Though they'll take other species, most anglers are after specks, period. Redfish are for when it's too windy or cold to find the specks.

Surf fishing for specks is one of the most enjoyable angling experiences you can imagine. All it takes is a rod and reel properly rigged, a handful of artificial baits, or maybe a bait bucket with some minnows or shrimp, and a stringer or floating net basket to hold the catch. (A saltwater fishing license is required, too, but keep it somewhere it won't get

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**Editorial Creed:** To create and encourage an awareness among the people of Louisiana of the need for wise use and proper management of those resources of the earth upon which the lives and welfare of all people depend: the soil, the air, the water, the forests, the minerals, the plant life, and the wildlife.

**Magazine Staff**  
**Randy P. Lanctot:** Editor

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**E.R. "Smitty"  
Smith III**



Wow, what a difference one year and a new administration in state government can make. With backing from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, the just completed legislative session has seen a string of victories for sportsmen and conservation. Senate Bill 2, proposing a constitutional amendment to guarantee the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap," was passed, and will be on the November 2nd general election ballot. Approval by the voters would add this provision to the Declaration of Rights in the Louisiana Constitution, the strongest possible protection for this fundamental right of citizenship in the "Sportsmen's Paradise." Another major accomplishment for the state and the Federation was the enactment of Senate Bill 118 which rectifies the legal and policy issues concerning the management of the White Lake property set up under the previous administration. Under the new law, the Department of Wildlife and

Fisheries will manage this 71,000 acres of freshwater marsh open water and agriculture fields, thus affording public participation in determining the programs and rules and regulations applied to the area. A new advisory board will be established that includes persons with scientific and technical expertise capable of guiding the management of the property.

I can't say thank you enough to Senator Joe McPherson and Randy Lancot our executive director, for championing these and other pieces of conservation legislation down at the capitol. Thanks also to the other legislators who supported these efforts, Governor Blanco, and all of you that got involved and contacted your legislators. I suspect that some of you grew tired of getting my emails harassing you to take action. But it comes with the territory. We will be at it again next year, and so will my spam attacks.

Besides our work down at the capitol, we have been very busy at LWF. Our office has gotten a facelift, with some much needed remodeling. Since my last column, we have had both an Executive Committee meeting and a Board meeting. Both meetings were very productive. The Board meeting took place at Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery at Woodworth and took up the better part of a Saturday with a morning session and working lunch grilled up by "Little

Joe" McPherson who was standing in for his dad. Thanks "Little Joe" for those fat, tasty burgers. "Little Joe" is quite the misnomer as he stands in at about 6 feet or better. Also, thanks to the many LWF board members who attended and gave up half of the weekend to steer the Federation forward.

Since my last column, I have also been on the road quite a bit. I represented the Federation at a Pesticide Advisory Committee meeting, a Coastal Advisory committee meeting, one of the Louisiana Coastal Area Study Scoping meetings, the Black Bear Festival in Franklin and various affiliate club meetings. Some of the affiliate club meetings included a trip to Crowley where I spoke at the Acadiana Sportsmen's League annual membership supper. I also attended the Southwest Louisiana Wildlife Association meeting in Kinder, where my friend and LWF District 7 At-large director, Jerry Haas was elected president of that organization. Good luck, Jerry. Most recently, I attended the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation annual membership meeting and was treated to a great time and some wonderful food. Besides me and my wife Shawn, LWF was well represented by past president Joe Herring, 2nd VP Jay Huner and his wife Judy, secretary Ken Dancak and executive

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Randy  
Lancot**



As you can tell from reading President "Smitty" Smith's column, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has had a productive Spring. Our efforts have been rewarded with the adoption of important legislation and the recognition of our organization's leadership in the conservation community. Despite that, our efforts have been criticized by a columnist with the "Louisiana Sportsman" magazine who has maligned the LWF to his readers, charging that we have

consorted with radical environmental groups to engage in a political rally against the President and misplaced our priorities at the Legislature, among other criticisms. My inclination is to dismiss such ignorant charges. But I have been asked by some Louisiana Wildlife Federation members, shocked by this columnist's tirade, to address the most egregious assertions. It may be enlightening for readers to know that this columnist was not present and therefore had no firsthand knowledge about LWF's participation at the rally or at the Legislature.

Very briefly, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was invited to participate in a rally at the capital in Baton Rouge to promote the importance of a quality environment to a sound and thriving economy. Every conservationist knows how important clean air, water and soil, and abundant, high quality habitat are to our enjoyment of the

outdoors and to the state's economy, and that there is room for improvement here in Louisiana and throughout the nation. That theme is consistent with the mission of the LWF and our participation was approved by the LWF Board of Directors at its spring board meeting the weekend previous to the rally. The rally was intentionally scheduled to be on the steps of the state capital on the eve of President Bush's visit to the LSU commencement, to attract media attention to the issues presented at the rally, and with the hope of getting the attention of the leader of our Nation, as well as government leaders in Louisiana, in addressing them. Although some presenters at the rally expressed concerns with specific initiatives, or lack thereof, of President Bush's administration that pertain to conservation and the environment,

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# Fascinating Flyers

*Photos Courtesy Bill Dupree*

I walked out this morning to make a routine, brief round of the garden before heading to the office. After all the rainfall of the past 2 months, and now the heat, there's not much left out there – a few peppers, a squash or two, a deformed cantaloup. But the okra stands tall and



*Window Skimmer*

making. So I picked a few. As I eased down the row I noticed a bug grasping a top leaf, still as if its spirit had left in the night. I took a moment, and a deep breath as I examined its intricacies, transported back to long summer days when kids found adventure wading shallow ponds and collecting things. Back then, the bug I was now observing on the okra bush was a prize catch, an extraterrestrial with an extraordinary talent to evade capture. Often, the only way we could get one was to search the grillwork of Gramps' Buick when he returned from a summer road trip. There were usually 2 or 3 of them smashed into

the cooling fins of the radiator, some intact and well preserved enough to study and wonder at.

Their abundance and wide distribution makes them common and therefore, taken for granted. They're just part of summer, which in Louisiana is pretty much all year. Too bad. They are worthy of more notice. These bugs are dragonflies.

Dragonflies have many of the same qualities that make butterflies and birds, especially hummingbirds, so fascinating. And when it comes to being "cool," they are the coolest of animals. Their flying skills are unsurpassed. Their colors range from neon to subdued. They have complex and interesting life histories with an aquatic



*"Dragonflies" is available in bookstores or from Stackpole Books. <mailto:sales@stackpolebooks.com>*

stage that comprises the greatest part of the life span of most species, followed by a 4-6 week



*Blue Dasher*

adult stage which is spent flying, feeding, mating and laying eggs. They are carnivorous. We fondly refer to them as "mosquito hawks" as they dart about the yard catching mosquitoes and other bugs in mid-air.

Dragonflies (and damselflies which are slightly smaller and somewhat differently constructed) belong to the insect order Odonata. This is a relatively small order of bugs (about 6,500 species described worldwide) when you consider that the order of beetles (Coleoptera) includes over 300,000 species. In North America there are about 300 dragonfly species and 125 damselfly species.

As much as I respect the capabilities of dragonflies, and am fascinated by them, I have never really thought of trying to attract them to my yard or to learn more about them like so many of us do for butterflies and birds. But the other day I picked up "Dragonflies" by Cynthia Berger, the first work in the new Wild Guide series published by Stackpole Books, and started to think, why not? Why not dragonflies, too? Wouldn't it be interesting to know what species hang around your yard? And when the fishing is slow, observing dragonfly activity can add to the enjoyment of being out on the water, if you know what to look for. That's where "Dragonflies" is helpful. It describes the most common behaviors of dragonflies and damselflies, including many illustrations, and identifies 27 of the most common species likely to be encountered in the eastern US. It even provides tips on collecting and handling the animals for closer inspection without harming them.

There are close-focusing optics available for butterfly and close-in bird watching that also are suitable for getting a better look at dragonflies. Cynthia Berger includes references in her book on where to find these and other tools for observing and attracting dragonflies. I'm kind of ashamed that I know most of the species of butterflies that come to my yard, but I can't identify the first dragonfly, other than to say it's a dragonfly. Inspired and educated by "Dragonflies," that's about to change. Why not enjoy a dragonfly ID project around your yard with the kids or grandkids. After all, dragonflies are cool!



*Blue Dasher Photos by Bill Dupree, 59, and an Atlanta native, has been involved in amateur photography since grammar school. He now shoots digital and has a main interest in nature photography.*

# Louisiana Wildlife Federation Receives National Wildlife Federation Grant

Grant will help restore endangered red-cockaded woodpecker populations

Washington, D.C. - The Louisiana



The red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) is perhaps Louisiana's most controversial endangered species because of its habit of making its nest cavities in mature, live pine trees.

Wildlife Federation (LWF), a conservation education and advocacy organization working to restore, preserve and develop wildlife resources in Louisiana, has been awarded a grant from the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Species Recovery Fund. The LWF, in association with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Natural Heritage Program and the Louisiana Forestry Association, will use the grant to purchase and install artificial nest cavity inserts for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The Species Recovery Fund provides grants to organizations working with local communities to provide direct, on-the-ground benefits to imperiled species.

"Installing these artificial nest cavity inserts is sort of like sustaining a human

neighborhood by remodeling old, dilapidated homes," said Randy Lancot, Executive Director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. "In this case, we will be remodeling RCW 'homes' in the woodpeckers' neighborhood."

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is one of eight Species Recovery Fund grant recipients this year selected from over 200 applications submitted by conservation organizations and individuals throughout the world. The Species Recovery Fund is an integral part of NWF's national effort that seeks to raise awareness of and improve conditions for endangered species.

"A critical component of conservation involves people taking action on a local level to protect the wildlife and wild places they know and love," said Ron Ohrel, NWF's



Species Recovery Fund manager. "These grants provide the means for local organizations to implement innovative, community-based wildlife conservation efforts that will provide direct benefits for wildlife."

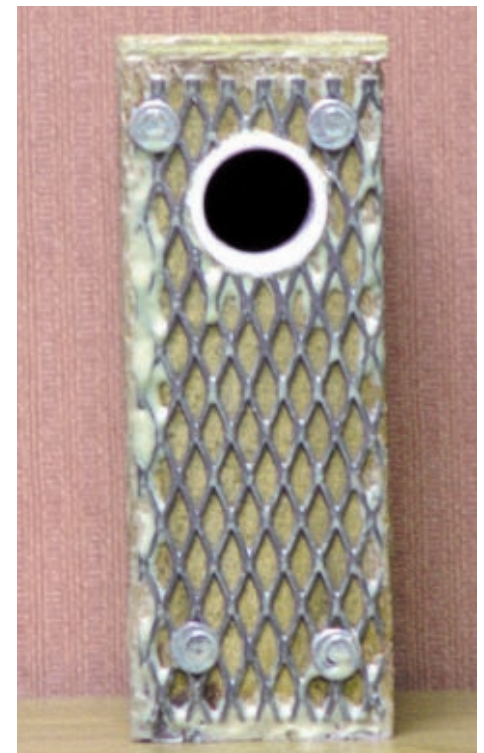
A shortage of old-growth pine forests is the main cause of the red-cockaded woodpecker's decline. RCW's only use the boles or trunks of mature live pine trees, many with red heart fungus disease, to excavate their nest cavities, but these trees have become scarce. The \$5000 grant issued by NWF will be used to install 39 artificial nest cavity inserts in 16 RCW clusters on the

Alexander State Forest to help compensate for the lack of available habitat that threatens this interesting bird.

"The RCW's peculiar nesting habit dictates that the species' population will always be relatively small and vulnerable," said Lancot. "But this very specific habitat requirement also presents opportunities to apply innovative conservation management techniques such as our project of providing artificial nest cavity inserts."

The project is being managed by Eric Baka with the LDWF's Natural Heritage Program and will also include landowner workshops hosted by the Louisiana Forestry Association to educate forest owners who desire to manage for RCWs on their property.

Protecting wildlife through education and action since 1936, the National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization creating solutions that balance the needs of people and wildlife now and for future generations.



Installing artificial nest cavity inserts such as this one is a proven conservation management technique to maintain and restore red-cockaded woodpecker colonies.

# Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap

The Louisiana Legislature has approved a ballot initiative proposing a constitutional amendment to include the freedom to hunt, fish and trap as a fundamental right of citizenship in the Bayou State. SB 2, introduced by Senator Joe McPherson (Woodworth) and coauthored by 76 of his House and Senate colleagues, passed the legislative process without amendment or opposition. It will be on the November 2, 2004 general election ballot.

The proposed amendment is supported by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) and numerous other sportsmen's and conservation groups. According to LWF executive director, Randy Lanctot, amending the Louisiana constitution as proposed by SB 2, "will be a confirmation of Louisiana's rich wildlife conservation heritage and, most importantly, help to fend off threats to that heritage by anti-hunting/fishing factions and

events like the Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo, and engaged in a billboard campaign against fishing and eating meat. The past two legislative sessions have seen bills filed to criminalize killing animals, which would have applied to the harvest of fish, game, fur, and even beef cows," Smith said.

According to Tara Mica, Government Relations Representative with the National Rifle Association, another group supporting the proposed amendment, "Seven states, the most recent being Wisconsin in April of 2003, have included language in their constitutions to preserve the freedom to hunt, fish and trap. Similar proposals are pending in 8 other states besides Louisiana."

"The language of the proposed constitutional amendment is consistent with the authority and responsibility of the Legislature and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to protect, conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources of the state," said McPherson. "It also addresses the concerns of private property owners that the 'freedom to hunt, fish and trap' not infringe their rights to restrict access to their property." The proposed amendment closely tracks model language recommended by the U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance, a national sportsmen's rights advocacy organization.

Specifically, the amendment proposes to add Section 27 to Article I of the Louisiana constitution stating: ***"The freedom to hunt, fish, and trap wildlife, including all aquatic life, traditionally taken by hunters, trappers and anglers, is a valued natural heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people. Hunting, fishing and trapping shall be managed by law and regulation consistent with Article IX, Section 1 of the constitution of Louisiana to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources of the state. The provisions of this section shall not alter the burden of proof requirements otherwise established by law for any challenge to a law or regulation relating to hunting, fishing or trapping the wildlife of the state, including all aquatic life. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize the use of private property to hunt, fish or trap without the consent of the owner of the property."***

"This language confirms that citizens have the fundamental freedom, or right, to engage in the harvest of fish and game and fur,



Senator Joe McPherson, Representative Jack Smith, Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, LWF Executive Director Randy Lanctot and National Rifle Association Government Relations Representative Tara Mica celebrate the final passage of the SB 2, "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap." The proposed constitutional amendment will be on the ballot for the general election on November 2nd.

The proposed constitutional amendment is based on the premise that hunting, fishing and trapping are fundamental to citizenship in Louisiana and that these activities were and are understood by both founding and current generations of Louisianans as intrinsic to life in the "Sportsman's Paradise" – the slogan emblazoned on vehicle license plates.

SB 2 was McPherson's third attempt to give Louisiana citizens the opportunity to vote on the amendment. Prior efforts failed to make it completely through the legislative process due to landowner concerns and a play by officials of the state wildlife agency to use the bill as leverage in a turf fight with the state agriculture department.

According to McPherson, his first two attempts were a learning experience. "This time we got it right," he said. "It addresses all legitimate concerns while maintaining the original intent and integrity of the concept."

well-intentioned but misinformed segments of the public."

In explaining the purpose of the amendment, LWF's president, E. R. "Smitty" Smith of New Iberia stated, "Attempts to curtail various hunting, fishing and trapping activities have occurred in dozens of other states where the use of leghold traps, dogs for pursuing bear and cougar, bear management via regulated harvest, hunting on Sundays, and dove hunting have been challenged. Of growing concern are efforts to restrict fishing by making certain waters off-limits without sound, science-based reasons."

"Extreme proponents of animal rights are active in every state capital in the nation, gradually eroding long-held traditions of conservation and wise utilization of fish and wildlife resources," said Smith. "In Louisiana, groups like PETA have petitioned for a ban on fishing in Louisiana State Parks, protested fishing

*Continued on page 18*

# Lagniappe From the Executive Director

Since circumstances dictated that I devote most of my normal column space to other matters, I have asked for a little more ink to cover some things I want you and all



Edgar Veillon (L) presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 for the LWF Endowment Fund to Federation President "Smitty" Smith.

LWF members to know about. In June, the national Wildlife Federation and six of its affiliates including the Louisiana, Arkansas, Washington, Kansas, Indiana and South Dakota Wildlife Federations filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the implementation of the grazing exceptions in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CRP has been a very popular and successful program for reducing crop surpluses, conserving soil and water, and improving wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. However, the exceptions to the normal prohibition on grazing of lands enrolled in CRP that are allowed in hardship cases and under drought circumstances have been administered contrary to the intent of the program. Abuse of these exceptions by the Farm Services Administration has, in many instances, negated the conservation benefits of the program while continuing to pay subsidies to the owner for the agreement not to hay or graze the land. How does that impact us in Louisiana? Well, aside from being a waste and misuse of tax dollars, grazing and haying on lands the government has paid the owners not to hay or graze adversely affects the success of ground nesting birds,

including waterfowl. With everyone wondering "where are the ducks," we need all the help we can get with providing productive nesting grounds, and we sure shouldn't be paying for conservation that we're not getting because FSA is not willing to enforce the agreements the American tax payer has paid for. A settlement proposal has been offered by the plaintiffs for USDA's consideration. I'll let you know how it comes out.

Besides the legislative session being over, some welcome news around here at the LWF office is that we have just completed much needed renovations to our office that have been a long time coming. A newly enclosed back porch will allow us to better utilize the space in the main office, and the new siding and some fresh paint on the window frames, and ironwork on the front porch, makes it a more worthy reflection of the quality and accomplishments of our organization. We'll soon have a new sign to better identify our location at 337 S. Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge. Thanks to board member Carl Gremillion with the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League who secured a competent contractor to do the job



Carl Gremillion (L), Tibby and Smitty with the donations from the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League for the LWF Endowment Fund and to help with the office renovations, just completed.

and inspected the work when it was finished. Thanks also to the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League for the large donation it made to help cover the costs of the work. Georgia Pacific Corporation also made a generous donation to assist with purchase of the new siding. Our office is still very modest and efficiently operated with a very low overhead since we own the building and conserve our

resources, but now you won't be embarrassed by peeling paint if you stop by for a visit.

At the April meeting of the LWF's Executive Committee, Carl Gremillion and past LWF president Wilson "Tibby" Thibodeaux presented the Federation with both a contribution for the office renovations and for the LWF Endowment Fund. Not two to be outdone, past LWF president Edgar Veillon also made a large contribution to the endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to provide financial support for Federation projects and programs that cannot be funded from the organization's general treasury. It is steadily growing since it was established a year ago.

In the last issue of this magazine you may have noticed the extensive coverage of the LWF annual convention, including acknowledgment of sponsors and donors. Try as we might to include everyone, inevitably some things get lost in the final preparations for printing the magazine. My apologies and thanks to the Twin Creek Hunting Club and its president Wayne Hammons of Choudrant for their donation of a deer hunt on the Club's property in Lincoln Parish as well as a framed turkey gobbler print and a package of deer hunting lures, grunt calls and videos along with a deluxe gun cleaning kit that I wish now that I would have bid on. The donations raised several hundred dollars at the Friday night auction and LWF is grateful for the donations and especially appreciative of the Club members for their participation at the convention. We recognize that it's a long drive from Choudrant to New Iberia. Thanks Wayne and fellows for supporting LWF with your presents and your presence and sorry for the oversight.

I'll wrap up this "lagniappe" column with a welcome and thank you to new LWF members whose names follow on page 19, and a special thank you to those members who have generously responded to our mid-year appeal with a generous extra contribution to help support what we do. These donations have been especially vital to defray the costs of the much needed office renovations previously noted. Their names also follow this column on page 19. Have a great summer and watch for the signs of the seasons to come.

*Continued on page 19*

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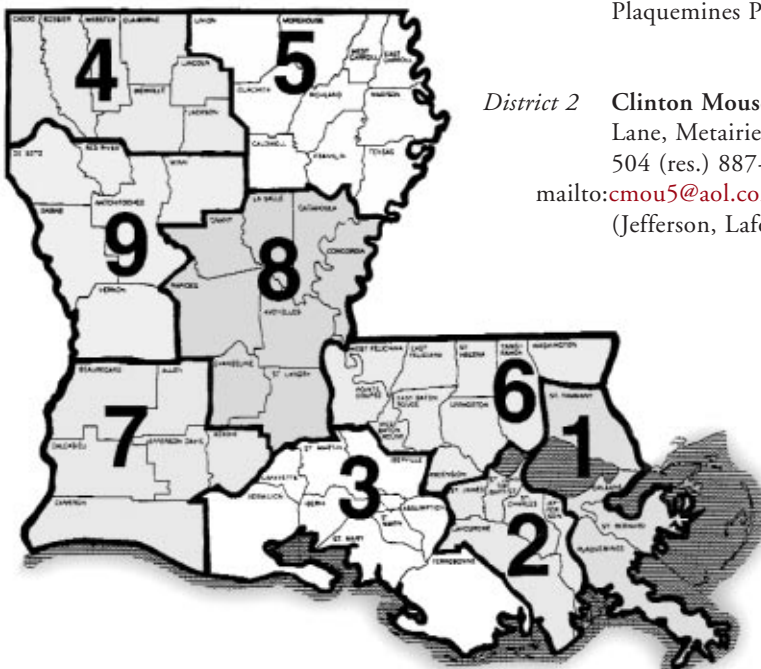
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# Public Comment Requested on LCA EIS

*Executive Director: Continued from page 3*

The New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources have announced the availability of the draft Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), Louisiana-Ecosystem Restoration Study report and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for public review and comment. The DPEIS and draft report are located at [www.lca.gov](http://www.lca.gov). They are also available, on CD or hard copy, on request to Dr. William P. Klein Jr., 504-862-2540. The comment period is open for 45 days, from July 9 through August 23, 2004. Comments should be mailed, postmarked no later than August 23, 2004. (On the DPEIS to Dr. William P. Klein, Jr.; CEMVN-PM-RS; P.O. Box 60267; New Orleans, La. 70160-0267. Questions: 504-862-2540.) (On the LCA Study Report to Tim Axtman; CEMVN-PM-C; P.O. Box 60267; New Orleans, La 70160-0267; Questions: 504-862-1921.)

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a series of public meetings requesting comments on the DPEIS and the draft LCA Study Report will also be jointly hosted by the Corps and State during the comment period. The draft report proposes a \$2.0 billion multi-component, near-term and long-term approach to addressing the most critical ecological needs of Louisiana's coast. These critical natural and human ecological needs include: preventing predicted future land loss, restoring connections to river sediment resources in degrading areas, restoring endangered geomorphic structures such as specific barrier island reaches and protecting socioeconomic resources. The draft LCA report includes a proposal for:

- Programmatic authority for five near-term critical restoration features that would provide significant restoration benefits for the most critical areas of the coast, are presently in the initial design study phase and would cost about \$786 million.

- Authorization of a science and technology program that would provide scientific data and technological tools to facilitate effective program implementation and would cost about \$100 million over the next 10 years.

- Authorization of science and technology demonstration projects to resolve critical scientific and engineering uncertainties and would cost about \$175 million over the next 10 years.

- Programmatic authority for the beneficial use of dredged material to take advantage

of on-going maintenance dredging to restore barrier islands and, in some cases, supplement river water reintroductions and would cost about \$100 million over the next 10 years.

- Programmatic authority for modifications to existing structures to achieve cost-effective, expedited restoration benefits and would cost about \$10 million over the next 10 years.

- Approval of an implementation plan of ten additional near-term critical restoration features using the standard authorization process at an estimated cost of about \$730 million.

- Approval of a proposed plan for assessing potentially promising large-scale restoration concepts at an estimated cost of about \$60 million. The LCA Study report and a final programmatic EIS are scheduled for completion in December 2004. Inclusion of the report's components in the Water Resources Development Act currently under consideration by Congress will give the Corps and State the go-ahead to begin implementation of this critical restoration effort.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Open House (general information about the LCA program and process), 6:30 - 7:30 pm; overview of the proposed LCA Ecosystem Restoration Plan followed by a question and answer session, 7:30 pm; formal public comments on the DPEIS and draft Study Report.

Tuesday, July 27, 2004 - Chalmette, LA; Fredrick J. Sigur Civic Center; 8245 West Judge Perez Drive; Chalmette, LA. Wednesday, July 28, 2004 - Cameron, LA; Cameron Parish Police Jury; 110 Smith Circle; Cameron, LA. Thursday, July 29, 2004 - Beaumont, TX ; Beaumont Hilton; 2355 I-10 South; Beaumont, TX. Tuesday, August 3, 2004 - Larose, LA; Larose Civic Center; 307 East 5th Street; Larose, LA. Wednesday, August 4, 2004 - New Iberia, LA; Cyr - Gates Community Center; 300 Parkview Drive; New Iberia, LA. Thursday, August 5, 2004 - Mandeville, LA; Mandeville Community Center; 3090 East; Causeway Approach; Mandeville, LA. Monday, August 9, 2004 - Alexandria, LA; Best Western of Louisiana; 2720 MacArthur Drive; Alexandria, LA. Tuesday, August 10, 2004 - Bay St. Louis, LA; Hancock County Civic Center; 3066 Longfellow Drive; Bay St. Louis, MS. Thursday, August 12, 2004 - Memphis, TN; Radisson Hotel Memphis; 185 Union Street, Memphis; Memphis, TN.

the demeanor of the speakers and the audience was respectful and the messages were upbeat and positive and a responsible display of democracy. At the close of this column, I have printed the speech I prepared for the rally. Please read it and decide if the charges made by the "Louisiana Sportsman" columnist are worthy. For the record, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, by its organizing documents, cannot and will not engage in electoral politics, and it is a misconstruction to represent LWF's association with this rally as such.

One of the other charges made by the "Louisiana Sportsman" columnist suggested that during the recent legislative session LWF pursued the adoption of legislation that would have allowed more commercial netting while ignoring a bill that would have taken away the opportunity for hunters to harvest a bobcat during the deer season. Not true, and here's why. Via resolutions adopted at the LWF's annual meetings over the past several years, LWF supports the allowance of fishing for mullet at night during the mullet season, and the harvest of bobcat by recreational hunters provided that research by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries determines that there is a surplus of bobcats that can be harvested without adverse effect on the population. The reasons for supporting mullet fishing at night are explained in the resolution which is printed following this column. It is worth noting that the legislation that was filed this year to permit limited nighttime fishing for mullet (HB 1172) was also filed last year, at which time the legislation was supported by the LDWF's enforcement division and the LDWF secretary who testified to the House Natural Resources Committee that the agency could enforce the laws as well or better if mullet fishing was restricted to the nighttime hours proposed by the legislation. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation's support of this legislation is based on biologically-sound fisheries management, the efficiency of the LDWF in enforcing the law and protecting our fish resources, and the desire to encourage more productive harvest of mullet while reducing the potential for conflicts between user groups on the water. To charge otherwise is an opinion not supported by the facts. The bobcat legislation, also referred to by the "Louisiana Sportsman" columnist, would have repealed a 2003 law that authorized the Louisiana Wildlife and

Fisheries Commission to set a bobcat hunting season. LWF didn't testify in opposition to the bill when it was first heard in committee because the bill's author explained that his intent was to require a delay in the continuation of the season until the LDWF could perform the study previously requested by the Legislature to assure the bobcat population would not be put at risk. Since that was consistent with LWF's resolution, we did not oppose the bill in the Senate Natural Resources Committee but agreed to work with the committee chairman and the bill's author on appropriate language to reflect that intent. The LDWF provided a review of historical data from harvest records in support of continuing the season, and agreed to use the bobcat hunting season harvest data to evaluate the impact of the hunting season on the bobcat population and to evaluate its status in Louisiana. Subsequently, the bill died on the Senate calendar without further debate. LWF's involvement was consistent with its resolution, its conservation mission and we were effective in achieving an outcome that makes sure the bobcat population is conserved and managed without curtailing the opportunity for a limited harvest. Those are the facts from an eye witness, not the excretions of a "Louisiana Sportsman" columnist.

Please accept my apology for taking up so much of your time with this. For your information and encouragement, the aforementioned resolution and "speech" follows. Thanks for your patience and support.

#### **SUBJECT: NIGHT FISHING FOR MULLET DURING THE SEASON**

**WHEREAS**, the mullet season currently runs for approximately 66 days, and

**WHEREAS**, night-time fishing for mullet was prohibited in 1995 by the gill net ban law, and since that time the harvest of mullet has decreased, and

**WHEREAS**, mullet populations in Louisiana waters are healthy (SPR range of 31 to 38 for the most heavily fished areas east of the Mississippi River, according to the most recent LDWF data: SPR is expected to be higher in the lightly fished waters west of the River)\*, and

**WHEREAS**, allowing mullet fishermen to fish at night will increase efficiency in harvesting mullet, and

**WHEREAS**, allowing night-time mullet fishing will reduce the potential for conflicts with recreational anglers who fish the same waters primarily during daylight hours,

and

**WHEREAS**, there is no research that indicates that the prohibition of night fishing for mullet is a necessary conservation measure, and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 560 licensed mullet strike net fishermen (271 licenses were issued in the most recent fishing season)\* who fish in well-known and defined coastal waters, and

**WHEREAS**, to harvest mullet at night, high intensity spotlights are used to spot the schools and when the nets are hauled in, and therefore mullet fishing activity is conspicuous and relatively easy to locate and discern, and

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries enforcement officers have modern equipment such as night vision scopes, radar, and aerial observation capabilities to effectively monitor fishing operations at night, and

**WHEREAS**, to respond to the changing markets for mullet roe and stay in business it is advantageous for mullet fishermen to have the capability to increase the production of roe, which they can do if allowed to fish at night, while not exceeding harvest limits necessary to sustain the fishery and conserve the resource, and

**WHEREAS**, the mesh size for mullet strike nets of 3"-stretched allows smaller fish to escape thereby preserving the resource, and

**WHEREAS**, studies by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries indicate that bycatch of other species in the mullet strike net fishery is minimal.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports amending the law/regulation governing the mullet strike net fishery to allow night-time fishing for mullet during the mullet season.

#### **LWF Presentation Prepared for the Economy/Environment "Rally" Held May 20, 2004**

Welcome, visitors, to our home... a place we love. A place blessed with abundance, nurturing a culture with the joie de vivre, where we laissez les bon temps rouler, where we still offer a little lagniappe. It's no accident we are the way we are. Louisiana is blessed richly with abundance. We are unique among the states in this respect. Our economy has developed and depends upon this endowment of natural resources. You only have to look West, a long throw to

home plate, or maybe a long drive down the fairway, from where we stand, to see one of the main reasons why we are so unique, so blessed. The Big River brings commerce and wealth. It joins us with half the Nation. It built our coastal wetlands that, along with the piney woods and river bottoms, make us the Sportsman's Paradise. The River connects us to the nation, but we have lost that connection to ourselves. One of the greatest conservation challenges of the century will be the strategic restoration of that connectivity, to keep our state whole. We need leadership and help at the highest levels of government to meet that challenge.

Recreational and commercial fishing drives an economy in Louisiana of over a billion dollars annually. Nearly a quarter of our citizens engage in recreational fishing to generate the lion's share of that contribution to the state's economy. But good fishing depends on having a place to fish; access to the resource. That access has been declining as anglers and commercial fishermen have been excluded from waters historically available to them. It has become a problem and a danger, and we need the help of our leaders in government and the conservation and landowner communities to resolve this growing threat to fishing in the Sportsman's Paradise. Some steps are being taken here at the capitol this legislative session, but the resolve must be strong to follow through, to defend and insure the rights of citizens to respectfully access and use their resources while respecting the valid rights of private ownership. In the meantime, negotiations are needed to reopen coastal beaches to fishing, birding and camping. After all, who are we trying to save the coast for? It's an economic development issue and it is the appropriate role of government to facilitate these opportunities for our citizens.

There's really a lot to say about fishing in a "water state" like Louisiana. It's a sad but true fact, however, that many of our waters are contaminated with mercury. Twenty-nine, and counting, waterbodies in the state have fish consumption advisories against eating certain species of fish. It's a shame to have to worry about impairing the health of your grandchildren with the fish you bring home for the Sunday afternoon fish fry. Something's not right about that, especially here in the Sportsman's Paradise. We need the help of our leaders in government and industry to reduce the amount of mercury that is being emitted and dis-

*Continued on page 18*

# Taking a Look at Coastal Restoration

With so much emphasis on “saving the coast” for the past 30 years, it’s understandable that eyes begin to glaze over when the next round of planning and projects is announced. It’s urgent, of course. Was then, is now. Much has already been done, but the loss continues. Partly, it’s “natural.” Partly, we’ve messed up the system that created and maintained coastal Louisiana. It took care of itself until we decided we wanted to be dry, prosper economically, plan for the future, have access to and exploit all those abundant natural resources that had accumulated over the eons, especially energy resources. The old Native American model of following the abundance of Nature but getting out of the way of harm — coexistence, so to speak, was too silly for “modern folks” bent on “manifest destiny.”

So, we find ourselves with our hands out, asking for the help of the rest of the nation. We may or may not get it. Regardless, we have to help ourselves, and the first step should be to adopt a new way of looking at the Mississippi River Coastal Delta (MRCD). Actually, it’s an old way, the way of those who lived with the River and the coast before we came. The coast and River have always been moving and changing. That is the reality of it, despite our attempts to keep it from being so. To think that the physical coast can be stabilized is folly and does not lead to a realistic vision of the future or informed decisions to get us there. We may be able to restore, in part, the system that created and is continuing to shape coastal Louisiana, but we must adopt an attitude that will allow us to reconcile our expectations and the necessary changes we will have to make, as individuals and as a society, to achieve a sustainable coast. If not, we can’t expect much help from outside our state.

It will be a challenge to win the support of the nation, even if we can show we are ready to make the necessary changes and sacrifices, and our plans are worthy. To that end, how would you explain the essence, the importance of the Mississippi River Coastal Delta in a way that connects with the hearts and minds of the American people?

Close your eyes and imagine this beautiful, wonderful country of ours — ocean to ocean, border to border. Imagine you are a drop of rain or flake of snow gathering a little bit of prairie soil, of Rocky Mountain granite, of piney woods’ sand, or a tiny piece of golden leaf born deep in a hardwood cove at the foot of the Appalachians, caught in a torrent,

rollercoastering down to the Ohio, the Tennessee, the Wisconsin, Illinois, Des Moines or Arkansas, the Missouri, the Red — on to the Big River as it bends and curls back on itself, down to the Gulf of Mexico.

When you arrive on the Delta you join pieces and parts of the rest of America, nourishing a landscape that is more waterscape, thronging with birds and fish and wetlands as far as you can see. Someone says “*Como se va, mon cher?*” (“How are you, my friend?”), and you are home — home to the coastal delta of the Mississippi River, an ecosystem so immense it is difficult to know and comprehend by experience — so vast, productive, and unique in America that it only can be compared to itself.\*

People have always come to the Delta to experience the bounty — the food, fun, revelry — to unwind. They know it by “*Laissez les bon temps rouler*”, by the good times. It’s no accident, or merely a consequence of aggressive tourism promotion. It’s the cultural manifestation of the natural abundance served up by the River and the wetlands.

To experience this immense ecosystem, you have to get in a boat, maybe a pirogue, and get out in it; but it can be rough going. This is no “prairie pothole”. It goes on for thousands of acres and scores of miles as far as you can see. The first thing you notice, after the aroma of flatsedge and marsh grass and mudflats and brine (depending on where in the complex you happen to be) is the life; the birds — rails, stilts, waterfowl, herons/egrets, seagulls, terns, pelicans and masses of other waders and shorebirds. There are gators aplenty in the fresh and intermediate wetlands, more than anywhere else in the world. And bugs, of course — the food chain has to have its underclass. And, in season, there’s solitude, serenity, sunrise and sunset punctuated with the often silent trading of the delta’s dependent creatures.

When its extent and biological productivity is considered, it is very apparent that this is an ecological engine of enormous proportions, a “bread and butter” ecosystem with no match in the “Lower 48” — and it’s fading away — inexorably, insidiously, sometimes radically when the gulf gets nasty.

The continuing loss of MRCD wetlands presents a severe threat to the infrastructure necessary to develop and transport energy resources. Pipelines traversing the wetlands supply 30% of the Nation’s refining capacity

and the wetlands serve as the onshore base that provides logistical support for 75% of the oil/gas prospects in the Gulf of Mexico.

Roads, domestic water supplies and communities that are home to 2 million people are threatened by the loss of MRCD wetlands.

The navigation capacity of waterways currently carrying 16% of the Nation’s waterborne commerce and the viability of 4 ports that, combined, handle more tonnage than any single port in the world is jeopardized by the loss of MRCD wetlands.

There are over 500,000 acres of state and national wildlife refuges in Louisiana’s coastal zone; 5 million migratory waterfowl winter in Louisiana — 50% of the waterfowl using the Mississippi Flyway and 20% of waterfowl using all flyways. (In past years, up to 84% of Mississippi Flyway migratory waterfowl have wintered in Louisiana.) The ongoing massive disintegration of MRCD wetlands threatens this world class habitat for migratory birds and the nursery for coastal and Gulf of Mexico fish that supports the entire Gulf region. Estimates of the value of the natural resources that will be lost over the next 50 years due to coastal wetland loss range up to \$100 billion dollars.

The loss of Mississippi River coastal delta wetlands is due primarily to the alteration of the natural geology and hydrodynamics that created the ecosystem. Channels and levees for navigation and flood protection have disrupted the capability of the system to maintain itself. The River, which once overflowed its banks on a routine basis, now is confined to a channel all the way to the deep water at the edge of the continental shelf where its load is discharged and lost to the fathoms of the Gulf. Therefore, the freshwater and sediment that built the MRCD wetlands are no longer available to sustain them, to offset their natural erosion and subsidence. These facts make coastal restoration using the River and its freshwater and sediment doable, if we’re ready. That’s the plan.

\* The Mississippi River has created and supports more coastal wetlands than occur anywhere else in the contiguous 48 states. World rank of the Mississippi River/tributaries in volume of discharge - 6th, sediment discharge - 3rd, length - 2nd, aerial extent of drainage basin - 3rd (receiving surface water runoff from 31 states and 3 Canadian provinces or 41 % of contiguous US).

# Recap - 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Over 3000 bills and resolutions were introduced to the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which adjourned June 21st, down by over 25% from previous general sessions. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation monitored about 250 of these instruments that pertained to the quality of the environment, natural resources, and the use and enjoyment of the outdoors and related natural resources. Slightly over 100 of these were finally adopted and are posted on the LWF's website at "Legislative Report" under "What We Do." To view the complete text of a specific piece of legislation, go to the Legislature's website at [www.legis.state.la.us](http://www.legis.state.la.us) and enter the bill or resolution # of interest.

As usual, there were numerous "house-keeping" bills that made technical changes or clarified intent of existing statutes, rules and programs. Several bills will bring more significant changes including HB 736 that returns Class I violations of wildlife and fisheries laws to the criminal category from the civil category where it had been for the past 14 years; HB 1192 that transfers responsibility to manage and regulate aquaculture to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF); SB 117 that will provide more reliable funding for the reward program for turning in poachers and other fish and wildlife law violators; SB 118 that revises the management of the White Lake Preserve (see page 21 for the full story) ; and SB 310 that allows the use of expropriation, as necessary, to expedite coastal restoration projects.

Although resolutions do not have the effect of law, several addressed issues of major concern including closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (HCRs 35 & 65); enforcement powers of employees of the LDWF (HCR 305 & SR 116); identification of state lands and waterbottoms and guaranteeing public access to public waters for boating and fishing (SCRs 24 & 25); reduction of mercury in the environment (SCR 62); incentives for the conservation of coastal forests (SCR 75); saltwater fisheries policy and management (SCR 107) and conservation of the alligator snapping turtle (SR 49).

Perhaps the most significant legislation for sportsmen was SB 2 proposing a constitutional amendment guaranteeing all citizens the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap." This will be on the November 2 general election ballot. Some naysayers are already challenging the wisdom of this proposition that was passed by the Legislature without opposition (See page 6 for the story on this legislation.), saying that it could be used to justify use of private property without permission, affect protection of endangered species, and challenge restrictions prohibiting the use of certain gear to take fish and game, such as nets. All of these concerns are addressed in the specific language of the proposed amendment which is: *"The freedom to hunt, fish, and trap wildlife, including all aquatic life, traditionally taken by hunters, trappers and anglers, is a valued natural heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people. Hunting, fishing and trapping shall be managed by law and regulation consistent with Article IX, Section 1 of the constitution of Louisiana to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources of the state. The provisions of this section shall not alter the burden of proof requirements otherwise established by law for any challenge to a law or regulation relating to hunting, fishing or trapping the wildlife of the state, including all aquatic life. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize the use of private property to hunt, fish or trap without the consent of the owner of the property."*

The concern about trespassing is answered by the last sentence of the amendment and reinforces the right of landowners to control access on the property they own. The reference to Article 9, Section 1 of the constitution addresses both the endangered species and the gear prohibition concerns because it binds law and regulation governing hunting, fishing and trapping to the state's obligation to "protect, conserve and replenish" the natural resources of the state. This is the constitutional provision the state used to successfully defend a 1995 law that prohibits the use of gill nets in coastal waters. One other complaint heard is that fish and wildlife resources are public resources and

"consumptive" user groups should not be given priority over "nonconsumptive" users by provision of the constitution. Again, the existing Article 9, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution, which is integral to the proposed amendment, requires conservation and protection sufficient to sustain fish and wildlife resources which in turn sustains "nonconsumptive" uses of these resources. In essence, "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap" will protect your right to continue to engage in fishing, hunting and trapping activities that can currently be taken away just because the Legislature and/or the LWFC have the authority to do it, regardless of any conservation need or purpose, or social benefit of such action. It also will serve to reconfirm our rich heritage as hunters, fishers and trappers in Louisiana.

There are several other bills of interest. HB 2 includes important funding for some conservation projects and habitat acquisitions. It also proposes funding for numerous reservoir projects, some of which are likely to have significant adverse impacts on scenic steams and wildlife habitat. HB 105 substantially increases the recreational catfish limit on Toledo Bend Reservoir for the next 4 years. HB 601 allows the limited taking of bait shrimp with bait seine and dip net during the closed and open shrimp season. HB 606 allows residents 60 years of age or older to buy a Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License for \$50. HB 651 raises the fee on oil and gas production to support the Oilfield Site Restoration Program. HB 682 authorizes the LWFC to implement a tagging and harvest record program for deer and turkey, subject to legislative oversight. HB 695 prohibits the feeding of bears. SB 120 adds several streams in Southwest Louisiana to the Natural and Scenic Rivers System. SB 433 establishes the Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council and Task Force to address aquatic invasive species issues in the state.

**A more complete listing follows.  
House Bills**

**HB 1 by Alario. APPROPRIATIONS.**  
Governor's executive budget – \$40,357,674

(\$17,793,266 general fund [GF]), 113 positions; Dept of Agriculture & Forestry – \$105,578,128 (\$27,476,488 GF), 831 positions; Office of State Parks – \$23,510,413 (\$21,702,703 GF), 372 positions; Dept. of Natural Resources: Atchafalaya Basin Program – \$747,5134 GF, 4 positions; Office of Coastal Restoration & Management – \$67,852,796, 146 positions; Dept. of Environmental Quality – \$140,718,996 (\$7,570,000 GF), 1,021 positions; Department of Wildlife & Fisheries – \$88,304,918 (\$80,000 GF), 794 positions / 261 Enforcement Division (\$20,968,178), 213 Office of Wildlife (\$31,936,343), 226 Office of Fisheries (\$21,988,916).

**HB 2 by Hammett. CAPITAL OUTLAY.** Provides for the capital spending budget of state government; includes \$51,240,000 in Priority 1 (P1), \$6,635,000 in Priority 2 (P2), \$1,700,000 in Priority 3 (P3), \$1,700,000 in Priority 4 (P4) and \$44,415,000 in Priority 5 (P5) bond funding for various acquisition, planning and construction (AP&C) for parks and other facilities administered by the Office of State Parks; \$800,000 P1, \$300,000 P2 and \$1,700,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Allen Parish Reservoir, \$475,000 GF, \$4,750,000 P1, \$500,000 P2 and \$1,000,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Poverty Point Reservoir (Richland), \$400,000 P1, \$100,000 P2 and \$200,000 P5 bond funding for Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir, \$100,000 P1, \$400,000 P2 and \$1,000,000 P5 bond funding for Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir (LaSalle), \$300,000 P1 bond funding for feasibility study for New Morehouse Reservoir, \$600,000 P1, \$350,000 P2, \$1,250,000 P3, \$1,250,000 P4 and \$1,200,000 P5 bond funding for feasibility, planning and construction for Washington Parish Reservoir, \$1,415,000 P1, \$500,000 P2, \$3,900,000 P3, \$4,000,000 P4 and \$500,000 P5 bond funding for AC&P for Bayou Dechene Reservoir (Caldwell), \$35,000 P1 bond funding for planning and construction for Bayou De l'Outre Reservoir; \$8,830,000 P1, \$5,987,000 P3, \$5,987,000 P4 and \$4,500,000 P5 bond funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program; \$7,500,000 P5 bond funding and \$500,000 Duck Stamp Fund, and \$1,000,000 Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust funding for LDWF for wildlife habitat acquisition.

**HB 79 (ACT 82) by Hutter. LEVEE WALKING & BIKE PATHS.** Adds St. Bernard and Plaquemines to the 9 other parishes where bike paths/walkways are authorized for construction on the top of

Mississippi River levees.

**HB 105 (ACT 237) by Salter. TOLEDO BEND CHANNEL CATS.** Provides that from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2008 the recreational possession limit for all species of catfish taken on Toledo Bend Reservoir shall be 125 in the aggregate, including up to 50 catfish under the size limit.

**HB 106 (ACT 238) by Farrar. BOATING/NO WAKE ZONES.** Defines “no wake” zones and establishes such zones within 300 feet of public boat launches and docking facilities.

**HB 117 (ACT 240) by Jack Smith. CRAB TRAPS.** Exempts crab traps fished north of the northern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway and west of LA Hwy. 70 from the requirement of marking the trap with a float and float line.

**HB 160 (ACT 479) by Frith. OYSTERS/CALCASIEU LAKE.** Provides for the use of hand dredges and scrapers of 36' bar, in addition to tongs, in taking oysters from Calcasieu Lake and sets the daily harvest limit at 15 sacks per vessel; authorizes the LWFC to manage East Cove and West Cove of Calcasieu Lake separately.

**HB 168 (ACT 86) by Jack Smith. SHAD SEINE.** Authorizes the use of a shad seine to commercially take shad and skipjack herring and any other legal size freshwater commercial fish during the season, including on weekends; further authorizes the use of shad seines at night from February 1- June 30 in St. Landry Parish and in the Atchafalaya River from Old River to the Intracoastal Waterway including the Whisky Bay Pilot Channel and in the Mississippi River from the Old River Control Structure to the Sunshine Bridge.

**HB 201 by Darte. FRESHWATER NETS.** Adjusts the boundary for use of recreational wire and hoop nets to take freshwater commercial fish to north of I-10 (from north of Hwy. 190) from Baton Rouge to Ragley; allows the use of shad gill nets in Lakes Verret and Palourde at night during the season.

**HB 415 by Jack Smith. CRAB LICENSE MORATORIUM.** Halts entry into the commercial crab fishery for 2005 by limiting issuance of crab gear licenses during that time to persons who held crab trap gear licenses in 2002, 2003 or before Nov. 15 in 2004.

**HB 429 (ACT 407) by Dove. BARRIER ISLAND STABILIZATION.** Requires DNR to establish a barrier island stabilization and preservation program and to require

that all barrier island restoration projects subject to public bid include appropriate dredges to stabilize and preserve barrier islands; requires submission of barrier island preservation and stabilization projects by coastal parishes for the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to review and prioritize, subject to legislative oversight with project funding coming from the Barrier Island Stabilization and Preservation Fund.

**HB 450 (ACT 211) by Odinet. OYSTER VIOLATION.** Restricts any person convicted of a violation pertaining to the harvest of oysters to harvesting oysters from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring system for the year following the conviction and requires that LDWF have access to the monitoring system and that the person convicted of the violation notify LDWF which vessel he will be using to harvest oysters.

**HB 595 (ACT 94) by Jack Smith. SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE/RECREATIONAL TRAWLS.** Specifies that the recreational trawl gear license is not included in the suite of hunting and fishing activities authorized by the Sportsman's Paradise License.

**HB 596 (ACT 95) by Jack Smith. GEAR LICENSE TRANSFER.** Authorizes the temporary transfer of a commercial gear license to a person who holds a commercial fishing license provided the transferee has the same residency status as the transferor; provides the same temporary transfer privilege as regards recreational gear licenses to persons holding a recreational fishing license.

**HB 597 (ACT 96) by Jack Smith. COMMERCIAL FISHING.** Provides that the possession of a commercial fishing license aboard a vessel subjects all fish and persons aboard that vessel to all applicable commercial fishing regulations pertaining to seasons, limits, and size restrictions if the fish are taken for commercial purposes or in quantities in excess of the recreational limit.

**HB 598 (ACT 97) by Darte. CAMP NETS/TRAWLS.** Requires nets and trawls attached to a wharf or camp and left unattended to be marked with a tag issued by the LDWF for the gear being fished.

**HB 599 (ACT 50) by G. Smith. BAYOU TREPAGNIER REMEDIATION.** Exempts any activities for the purpose of remediating contamination in Bayou Trepagnier from permit requirements of the Scenic Rivers Act.

**HB 600 (ACT 98) by Jack Smith. EXOTIC FISH.** Authorizes the LWFC to designate non-native species of fish as exotic and provide for regulations for taking such

fish under permit.

**HB 601 (ACT 161) by Baldone. BAIT SHRIMP SEINE.** Authorizes the taking of up to 50 pounds per boat of saltwater bait shrimp during the closed season and up to 100 pounds during the open season by a recreational fisherman with a 1-inch-stretched mesh, 30' bait seine or a 3' diameter dip net, provided the shrimp are not sold and are used for bait or personal consumption.

**HB 602 (ACT 162) by Daniel. BAIT SHRIMP DEALERS FEE/INSIDE-OUTSIDE LINE.** Creates a \$100 live bait shrimp dealers annual permit with revenues dedicated to the bait dealers program and revises the inside/outside waters line for shrimping.

**HB 603 (ACT 126) by Pierre. FRESHWATER SHRIMPING.** Provides for the taking of freshwater shrimp (river shrimp) in the Mississippi River and Intracoastal Waterway within 1 mile of the boat ramp at the Port Allen Locks; specifies the type of net that can be used and how it must be marked and requires a \$25 gear fee for use of the net in addition to a commercial fishing license; further specifies that only freshwater shrimp may be taken and no other fish may be possessed while freshwater shrimping; authorizes the LWFC to adopt rules and regulations authorizing commercial freshwater shrimping in other areas, and to set seasons for such activities.

**HB 606 by Jack Smith. SENIOR LIFETIME HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE.** Creates a \$50 lifetime hunting and fishing license for persons 60 years of age or older and makes housekeeping changes to the provisions concerning the Saltwater Fishery Enforcement Fund.

**HB 608 by Jack Smith. WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ETHICS.** Authorizes the exploitation of the natural resources of the state for personal gain, including being employed by a person or serving as a board member or officer of any corporation exploiting the state's natural resources, by classified employees of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided that it is not prohibited by law and is approved by the LWFC director (secretary?).

**HB 609 (ACT 100) by Jack Smith. YOUTH HUNTING.** Clarifies that youths under 16 years of age are eligible to participate in a youth deer hunt if under direct supervision of an adult of 18 years of age or older, that the youth must have proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course or the supervising adult must have a hunting license or proof of successfully completing a hunter safety course; further pro-

vides that a youth under 16 years of age must have proof of successfully completing a hunter safety course or be under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older who possesses a hunting license or proof of successfully completing a hunter safety course in order to hunt.

**HB 651 (ACT 412) by Pierre. OIL-FIELD SITE RESTORATION FEE.** Increases the fee from 1 cent to 1 1/2 cents per barrel of oil produced and from .2 to .3 cent per thousand cubic feet of gas produced to support the Oilfield Site Restoration Program.

**HB 652 (ACT 768) by Pierre. OIL-FIELD SITE RESTORATION FUND.** Increases the amount from the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund that can be used to administer the OSR program from \$475k to \$750k.

**HB 653 (ACT 221) by Pierre. OYSTER SAMPLING BY DNR.** Authorizes DNR to sample oyster leases to make determinations relative to the coastal restoration program.

**HB 669 (ACT 229) by Pierre. OIL-FIELD RESTORATION PROGRAM.** Clarifies the process for recovering costs from responsible parties for cleaning up orphaned wells and abandoned sites.

**HB 682 by Townsend. DEER/TURKEY HARVEST RECORDS.** Authorizes the LWFC to promulgate rules to implement a tagging and harvest record program for the take of deer and turkey; conditions the implementation of such a program for deer upon the adoption by the LWFC of a season bag limit for buck deer that is less than the aggregate season bag limit for deer.

**HB 695 (ACT 164) by Jack Smith. BEAR FEEDING.** Prohibits the feeding of wild bears.

**HB 736 (ACT 253) by LaFleur. CLASS I WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS.** Changes Class I penalties for violations of wildlife and fisheries laws from civil penalties assessed by the LDWF to criminal penalties assessed by the courts.

**HB 788 (ACT 386) by Pierre. COASTAL USE PERMITS.** Requires the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to take into consideration an applicant's compliance history with the coastal resources program prior to taking action on a coastal use permit application.

**HB 838 (ACT 52) by Damico. DEQ PENALTIES.** Increases the limit of penalty that can be assessed for a violation of the Environmental Quality Act from \$27,500 to \$32,500 per day.

**HB 846 by Morrish. TIRE FEE.** Extends the collection of the fee on tires from the sale of new tires to the sale of all tires for the purpose of the Waste Tire Cleanup Program and provides additional guidance for the administration of the program.

**HB 849 by Farrar. ATVS / WMAS.** Requires LDWF to allow year round use by ATVs, motorcycles, horses, and bicycles of at least one ATV trail on each WMA that has such trail, subject to temporary closure for safety or environmental reasons, provided persons using such trails possess a WMA use permit.

**HB 885 by Beard. RECLAIMED WATER USE.** Exempts from discharge permit the use of reclaimed water from a municipal wastewater treatment system for spray irrigation; further provides for contracts to provide such services.

**HB 950 (ACT 390) by Gallot. CLAIBORNE WATERSHED DISTRICT.** Revises the provisions of the Claiborne Parish Watershed District and expands its authority to construct, maintain and improve works to control, divert and use water and manage and control surface and groundwater levels per approval of the Groundwater Management Commission.

**HB 975 (ACT 541) by Gallot. LAKE CLAIBORNE FISHING.** Authorizes the LWFC to regulate the recreational and commercial use of nets and traps to take fish in Lake Claiborne.

**HB 1192 by Townsend. AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT.** Establishes the Aquaculture Coordinating Council within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to promote the development of aquaculture in the state, in cooperation with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Defines aquaculture species as aquatic livestock and makes the distinction that species under an aquaculture system are not wildlife; excludes black bass and crappie from the definition of aquatic livestock; authorizes and provides guidelines for the regulation of aquaculture by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry; provides for a joint decision-making process among the LDWF, LDAF and LWFC for designating which species are designated for aquaculture; provides criteria for assessing risk of a potential aquaculture species to natural resources.

**HB 1266 (ACT 277) by Damico. COASTAL USE PERMITTING / MITIGATION.** Makes changes to the notification requirements for coastal use permits and modifies the guidelines for mitigation payments and use of such funds.

**HB 1317 (ACT 138) by Daniel. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES PRINTING.** Authorizes LDWF to print various material that assists in the promotion of the natural resources and recreational opportunities pertinent to the mission of the department, including inter and intra departmental communications.

**HB 1338 (ACT 282) by Damico. OYSTER LEASE DAMAGE SURVEYS.** Modifies the procedure governing biological surveys by the Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board.

**HB 1374 (ACT 556) by Jack Smith. SENIOR COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE.** Provides for an annual senior commercial fishing license for persons 70 years of age and older, to include any commercial gear fees, for \$20.

**HB 1456 (ACT 438) by Pierre. HUNTING/FISHING/WMA FEE EXEMPTIONS.** Authorizes the LDWF secretary to exempt certain groups/individuals from various recreational licenses.

**HB 1467 (ACT 1467) by Pierre. FEDERAL WILDLIFE/FISHERIES FUNDING.** Makes technical changes to state law to conform with the federal eligibility requirements to accept and expend federal aid funds for wildlife and fisheries management.

**HB 1516 by Baldone. SHRIMP NETS.** Requires a distance of 1,000 feet between the location of stationary shrimp net upstream of a permitted stationary shrimp net and provides for exceptions.

**HB 1621 by Odinet. ZOO ANIMALS.** Prohibits the killing for sport any zoo or circus animal or retired zoo or circus animal.

**HB 1623 by Hopkins. COAL BED METHANE DEVELOPMENT.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Conservation to unitize coal seam natural gas deposits to promote and regulate their development.

**HB 1627 by Marchand. LEAD POISONING.** Requires DHH to identify and designate geographic areas as high risk for lead poisoning and mandate blood screening for children in those high risk areas.

**HCR 35 by Hutter. MRGO.** Memorializes Congress to authorize and direct the Corps of Engineers to evaluate the operation and maintenance of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet with respect to the benefits and costs, including social, economic and environmental costs and benefits; further urges that O & M of the MRGO be

curtailed if continued operation is not in the national interest; further urges mitigation of the MRGO's adverse impacts if it is determined that it is in the national interest to continue maintaining the channel.

**HCR 65 by Odinet. OYSTERS / FISH PREDATION.** Urges the LDWF to study the problem of nuisance fish around oyster beds, particularly black drum, and study the development and implementation of a plan to manage such fish and report its findings to the Legislature prior to the 2006 Regular Session.

**HCR 68 by Odinet. MRGO / IHNC.** Memorializes Congress, the Corps of Engineers, and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to promptly close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet in the manner contemplated by the Coast 2050 Plan and to authorize full funding for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal lock project in New Orleans that would provide alternative access for vessels now using the MRGO.

**HCR 89 by Townsend. GRITS GRESHAM.** Commends Grits Gresham for his accomplishments as a writer and media personality and acknowledges him as a living Louisiana Outdoor Legend.

**HCR 115 by Odinet. OYSTERS / COASTAL RESTORATION.** Urges the Department of Natural Resources to provide information to the Oyster Task Force predicting the salinity regime for coastal waters over a 5-year period and projections for restrictions on oyster ground leasing on a 3-year basis.

**HCR 121 by Quezaire. PELICAN PLATE.** Directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to include an image of a pelican (brown, we hope) on the standard private passenger motor vehicle license plate.

**HCR 146 by Townsend. SALINE LAKE WEED CONTROL.** Urges the LDWF to draw down Saline Lake, apply appropriate chemicals and utilize triploid grass carp to control aquatic vegetation in the Lake; further requests that fishing be prohibited during the drawdown of the lake.

**HCR 151 by Fauchaux. MAUREPAS SWAMP WMA DEER SEASON.** Urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to study the deer seasons in the Maurepas Swamp WMA.

**HCR 176 by Frith. RIGS TO MARICULTURE.** Creates a Platforms for Mariculture Task Force to explore the feasibility of developing a marine aquaculture (mariculture) industry in the Gulf of Mexico using offshore energy production platforms, including consideration of the economic and

environmental impacts.

**HCR 180 by Dove. DRILLING PERMITS.** Urges the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Wildlife and Fisheries to cooperate to expedite decisions on issuing drilling permits so that such permits can be issued within 45 days of application.

**HCR 188 by Baudoin. RECYCLING AT THE LEGISLATURE.** Urges the members of the Legislature to set an example by recycling the enormous amount of paper received by the members each day.

**HCR 226 by Frith. MUZZLE-LOADER SEASON.** Urges the LDWF to study the scheduling of the season for hunting deer with muzzleloading rifles and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

**HCR 257 by Frith. CHARTER BOAT SURVEYS.** Requests charter boat captains to respond to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries surveys pertaining to catch, effort and other data about the charter boat industry.

**HCR 265 by Pitre. COASTAL PARISHES / SLO SURVEY.** Urges the State Land Office to give priority to the coastal parishes in surveying and inventorying state lands and waterbottoms.

**HCR 297 by Baldone. DUCK SEASON.** Memorializes the Department of Interior to reevaluate the duck hunting season framework, taking into account climate change and migration patterns, with the intent to both enhance waterfowl conservation and the economic impact of duck hunting.

**HCR 299 by Baldone. MALLARD SHOOTING.** Requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the feasibility of permitting the taking of pen-raised mallards in the area south of Interstate 10 and north of Hwy. 14.

**HCR 305 by Farrar. LDWF ENFORCEMENT.** Requests the secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to review the agency's enforcement needs on state refuges and wildlife management areas and to evaluate the feasibility of assigning law enforcement powers to properly qualified employees in the wildlife and fur and refuge divisions, and to report findings to the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees prior to the 2005 Regular Session.

**HR 108 by Fauchaux. MAUREPAS SWAMP WMA DEER SEASON.** Urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit the taking of does

on the Maurepas Swamp WMA during the muzzleloader and archery seasons and to provide more days of buck-only hunting during the regular gun season.

#### **Senate Bills and Resolutions**

**SB 2 by McPherson. FREEDOM TO HUNT/FISH/TRAP.** Proposes a constitutional amendment guaranteeing every citizen the right to hunt, fish and trap subject to regulation, restriction or prohibition as provided by law.

**SB 8 (Act 594) by B. Gautreaux. ATCHAFALAYA GATEWAY.** Designates St. Mary Parish as the Gateway to the Atchafalaya Basin, home of some of the best bass fishing tournaments in the World.

**SB 15 (Act 598) by Dupre. UNDER-SIZED CRAB DEFENSE.** Creates an affirmative defense by wholesale or retail dealers against prosecution for possession of undersized crabs if, after the crabs leave the dock, such dealer has an invoice or other written documentation that indicates that the total # of undersized crabs possessed does not exceed 10% of the crabs bought for processing and shipping.

**SB 35 (ACT 172) by N. Gautreaux. ATV TRAINING.** Authorizes the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to include training for the safe operation and proper handling of all terrain vehicles as part of the agency's hunter education and training course.

**SB 45 (ACT 173) by Smith. SALINE LAKE / GRASS CARP.** Authorizes the Saline Lake Game and Fish Preserve Commission to place triploid grass carp in Saline Lake under the direction and supervision of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

**SB 105 (ACT 297) by Dupre. LWFC CHAIR/VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS.** Requires the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to elect its chairman and vice chairman at its first meeting in January each year.

**SB 117 (ACT 174) by McPherson. REWARD PROGRAM FUNDING.** Directs the deposit of a \$2 penalty from each person convicted of a violation of a wildlife/fisheries law to the Fish and Wildlife Violations Reward Fund from which the Legislature will appropriate funds to pay rewards to persons reporting violations of wildlife/fisheries laws, and to administer the reward program within the LDWF and in cooperation with a nonprofit organization that enters into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the LDWF to administer such a reward program.

**SB 118 (act 613) by McPherson. WHITE LAKE.** Establishes the White Lake Property Fund in the Conservation Fund; directs that all revenue received by the state that is derived from the White Lake property be deposited to the Fund along with any private donations and public contributions made to the property; provides that such funds will be available solely for the administration, operation, maintenance, management and enhancement of the White Lake property and to promote its wildlife and ecosystem conservation, education and research purposes, consistent with the recommendations of the White Lake Property Advisory Board which is established within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries consisting of up to 13 voting members, a minimum of 7 having expertise in scientific disciplines pertinent to the management and conservation of the natural resources found on the White Lake property; transfers management of the White Lake Property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries pending conformity of the existing management agreements. The establishment of the advisory board may proceed upon enactment while the provisions creating a trust fund and authorizing LDWF to manage the property will go into effect January 1, 2005.

**SB 120 (ACT 175) by McPherson. SCENIC RIVERS.** Adds Ouiska Chitto Creek in Beauregard Parish, Barnes Creek from LA Hwy. 27 to the Calcasieu River in Allen and Beauregard Parishes, Beckwith Creek from its headwaters to the west fork of the Calcasieu River in Beauregard and Calcasieu Parishes, Bundick Creek from its headwaters to Bundick Lake and from the lake to Ouiska Chitto Creek in Vernon, Beauregard and Allen Parishes, and Hickory Creek from its headwaters to the west fork of the Calcasieu River to the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

**SB 160 (ACT 453) by Hainkel. TCHEFUNTE RIVER.** Repeals the exception to the Natural and Scenic Rivers Act for certain tracts of land from Hwy. 22 to Lake Pontchartrain that are zoned for suburban agriculture.

**SB 161 by Butch Gautreaux. TURTLES.** Establishes the Louisiana Aquatic Chelonian Research and Promotion Board within LDAF to develop and promote the turtle culture industry.

**SB 308 (Act 459) by Dupre. COASTAL USE PERMITTING.** Makes adjustments to the notification requirements and other procedures and policies of the

coastal use permitting program.

**SB 310 (Act 633) by Dupre. COASTAL RESTORATION / EXPROPRIATION.** Authorizes the use of expropriation in certain cases to obtain the land rights necessary to implement coastal restoration projects and establishes procedures for such expropriation.

**SB 338 (Act 636) by Adley. DEQ SECURITY.** Authorizes the DEQ secretary to limit access via the Internet of certain information that is defined by rule as security sensitive and provides for penalties for dissemination of such security sensitive information.

**SB 375 (VETOED) by Marionneaux. DEER HUNTING.** Requires that any regulations that limit buck deer harvest based on antler development be applied uniformly statewide and further requires any LWFC rule that proposes to implement such limitations be first approved by the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees.

**SB 433 (ACT 185) by Theunissen. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.** Establishes the Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council and Task force in the LDWF to coordinate the implementation of the Louisiana Invasive Aquatic Species Management Plan and to address aquatic invasive species issues in the state.

**SB 464 (ACT 72) by Fontenot. DEQ HEARINGS.** Relative to the holding and conduct of public hearings by DEQ regarding permits and environmental assessments.

**SB 467 (ACT 17) by Fontenot. DEQ ENFORCEMENT.** Limits institution of an action for assessment of a civil penalty to within 5 years of the time the penalty accrues if the violator could have been served with the penalty during that time.

**SB 468 (Act 655) by Fontenot. BROWNFIELD CLEANUP.** Establishes a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund to provide assistance to local governments and other qualified organizations to remediate eligible brownfields.

**SB 494 (ACT 460) by Schedler. FLOUNDER GIG.** Allows the use of a multi-pronged, barbed spear for harvesting flounder.

**SB 636 (ACT 696) by McPherson. LWFC / OYSTER LEASES.** Requires that any member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission who has an interest in oyster leases recuse himself or be disqualified by the LWFC from making decisions that affect such lease(s).

**SB 710 (ACT 709) by Ellington. JET SKIS.** Allows persons between 13 and 16

years of age to operate a personal watercraft if they have successfully completed a boating safety education course.

**SB 767 (ACT 716) by Hainkel. PONTCHARTRAIN BOTTOMS.** Prohibits the dredging of the bottom of Lake Pontchartrain for private commercial purposes (Jefferson Parish excepted) except to exercise the right to reclaim land lost to subsidence or erosion, per Article IX, Section 3 of the state constitution, and then only to the extent that such dredging does not unduly restrain the navigability or public use.

**SCR 24 by McPherson. FISHING ACCESS / COASTAL WATERS.** Urges and requests the governor to support policies that insure the public's right to access and use, for navigation and fishing, naturally navigable coastal waters that are owned by the state.

**SCR 25 by McPherson. STATE LAND I.D.** Urges and requests the governor to direct the State Land Office to complete an inventory of the waterbottoms in the state within the next four years, and to provide sufficient funding through appropriations or other means to accomplish this task.

**SCR 30 by Smith. SALINE LAKE / GRASS CARP.** Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the possible migration of triploid grass carp out of Saline Lake.

**SCR 62 by Holden. MERCURY EMISSIONS.** Urges the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and DEQ to support federal regulations mandating restrictions on mercury emissions and discharges to reduce mercury contamination in the environment.

**SCR 75 by Nick Gautreaux. COASTAL FOREST CONSERVATION.** Urges the inventory and assessment of the functional values of coastal forests and memorializes the U. S. Congress to establish a "Coastal Forest Reserve Program" patterned after the Wetlands Reserve Program to provide incentives to coastal forest owners to preserve and sustainably manage their forestlands as part of the initiative to restore the Mississippi River Coastal Delta and chenier plain of Southwest Louisiana.

**SCR 90 by Smith. IATT LAKE / GRASS CARP.** Urges the LDWF to study the possible migration of triploid grass carp out of Iatt Lake.

**SCR 91 by Smith. SALINE LAKE WEED CONTROL.** Urges the LDWF to draw down Saline Lake, apply appropriate chemicals and utilize triploid grass carp to

control aquatic vegetation in the Lake; further requests that fishing be prohibited during the drawdown of the lake.

**SCR 92 by Smith. IATT LAKE WEED CONTROL.** Urges the LDWF to draw down Iatt Lake, treat with appropriate herbicides, and authorize the use of triploid grass carp to control aquatic weeds in the lake.

**SCR 107 by Boasso. SALTWATER FISHERIES.** Requests the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees to meet and function as a joint committee to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of revising the laws and regulations as they pertain to saltwater commercial and recreational fishing, specifically with respect to conservation standards, user conflicts and the development of a long range plan to manage saltwater fisheries for the benefit of the state and all users; requires the joint committee to solicit input from various commercial and recreational fishing interests as well as pertinent government agencies and academic institutions and hold public hearings to accept input and to report its findings to the Legislature prior to the 2006 Regular Session.

**SCR 113 by Ullo. ENERGY POLICY.** Memorializes congress to develop sound energy policies that promote domestic production and the development of petroleum refining facilities in the U.S.

**SCR 159 by Dupre. COASTAL RESTORATION / PERMITTING.** Memorializes Congress to review federal laws and procedures affecting coastal wetlands activities and permitting in Louisiana to promote stewardship by enhancing cooperation and effective communication between federal, state and local agencies.

**SR 49 by Barham. ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE.** Urges the LDWF to promulgate rules to place a moratorium on the harvest of alligator snapping turtles.

**SR 116 by McPherson. LDWF ENFORCEMENT.** Requests the LDWF secretary to review the needs of the department with respect to law enforcement on state refuges and management areas, and the assignment of law enforcement powers to department employees, and report his findings to the Senate Natural Resources Committee prior to the 2005 Regular Session.

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and that the authority to regulate, restrict and prohibit these activities is given by the citizens to the Legislature and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission via statute and constitutional provision,” said Rep. Jack Smith (Franklin) who handled the bill on the House floor. “Adding the proposed statement to the Louisiana Constitution will serve to preempt special interests from attempting to take away these freedoms as they have in so many other states where resource utilization has been challenged, and in some cases curtailed, contrary to sound, science-based fish and wildlife management principles.”

Smith reiterated that the proposed constitutional amendment does not in any way authorize entry upon private property to hunt, fish or trap. “However,” he said, “it will protect the right of landowners to authorize and engage in these activities on their own property. The anti-hunting/fishing/trapping movement that this proposal defends against has the potential to hurt private landowners the most because they (owners) have an economic stake in these activities which generate revenue, enhance property value and control the depredation of habitat on their land,” Smith said.

### **Anti-hunting/fishing/trapping activity around the country**

#### **OTHER STATES**

- 11 States have banned hunting on Sundays: AL, CT, DE, GA, ME, MD, NJ, PA, SC, VA, and WV.

- In Rhode Island, California, and Wisconsin anti groups are attempting to ban dove hunting.

- Oregon has outlawed bear and cougar hunting.

- Leghold traps were banned in California

- Trapping is banned in Washington, Oregon, California, and on public land in Arizona.

- Several states are attempting to ban the use of dogs for hunting with some already banning the use of dogs to hunt bear, cougar, and fox.

- NMFS is prepared to close 20% of Federal Waters to recreational anglers (MPA's) and California has banned recreational fishing in some waters already. (Channel Islands)

#### **HERE IN LOUISIANA**

- PETA attempted to ban fishing in State

#### **Parks**

- PETA has threatened to disrupt fishing tournaments like the Tarpon Rodeo

- Anti fishing billboards with a picture of a dog with a hook in its mouth were erected here in Louisiana.

- PETA protested fishing seminars for children. (New Iberia)

- Billboards have been posted discouraging the consumption of meat.

### **FREEDOM TO HUNT, FISH, AND TRAP FAQs**

Will adding the proposed language to the Louisiana Constitution:

- permit hunting/fishing/trapping activities on private property without permission?

No. The language of the proposed amendment reaffirms the right of property owners to restrict and control access to their property for hunting, fishing or trapping purposes.

- give a person the right to break wildlife and fisheries laws and regulations without consequences?

No. The language of the proposed amendment provides that the right to hunt/fish/trap be managed by law and regulation consistent with the State's obligation to protect, conserve, and replenish the State's natural resources.

- provide cause for filing lawsuits against the state for infringement of the freedom to hunt/fish/trap?

Not any more than exists under current constitutional provisions; see previous answer.

- impair the enactment or effect of legislation or regulation that restricts or manages hunting/fishing/trapping?

Not if such legislation/regulation is consistent with the State's obligation to protect, conserve and replenish the State's natural resources.

- prevent the State from taking away the right to hunt/fish/trap for cause or as a penalty for violation of the law?

No. Similar to the freedom of speech, the right to vote and the right to own firearms, the freedom to hunt/fish/trap cannot be exercised in such a way as to infringe the basic rights of others.

Freedom of speech does not permit the inciting of a riot or a life threatening situation by the use of frightening or abusive language; firearms cannot be carried into certain establishments or concealed without a permit, and convicted felons cannot vote or possess firearms, even though both the US and

charged into the environment, now.

Although not as prominent as fishing, hunting, trapping, birding, paddling and other outdoor recreational activities in Louisiana that depend on a healthy environment ring the bell, too in their contribution to the state's economy. What about ducks? Where were the ducks? We need some help from our leaders on that score. Never has the community of Louisiana waterfowlers ever been so disheartened by the scarcity of a resource we have for so long taken for granted. Healthy wetlands make ducks. Both here and on the northern breeding grounds. They need to be protected and managed not only for the wildlife that depends on them, but for the water quality they sustain, and the water that sustains us. And we need some help from our leaders in adopting policy that will halt practices that interrupt traditional migration patterns that keep the ducks from visiting our marshes, ricefields and flooded timber in the winter.

We have left too much conservation-related economic development on the table in our state. The reopening, or lack of executing the acquisition and reopening of Elmer's Island on the Louisiana coast, is one example. Another is the convoluted management scheme for the White Lake Property, in Vermilion Parish. The ecotourism and outdoor recreation-related economic potential of this 71,000 acres of unique freshwater wetland has languished since BP donated it to the state 2 years ago. We need our leaders to address the policy of proper management of state wildlife lands, to reject the White Lake paradigm for public land management and engage the partnerships necessary to make White Lake the premier conservation, education, research and ecotourism attraction it deserves to be.

Louisiana does not have a lot of coastal forest left. Much of it has been destroyed by saltwater intrusion, leaving once vast baldcypress forests standing like burnt toothpicks against the tide. What's left needs to be conserved, not only for the esthetic and wildlife values, but to hold the line on coastal erosion. But these forests are the property of the owner, and rather than pursue conservation by regulation, we need the help of our leaders to make the owners a better offer, so the private owners can get

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- Thionville Laboratories, Inc.  
Ivor L. Van Heerden, PhD, Livingston  
Harley J. Walker, Baton Rouge  
Harry A. Warner, Mandeville  
Waterborne, Inc., New Orleans  
Janelle M. Werner, Mandeville  
Eddie C. Whetstone, Collinston  
Mark Wilson, Shreveport  
Robert Wolf, Alexandria  
- Robert Wolf Realtor  
Lawrence J. Yoakum, Baton Rouge  
Robert A. Young, Metairie

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### **Freedom to:** Continued from page 18

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Louisiana constitutions give citizens the right to bear arms. Thankfully, the constitution does prevent government from taking away the right of law-abiding citizens to express an opinion, own and lawfully use a firearm, or vote.

What will adding the Freedom to Hunt/Fish/Trap to the Louisiana Constitution do?

It will serve to fend off attempts through emotional and zealous appeals, aimed at influencing a populace that is becoming ever more isolated from the production of the food it eats and the skills and traditions that built our society, to curtail the many traditional hunting/fishing/trapping activities enjoyed by Louisiana citizens and which were understood as a fundamental right by the immigrants who first settled our Nation, fleeing from tyrannical governments to find freedom in America.

director Randy Lanctot.

My wife is starting to complain, however. Not about my travels, but about the stockpile of "things" I am accumulating. So far, after attending all of these meetings/auctions, I am the owner of a gun, a set of decoys, duck calls, a BBQ pit, and a toy tractor (for Emma not me!!). I will also soon be a member of almost every conservation organization in the State of Louisiana. Not really, but my travels have been a great way to get out and meet all of the wonderful people who dedicate their time, talent, energy and money to conserve Louisiana's natural resources. It is inspiring, to say the least, to meet and spend time with these outstanding people.

A final note regarding meetings, my wife Shawn and I were privileged to be invited to Avery Island to meet with the National Wildlife Federation's new President Larry Schweiger and the NWF's Presidents' Council. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset on the "island" and were treated to a fabulous dinner in the company of some unique conservationists from across the United States. We discussed the future involvement of NWF regarding coastal restoration here in Louisiana. The meeting brought some good news, as it seems the National Wildlife Federation is exploring the idea of making the restoration of the Mississippi River Coastal Delta one of its top conservation issues. NWF's help will be much appreciated and could be an important catalyst to help make things happen at the Federal level.

Before I move on to presenting LWF's committees for the year, I want to address some recent "flak" that the Federation has taken in the press. In championing efforts like the Freedom to Hunt, Fish, and Trap and taking a stance to correct the White Lake fiasco, we have raised the ire of a few and have been maligned recently in a few publications. I guess it comes with the territory — it isn't very often that people lash out at the losers. You have to be on the lead for people to take shots at you.

I feel strongly about LWF and its membership. I am asked constantly by people, "Why should I join LWF? What makes you so different from any other organization?" In the question, lies the answer. We are very different.

When I first joined the Federation some years ago, I was taken aback by the fact that a conservation organization would allow

commercial fishermen to join its ranks. However, the perspicacious young know-it-all soon came to understand. I'm not the only one who utilizes a resource, and neither is my viewpoint the only "right" one. While not a bad thing, most clubs seek out only members that are like themselves (e.g., fishing clubs, gun clubs, gardening clubs, bird-watchers, etc.). The Federation, on the other hand embraces all of these different paradigms and people who have a common interest in sustainable use and wise resource stewardship. In doing so, we are able to look at a conservation issue, not through the narrow blinders of one part of the equation, but from many sides. Therein lies the rub for those who eschew diversity of opinion.

Our diversity, I believe, is why the Federation has been such a successful organization for so many years, and why I am proud to be affiliated with those who are members of LWF. When we come together to formulate options and actions regarding our state's natural resources we do so with as many different conservation perspectives at the table as possible. You don't go building rocket ships with just propulsion engineers, you need a team of experts all with their own piece of the puzzle. At the end of the day, we at the Federation may not always resolve the issue, but I will promise you that we have the best interests of this state and its natural resources in mind when we move forward.

As promised in my last column, I am providing a list of LWF standing and ad hoc committees and their chairs. They include: Statewide Membership Committee - Kathy Wascom, Chair; State Legislation Committee - Jay Huner & Randy Lanctot, Co-chairs; National Affairs Committee - Ken Dancak, Chair; Finance Committee/Fundraising and Development Committee - Jay Huner & Edgar Veillon, Co-chairs of both committees; Conservation Education Committee - Kathy Wascom & Dr. Bill Herke, Co-chairs; Environmental Quality Committee - Kathy Wascom, Chair; Charter and By-laws Committee - Keith Saucier, Chair; Convention Program and Planning Committee - Joe Herring, Chair; Conservation Awards Committee - Joe Herring, Chair; Convention Hospitality Committee - Gene Dauzat, Chair; Deer Management Committee - Barney Callahan, Chair; Atchafalaya Basin Committee - Charles Fryling & Ben Skerrett, III, Co-chairs; Water Resources Committee - Rick Bryan, Chair; Waterfowl Committee - Dave Boudreaux, Chair; Louisiana Coastal Area Study Committee - Virginia Burkett &

Jimmy Johnston, Co-chairs.

The function/purpose of each of these committees is as follows.

**Statewide Membership:** Recruitment and maintenance of LWF affiliate organizations with a goal of at least one active, vigorous affiliate in each LWF district. By virtue of their office, all LWF District Vice Presidents serve on this committee.

**State Legislation:** Monitor state legislation and rulemaking that pertains to natural resource conservation and environmental quality and advise LWF leaders and membership on such.

**National Affairs:** National Wildlife Federation liaison; monitor national legislation, policy and rulemaking that pertains to natural resource conservation and environmental quality; advise LWF leadership on appropriate action to take.

**Finance:** Oversee and advise on LWF financial record keeping, report on status of LWF finances, audit.

**Fundraising and Development:** "Think Tank" for growing the LWF's membership and financial resources including assistance with concept implementation.

**Conservation Education:** National Wildlife Week promotion, LWF representation (via exhibit) at events, fairs and festivals such as Earth Day celebrations, outdoor shows, etc., select recipients of LWF scholarships awarded to educators to attend the NWF Conservation Summit, development of educational outreach programs such as Schoolyard and Backyard Wildlife habitat, liaison with the professional education community.

**Environmental Quality:** Monitor state and federal legislation and agency action affecting the quality of the environment, particularly air, water, wetlands and soil, investigate and publicize sources of pollution and recommend measures for abatement of pollution problems.

**Charter and By-laws:** Investigate proposed changes in the Charter and By-laws to insure that they do not conflict with and/or duplicate existing articles, determine whether LWF officers and directors are performing duties prescribed by and are acting in compliance with the Charter and By-laws, endeavor to familiarize each state director with the Charter and By-laws.

**Convention Program and Planning:** Work with the convention host affiliate to develop convention program and events, agenda and schedule.

**Convention Hospitality:** Insure that all convention attendees feel welcome and

award honorees are met and seated at the awards banquet.

**Conservation Awards:** Oversee the operation of LWF's Conservation Achievement Recognition Program including its effective, efficient administration; encouragement of nominations for each of the award categories and coordination of the judging of the nominees; recommend other awards and forms of recognition for LWF to acknowledge good conservation work and service to the organization.

**Deer Management:** Monitor deer management issues including chronic wasting disease and proposed harvest regulations and management strategies and make recommendations to the LWF Board.

**Atchafalaya Basin:** LWF liaison with the Atchafalaya Basin Program and monitor Program activities concerning conservation of the Atchafalaya Basin.

**Water Resources:** Work within the Federation to advocate for a wise statewide water conservation and management plan to address the state's present and future water needs, helping to protect, conserve and replenish Louisiana's water resources.

**Waterfowl:** Monitor waterfowl issues in Louisiana and nationally, helping to formulate and implement LWF action to conserve the waterfowl resource and preserve Louisiana's rich waterfowling heritage.

**Louisiana Coastal Area Study:** Monitor the LCA study, keeping LWF's leaders and membership informed of its status and advise LWF input to the study.

The Federation is a truly volunteer organization. It goes without saying that our committees are LWF's heart and soul. I invite all of you to get involved by joining at least one of our committees. By doing so, you will help the Federation accomplish its goals and feel the gratification of knowing that you made a difference in the welfare of our natural resources and your organization.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of the summer and will get to experience Nature in your own special way — whether its bird watching, fishing, hiking, or simply watching a beautiful Louisiana sunset. Rest easy, knowing that it has been a good spring for conservation and that we will continue LWF's work in "Conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."

Until next time, keep her between the buoys, be safe and enjoy. Tuna out....

Yours in conservation,  
E. R. "Smitty" Smith, III  
President

# New Law Proposes Change in White Lake Management

On a 103 -1 vote, the Louisiana House of Representatives concurred with the Senate (which voted 34-0 earlier in the session) that the management of the White Lake Preserve should be the responsibility of a state agency rather than a private corporation. SB 118, authored by Senators Joe McPherson and Nick Gautreaux, establishes a dedicated trust fund to finance the administration of the property using self-generated revenues, grants and donations, creates an advisory board to guide White Lake management, and transfers management of the property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The bill was signed by the Governor on July 5, 2004 and designated Act 613.

The 71,000-acre complex of fresh water marsh, open water and agricultural fields was donated to the state in July of 2002 by BP America Production Company, but the gift garnered only tepid acclaim from the media and a public skeptical with the idea of private management, without accountability, of public wildlife conservation land. The unprecedented deal raised legal and policy questions that provoked enactment of law last year requiring legislative approval before the state can accept similar donations in the future. But separate bills by Senators Hines, McPherson and Ullo, aimed at rectifying the White Lake scheme, failed to pass the Senate under pressure from then governor Mike Foster. This time it was different as Governor Blanco expressed her strong support for the legislation as it made its way through the House of Representatives.

Act 613 establishes the White Lake Property Fund (Fund) in the Conservation Fund to provide a secure depository for funds dedicated to the operation and management of the property. The legislation directs that all revenue received by the state that is derived from the property be deposited to the Fund, along with any private donations and public contributions made to the property. Monies in the Fund will be available only for the administration, operation, maintenance, management and enhancement of the White Lake property and to promote its wildlife and ecosystem conservation, education and research purposes. The legislation also establishes the White Lake Property Advisory

Board within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The board will consist of up to 13 voting members, a minimum of 7 having expertise in scientific disciplines pertinent to the management and conservation of the natural resources found on the White Lake property. The board will guide the operation and management of the property, and money appropriated from the Fund must be consistent with the recommendations of the board.

Act 613 addresses the issues pertinent to the White Lake controversy. It:

- provides for the security of private funds donated for the operation of White Lake;

- resolves the legal question of a private entity receiving and expending revenues derived from a state asset without legislative oversight or appropriation by giving that responsibility to an agency of state government that is subject to legislative oversight and the appropriations process;

- provides for public participation in the management and operation of this 71,000 acre, state-owned wildlife conservation area and reestablishes the Legislature's rightful oversight role;

- establishes an advisory board with scientific and technical expertise to guide the management of the property;

- is consistent with the property donor's stated willingness to consider management alternatives for the property;

- makes a strong commitment to manage the property in the best interests of Louisiana's citizens and wildlife resources.

The establishment of the White Lake Property Advisory Board may proceed upon signature of the Governor. The other provisions of the legislation creating a trust fund and providing for management of the property by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will not go into effect until January 1, 2005. This will give the state time to redraw the agreements with the donor and resolve any matters between BP, the private corporation created to manage the property under Governor Foster, White Lake Preservation, Inc., and the state that are necessary to implement the trust fund and new management structure for the property.

## **Toxic Mercury Warnings Increase in Louisiana**

Three state agencies, the Louisiana Departments of Environmental Quality, Health and Hospitals and Wildlife and Fisheries, have issued seven new mercury-in-fish health advisories, while expanding two existing advisories. New advisories were issued for the following waters: the Amite River Drainage Basin (southeast region), Bayou Bonne Idee (Morehouse), Bayou Dorcheat (Webster), Bayou Queue de Tortue (Acadiana region), Cheniere Lake (Ouachita), Tew Lake (Catahoula) and the I-10 Canal and Work Canal (Iberville). Existing advisories were expanded for two waterways: the West Fork Calcasieu River (Southwest region) and the Bayou de Loutre (Union). Mercury exists naturally in soils and is emitted in combustion processes like such as forest fires and volcanic eruptions that are considered natural processes, but anthropogenic (human-caused) sources are numerous and growing. Coal-fired power plants, chlor-alkali plants, municipal waste incinerators and other sources emit mercury that falls with rain into water bodies. There it can be converted to methyl mercury which can bioaccumulate in the ecosystem as it is ingested by organisms up through the food chain to reach toxic concentrations in many species of fish that are caught for human consumption. In the advisories, the state lists which fish species are unsafe to eat, including black bass, crappie and other popular sport fish. Methylmercury is extremely detrimental to human health if ingested by sensitive segments of the population such as infants, children, pregnant women and women of childbearing age. Even adult males suffer deleterious effects if they frequently consume contaminated fish. The damage is to the central nervous system and may impair attention and language abilities, memory, and visual and motor function. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated 1 in 6 women of childbearing age has methylmercury levels above EPA's safe health threshold. Nationally, this translates into approximately 630,000 newborns each year starting life with increased risk of neurological impairment from in utero exposure to methylmercury. There are now 36 mercury-in-fish advisories for Louisiana lakes and streams and one for the Gulf of Mexico. Permitted air emissions spew over

one ton of mercury into the air in Louisiana each year.

## **Fishing Rule Adjustments**

### **Proposed For Poverty Point Reservoir**

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has proposed to change the slot limit for black bass and the bag limit for both black bass and crappie on Poverty Point Reservoir in Richland Parish. Public comment will be accepted until August 5th. The proposal would make 15-19 inches the slot in which black bass would have to be returned to the water with a bag limit of 8 bass of which one fish can be over 19 inches in length. These are the same rules that apply on other trophy bass lakes in the state. The rule would also establish a 25-fish daily (and possession while on the water) creel limit on crappie taken from the lake. Interested persons may submit written comments of the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898.

### **DMAP and LADT Changes Proposed**

The LWFC has proposed that the LADT program be opened up statewide to any landowner who owns a minimum of 40 acres. Under the proposal the participants would not be required to maintain the physical data of the antlerless deer taken, however they would have to post their land as notice that they are participating in the program. The proposal makes it mandatory for DMAP participants to maintain biological data on all deer taken on lands enrolled in the program and changes the deadline for enrollment in the program to August 1 for new enrollments and Sept. 1 for renewals. It also stipulates that the antlerless deer taken on DMAP lands will not count against the season bag limits, though the daily limits would still apply. Current participants in DMAP that do not wish to continue with the program would be eligible to enroll in LADT. The LWFC will take public comments until the rule is ratified at its October meeting.

## **State Duck Stamp Competition**

The state Duck Stamp competition

this year will kick off a series of canine art featuring the theme "Retrievers Save Game." This is a break from the past 16 years, each of which featured one of Louisiana's major duck or goose species on the stamp. The black labrador retriever will be featured this year. The black lab must be prominent in the design and each entry must also include live waterfowl, selected by the artist. Artists may also choose to include harvested waterfowl in their art along with duck decoys, hunting scenes and other backgrounds along with wetland habitats. Entries for the competition will be accepted from October 18 until 4 p.m. on October 22. To enter, an artist must submit an original, unpublished work of art, along with a signed and notarized artist's agreement and \$50 entry fee. Entries should be addressed to Robert Helm, Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, or P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Judging for the art competition will be based on the following criteria: 1. Accuracy of form, size, proportion, color and posture. 2. Level and accuracy of detail in all aspects of the anatomy of both the retriever and waterfowl. 3. Appropriateness, accuracy and detail in depiction of the habitat. 4. Attractiveness and creativity in composition, subject, background and lighting. 5. Suitability for reproduction as stamps and prints.

The winning design will be selected by a panel of judges with experience in waterfowl biology and/or artistic method. Judging will take place on October 27, at LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. The competition is open to artists nationwide, 18 years of age and older. Employees of LDWF and members of their immediate families are ineligible. The Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was authorized by the Louisiana Legislature in 1988. The program was created to generate revenues for conservation and enhancement of waterfowl populations and their habitats in Louisiana. During the last 16 years, more than \$7.5 million has been generated for wetland conservation. Approximately \$4.5 million has been spent on land acquisition. Private lands have also benefitted through the Louisiana Waterfowl Program, a cooperative endeavor between LDWF, Ducks

Unlimited and the Federal Natural Resource Conservation Service.

## Moreland Named LDWF Wildlife Division Administrator

Long-time Louisiana Deer Study Leader David Moreland has been named the new Wildlife Division Administrator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Moreland is replacing Tommy Prickett, who retired from the position in May. Moreland has been with the department since 1976, when he was hired as a biologist in District 7. He became the District 7 Game Division Supervisor in 1978 and served in that capacity until 1992, when he was named Deer Study Leader. Moreland has become well known and regarded in this position, both in Louisiana and across the southeastern portion of the country. Moreland received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in biology from Northeastern Louisiana University. He has authored dozens of publications regarding his work with the Louisiana deer herd and other topics. Most recently he was recognized with the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association Arthur Van Pelt Award for a lifetime of conservation achievement. LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau expressed his confidence in the Division Administrator saying, "David Moreland is very respected in his field and we are sure that he will bring professionalism and enthusiasm to this new position. We are very fortunate to have someone of his caliber heading our Wildlife Division, and the state's hunters will benefit from his expertise."

## BP Donates Offshore Platforms, \$500k to Louisiana Artificial Reef Program

Representatives from BP America Production Company were in Baton Rouge recently to donate a half million dollars to the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program (LARP). The check was presented to LDWF Secretary Dwight Landreneau by BP Director of Governmental Affairs in Louisiana, Karl Connor, and Hugh Depland, BP Public Affairs General Manager out of the company's corporate offices in Houston. It represented approximately one-half the savings that accrued to BP from contributing the structures,

known as Eugene Island 322, to LARP in lieu of removing and disposing of them as otherwise required by law. The platforms had been damaged and rendered inoperative by Hurricane Lili in the fall of 2002. BP decided to donate the platforms to the program so that they could become part of an artificial reef that will enhance the habitat for fish and other marine organisms that require hard structure to grow and thrive. The platforms were decommissioned and scrubbed clean. Then, the eight piles that held the two platforms were cut using a diamond-bladed wire cutter, and the platforms sank to the bottom. The company opted to mechanically cut the piles rather than use explosives that might damage harm fish and sea turtles and marine mammals in the vicinity. The financial contribution will help to fund the maintenance of the reef and others in the program. Oil and gas platforms attract and provide habitat for various species of fish. The Louisiana Artificial Reef Program provides an opportunity to sustain the fisheries values of the platforms even after they are no longer capable of producing energy resources. The area around this particular platform has particularly high levels of gag grouper and scamp, according to LARP Manager Rick Kasprzak. "It is possible that these high



*Hugh Depland (L), BP Public Affairs General Manager presents a check to LDWF secretary Dwight Landreneau representing the company's donation of a portion of its savings from contributing two offshore energy platforms to the Louisiana Artificial Reef Program. Participating in the presentation are Karl Connor, BP's Director of Governmental Affairs in Louisiana, LDWF Undersecretary Janice Lansing, Asst. Secretary of the Office of Fisheries John Roussel and LARP Manager Rick Kasprzak.*

levels are due to the fact that this may be an important spawning area for these species. That's why we are especially pleased to keep this structure here." "This program is truly a win-win situation for the energy companies and the habitat," said Secretary Landreneau. "It is a win-win situation for all concerned. BP saves money on decom-

missioning and the department can run the program at no cost to the state general fund, but more importantly, it maintains valuable fishery habitat and provides fishing and diving opportunities for the residents of Louisiana." The new artificial reef is located in the Eugene Island area, approximately 90 miles south of Marsh Island. The coordinates are: 28 degrees, 17 minutes and 22 seconds North; 91 degrees, 21 minutes and 04 seconds West.

## Hunting & Fishing Big Business in Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau took the opportunity of a recent visit to the Sixth Annual "Real Thing" archery tournament organized by the Amite River Traditional Archery Club to talk about the economic value of hunting and fishing in Louisiana. While almost everyone is aware of Louisiana's traditional role as the Sportsman's Paradise, few realize the real difference that outdoor sports make to the economy. Hunting and fishing total "over a billion dollars in economic impact," said Landreneau. "And that's real business." Landreneau referred to figures published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that indicate almost a million people from in and out of state fished in Louisiana during 2001. Factoring in the gas they bought, the meals they ate and the hotel rooms they rented, those anglers spent over \$700 million. That same year, 333,000 resident and non-resident hunters spent nearly \$450 million. That economic effect is felt statewide, according to Landreneau. "We want to make sure that people understand that 'hunting and fishing' also applies to lodging, to restaurant meals and experiences in other things. There are so many opportunities for people to stay and enjoy Louisiana; we hope that hunting and fishing brings these people here." The tournament was held at LDWF's Waddill Wildlife Refuge and Outdoor Education Center located at 4142 North Flannery Road. The facility, which boasts two stocked catfish ponds (catch & release only), nature trails, a swamp, the Comite River and picnic facilities, is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

# 30th Wildfowl Festival

## August 14-15 in Westwego

After 29 performances over the past 3 decades one would be looking for a change. "Get rid of that old hat," you might be expecting to hear. Not so with the Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers and Collectors Guild (LWCCG) Festival. They are still clamoring for more. Why? Simply because the show continues to get better each year. Is this Bragging? You bet!

The LWCCG is an all volunteer, non-profit organization with an open membership. It was originally formed in 1971 and held its first festival in 1974. The event was extremely well received and the strong favorable response from the public that first year was the impetus needed to make it an annual event. It has been improved each year by adding new categories for all classifications as well as increasing the monetary prizes and Purchase Awards.

For the last 6 consecutive years the prestigious Wildfowl Carving Magazine has featured this outstanding annual August event. Premier carvers and artists compete for the honor of winning the "Blue" and the national recognition attached to it. And for the "Professional" this also means an opportunity to take home a share of the handsome prize monies from Purchase Awards and other individual contests. Winning in New Orleans is well recognized in the carving

world as a major accomplishment.

There is something for everyone. Professional, Amateur, and Novice and the competitions are extremely diversified. Some of the favorite categories are : Decorative Wildfowl, Songbirds, Birds of Prey, Fish, Miniature Boats, Relief Carving, and of course, the traditional working decoys that are floated in the tank. Also, there is the head whittling and painting contests.

Aside from the three-dimensional art there is the Flat Art and Photography competitions and the Federal Duck Stamp final-

ists paintings are another big attraction as are the primitive decoys on display. The vendors that attend, demonstrating their show-their related products, is a mini-show in itself.

The two day festival culminates with the Sunday afternoon Auction. Some interesting and collectable pieces can be yours if you are the lucky bidder.

When and where? On August 14 and 15, 2004 at the modern John A. Alario, Sr. Event Center in Westwego. There is plenty of parking on site and hotel accommodations are available nearby. See you there. ■



The Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers & Collectors Guild

Invites you to our

30th LOUISIANA



# WILDFOWL FESTIVAL

Sat., Aug. 14, 2004, 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.; Sun., Aug. 15, 2004, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

**Over 2,000 Decoys and Other Wildlife Art on Display**  
**View the best in Gulf-South Decoy & Wildfowl Art Competition**  
**Over \$41,000 in prize money, purchase awards, ribbons & plaques.**  
**SEE NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM; HARRAH'S NEW ORLEANS CASINO;**  
**AQUARIUM OF THE AMERICAS & BOURBON ST. !!**

**Don't miss our Wildfowl Auction on Sunday afternoon.**  
**The buys of the year on wildfowl art are offered. Come join us!**

**ADMISSION: Adults - \$5; Under 12 Yrs. - \$1**  
**SETUP - Fri. Aug. 13, 2004, 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.**

**CONTACT - Sid Lacoste - (504) 834-8878; Charles Frank - (504) 866-1515**

For Competition Rules, Write To: LWCCG - P.O. BOX 10883 - NEW ORLEANS, LA 70181

### About the Cover: Continued from page 2

wet.). It's just you and the quiet surf lapping at your belly. "Landing" a good one in the surf is a judgement call. Since you have to hold the rod with one hand, and take the wiggling, thrashing fish off with the other, you risk losing the fish if it flips off and slips from your grasp before getting it on the stringer or in the basket. Alternatively, you can walk the fish backward toward the beach to truly land it and secure it for the ice chest. Even if you're up to your neck in the surf when you hook a big one and have to retreat 60 or 70 yards to the beach, most folks don't mind taking this little extra walk now and then when the fish are running 3 pounds and better.

Wait, I forgot to mention that you have to be able to get to the beach. There aren't many places in Louisiana where you can walk or drive a short distance to the beach. The few are Holly Beach in Cameron Parish and Grand Isle and the Elmer's Island to Belle Pass headland in Jefferson and LaFourche Parishes. With the closure of Elmer's Island to the public and restrictions on access to the Fourchon beach in recent years, accessible surf fishing spots are at a premium. But back in the good old days, when you could drive your truck to the beach at Elmer's Island for the small fee charged by the owner, you could set up and catch some

nice specks like these on the cover.

One of the opportunities of surf fishing is that you can castnet or seine for your bait (with the proper, legal gear) right on the beach, then load up the floating bait bucket. That's especially advantageous when the trout are being persnickety about what they'll eat. But if they are feeding at all in the surf, then the small fish or shrimp that are caught in the bait net are likely to be what they are eating. Presented properly, you can do pretty well with beach bait. These fish were taken about midday with small pompano about the size of a silver dollar that were caught in a bait net and fished on the bottom with a slip sinker. What do you say? Time to hit the surf and go fishing!

### Executive Director: Continued from page 18

the value from their resource with incentives that will benefit the resources that belong to all of us, while providing vital protection for our coast.

It's a fact that businesses locate where they have the resources to operate profitably.

But it's also a fact that they won't go where they cannot attract the employees that make the business run. These days, a healthy environment with quality outdoor recreation opportunities are among the expectations of employees, employees who can choose to work elsewhere. Louisiana can do better, and we all should be willing to roll up our sleeves to pitch in and help.

We've been talking about leadership and what we need and want from our leaders. But at this time, more than at anytime at least in my lifetime, our leaders need something from us. They need our prayers for wisdom and courage to make the right decisions about the lives they hold in their hands. As they go, we go. We want our sportsmen and women to come back safe to the Sportsman's Paradise. God bless them. Thank you. ■

# Butterfly Gardens: Common and Not So Common

Story and Photos by Gary Noel Ross



*Cloudless sulphur butterfly nectaring on cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), a spectacular fall-blooming wildflower found on damp sites along creek bottoms that can be easily grown in the yard. It sets the standard for "red" in the landscape.*

If like I you are sixty plus in age, you most likely remember when it was commonplace for both rural and urban houses to be surrounded by flower beds, vegetable gardens and, yes, even the proverbial white picket fence. In those days, Mom and Pop spent the relative cool of each summer morning lovingly attending to the needs of these utilitarian landscapes. Tools were simple: hoes, trowels, spades, and rakes. The gardens were watered with a hand-held hose, and since chemical insecticides and herbicides were just entering the commercial market, weeds and pesky insects were meticulously removed by hand. Some of the larger critters even became the "toy" of the day for children growing up in an age with few sophisticated playthings. The work was tedious, but the payoff was more than generous: a color-dot matrix of color

and a perfumery of fragrances provided décor for kitchen tables and to pleasure our psyches as we whiled away evening hours in cypress rockers on shaded porches; and veggies, herbs, and fruits furnished fresh kitchen produce. Moreover, medical scientists agree that the outdoor gardening experience facilitated the shaking off of the all too common wintertime blues while at the same time provided just the right amount of physical activity to keep muscles in tone and heart disease at bay. From an ecological perspective, the gardens featured a healthy community of wildlife. Bees buzzed, butterflies fluttered, and hummingbirds zoomed in and out as they worked the flowers for nectar and pollen. Small predators abounded, too. For example, praying mantises, ladybird beetles, assassin bugs, ambush bugs, wasps, ants, and spiders dispatched many an unwary crawler or hopper. Dragonflies patrolled for winged visitors. There even was a coterie of hungry frogs, toads, lizards, skinks, birds and perhaps even a non-poisonous snake or two. In truth, the homespun cottage garden of yesteryear was a microcosm within the cosmic circle of life - accidental, but

vital nonetheless.

But time moved on. Come the later part of the twentieth century, technology introduced previously unimagined wonders onto the world market. Everyone, of course, wanted a piece of the new "American Dream." But the increased consumerism necessitated longer work hours for all. Since time was money, personal gardening for flowers and produce on our new and grander landholdings no longer fit the new life style. Fortuitously, help was at hand, namely, Louisiana State University's School of Landscape Architecture. Inspired by the bold creative flare of Mr. Steele Burden, chief landscaper for the university's sprawling campus, and chaired by the equally talented Dr. Robert Reich, the new school concentrated on structured design or "garden architecture" to relate to the unique and natural residential landscapes of the Deep South. (By contrast, the majority of similar schools across the nation focused on large scale commercial enterprises.) The signature trend embraced panoramic, sinuous beds dominated by a canopy of shade trees (frequently live oaks) with an understory of



*Your neighbors may think you've been away all summer, but to the butterflies, it's an amusement park with plenty of nectar to sip and host plants to lay their eggs on. Here, swamp sunflower and blue mist flower are prominent, along with lantana and other butterfly favorites lining the walk.*



*It's not all fun and games out there in the butterfly garden. "Watch out, there's a mantis! Oops, too late."*

evergreen shrubs, bushes and ground covers (azaleas, boxwood, camellias, gardenias, hollies, ligustrum, nandina, pitosporum, lariope, mondo grass, Asian jasmine and aspidistra, for examples). Those flowering annuals that were included usually were the latest hybrids, engineered for "super blooms," but unfortunately rendered sterile and nectar-free. By the late 1960's and throughout the 1970's, the school was recognized nationally as one of the top in the nation. Primed by the good publicity, fashionable homeowners were eager to engage the avant-garde graduates to showcase their latest creations. Many of the installations (now referred to as "landscapes" rather than "gardens") were true eyepoppers. Besides, with their high degree of low light, automatic watering systems and periodic drenching with insecticides, the landscapes required minimum attention, easily provided by a burgeoning fleet of maintenance contractors. Sadly, though, butterflies and hummingbirds found very few of the plants of interest. As a result, many insects along with other forms of wildlife, gradually retreated to the more hospitable countryside. And those vases of fresh-cut flowers and plates of crispy culinary delights that had enriched our kitchen tables? Well, plastic or silk flowers along with canned, quick-frozen, and even "fresh" produce could be conveniently purchased at a nearby market operating on a 24/7 schedule.

Recently, there has been a renaissance for "ole time" gardening. Most

interest centers on the creation of friendly habitats for butterflies and hummingbirds. I believe the reasons are routed in the biological and psychological forces



*Caterpillars, or crawlers as butterfly folk call them, can be really cool looking like this spicebush swallowtail larva munching on a sassafras leaf.*

that tie and nostalgically endear us to the natural world. For instance, butterflies and hummingbirds are undeniably aesthetic and energetic. These feathered acrobats and gossamer-winged ballerinas prompt us to reflect back on what Shakespeare referred to as "salad days," that is, a time when the thoughts of our youth were long and when we were blessed with unbridled time and energy.

This nostalgia has become so euphorically contagious that none other than the NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, actively homes in on urban wildlife programs (see NWF's "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" and "Schoolyard Habitats" programs) to promote its principal goal of wildlife conservation.

That's the idea, anyway. Reality often isn't quite so simple, however. Over years of delivering programs on wildlife gardening I have learned that many homeowners still consider gardening for wildlife a bit iffy. Specifically, there seems to be a widespread presumption that wildlife gardens of any sort are dominated by rampant "weeds" that spew pollen allergens into the air, harbor "worms" and other vermin, and create a neighborhood eyesore. And when it comes to butterfly gardens, the notable challenges involve distinctions between nectar, host, native, and exotic plants, what color flowers work best, and how best to prepare the flower bed. Since countless would-be wildlife stewards frequently feel intimidated by conflicting advice, to clarify and to encourage I offer personal observations based on my long-term experiences with butterflies and gardening.

#### Nectar vs. Host Plants

The world of butterflies and the world of plants are inextricable. Simply put, nectar plants feed adult butterflies and host plants feed immature butterflies (think caterpillars and metamorphosis). With only a few exceptions, butterflies do not lay eggs on their nectar plants. After all, if a caterpillar ("worm" is a misnomer) were to feed on its adult's nectar plant, than the butterfly would be short changed of a food source. As is, competition between young and adults is reduced and resources are maximized. A savvy butterfly gardener should include both nectar and host plants. Since these plants require lots of sunlight for maximum performance, select locations that receive at least 4-6 hours of sunlight each day. If for whatever reason you cannot tolerate caterpillars, simply do not include host plants. But by excluding butterfly reproductive sites, you greatly reduce the numbers of butterflies and the amount of time each butterfly spends on your turf. Furthermore, you deprive yourself of an opportunity to enjoy and to share with others a butterfly's metamorphic life cycle, surely a specter of

Mother Nature that is so magical that it inspires us to contemplate life's great journey. [NOTE: The Gulf Fritillary butterfly is the "brainiest" of Louisiana's

relocated into a region different from its original home. While many exotic plants are pests, many others are extremely ornamental, forming the basis for the

probably are sterile, and for this reason, non-seductive to pollinators. Suggestion: Select classic varieties of plants, remembering: "Oldies But Goodies."

And flower color? It is important to note that butterflies do not register the light spectrum as we do. More tellingly, most butterflies are particularly sensitive to ultraviolet wavelengths totally invisible to humans. Often what appears to us as a uniform color (white, for example) has particular ultraviolet markings that serve as beacons for directing a butterfly to a precise landing and feeding site. Consequently, our visual spectrum does not allow us to single out one particular color that best attracts butterflies. I suggest that you experiment or else consult local guides that list time-tested plants.\* One other tip regarding blossoms: routinely dead head, that is, remove spent flowers to encourage the production of additional blooms.

Then there are the vegetative parts of plants. For example, many plant species synthesize and store complex chemicals generally referred to as phytochemicals. These substances are not used directly in



*But look out, some caterpillars are prime groceries for other insects, like this paper wasp taking advantage of a black swallowtail crawler.*

native butterflies. When Gulf Fritillaries home in on their host, native passion-flower vine (maypop) or another blue or lavender flowering exotic species, the butterflies often remain within the vicinity for their entire life spans.] Do not get alarmed if you discover that your garden hosts appear to be under siege. After all, we include these specific plants as a food source for caterpillars. Although the plants will exhibit serious leaf damage and perhaps even be defoliated, these conditions are only temporary. Plants generally recover after caterpillars complete their life stage and move elsewhere to pupate or transform into a chrysalis. (Need I mention that insecticides should NEVER to be used within the garden?) Lastly, what, you may ask, about those caterpillars that sting? No problem. Caterpillars of all North American butterflies are harmless to humans. On the other hand, there are five or so species of moths whose caterpillars possess stinging or irritating hairs.

#### **Native vs. Exotic Species**

Native is synonymous with indigenous; a native plant, therefore, is one that occurs naturally within a geographic region, country, or continent. On the other hand, an exotic is a plant that is an alien, that is, a species that has become

world's vast floral and nursery trade. Some nurserymen specializing in native plants often promote natives as easier to cultivate than exotics. Yet to the contrary, native species usually demand environmental conditions that the average gardener cannot easily replicate.

My research in Louisiana indicates that local butterflies are attracted to BOTH native and exotic plant species. Such is understandable since butterflies have adapted much of their feeding and reproductive behaviors to specific and chemical cues provided by plants. Take, for example, the reproductive organ of the majority of plants, the flower. For pollination and subsequent seed production to occur, pollen must be transported by some mechanical means from one flower to another. Usually this is facilitated by either the wind or animals. In fact, within the vast kingdom of plants, many species feature flowers that are designed to lure specific guests: flies, bees, beetles, bats, and of course, butterflies and birds. Plants that have flowers designed to tempt butterflies will do so if the plant is growing in its native soil or in a distant exotic venue. Ergo, country of origin is unimportant. Keep in mind, however, cultivars of species known to be butterfly and hummingbird friendly,



*If you've got an orange or lemon tree in the yard, you might have some "orange dogs" gobbling up the foliage. Don't squish them. With a little time they'll be transformed into giant swallowtail butterflies.*

internal metabolic pathways of the plant; instead they are produced to either attract or repel other organisms ranging from

microbes to vertebrates. Phytochemicals can be stored in any organ of the plant. Those sequestered in leaves usually



Here's one that has just emerged from the cocoon or chrysalis.

release information into the environment that is interpreted by potential herbivores as "I taste bad, leave me alone" or if the leaf is under attack, "Help!" to attract predators. Over eons, the insect world has responded to these chemical arsenals with clever tricks of their own. And when it comes to outsmarting the plant world, butterflies are the unequivocal masters. Case in point: host plants. A butterfly host plant is a species that early in its history synthesized a specific toxin to repel caterpillars and other plant-eating predators. (While the majority of hosts are herbaceous, many trees are included. In Louisiana, at least twenty-five percent of resident butterflies utilize trees). Not to be outdone, as time passed some butterfly species gradually devised cunning chemical manipulations to render the poisons ineffective. What's more, in some cases the chemical eventually became incorporated into the butterfly's own metabolism. Voila! Nature evolved an obligatory plant-butterfly association in which phytochemicals originally designed as toxins to repel, today function as elixirs. To boot, these complex substances usually are not limited to a single species of plant, but rather are shared with related species, for example,

within a given genus, several genera within a given family, or even species and genera within related families - often distributed around the globe. Accordingly, the choice between exotic or native is moot, at least relative to attracting butterflies.

But not entirely. In Louisiana I have learned that five butterfly-friendly natives have a decided propensity for taking over my garden, and left to their own devices, will produce a "Yard from Hell." These invasives are all autumn-bloomers: ironweed (*Vernonia altissima*), mistflower or wild ageratum (*Eupatorium coelestinum*), goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), wild bergamot or bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*), and narrow-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*). Most propagate by both seed and underground shoots, a characteristic of invasive plant species. Seed germination is relatively easy to control. I keep my garden heavily mulched with pine straw throughout the year. Because of Louisiana's high rainfall, the mulch maintains relatively high soil moisture. In turn, this facilitates the growth of fungi and bacteria. Thus, during the winter most seeds ferment and decompose; those that do sprout, I hand pluck. Subsurface shoots are more troublesome, though. If left unattended, dense clusters of plants continually expand to the limits of the garden, crowding out virtually all other species. To counteract, each fall after flowering I get on my hands and knees, and using a trowel, dig a substantial number of rooted stems around the periphery of each clump. I share the culls with fellow gardeners or simply discard. If I detect a resurgence of too much spread the following spring, I repeat the procedure. With periodic culling I can maintain a diverse garden. This is the time-honored method of Southern gardening by extraction. One other tip regarding these invasives: prune regularly. Since the soil in my garden is rich, and since Louisiana is blessed (some might say cursed!) with a long growing season, native plants can become noxious (I have observed individual stems of narrow-leaved sunflower at 10 feet and stems of ironweed at 8 feet). These "titans" are prone to wind damage and a bedraggled appearance, conditions that are not at all appealing to most of your neighbors. To short-circuit extraordinary growth, I severely prune each stem to within a foot of the ground-once in mid May and then

again in mid July. Granted, at first the plants look mutilated, but after 2-3 weeks, new shoots develop in the axes of some of the leaves below the cut. Then when fall arrives, the plants are shorter, bushier and actually sport substantially more flowers-certainly no eyesore. After flowering, I again clip back to ground level.

Finally, butterfly-friendly plants are generally NOT responsible for producing pollen allergens that trigger hay fever and related respiratory disorders. The rank and file culprits usually include both native and exotic species of trees, grasses, and the homely ragweed (*Ambrosia*) - all of which produce inconspicuous flowers whose pollen is dispersed by wind rather than insects.

### Preparation of the Flower Bed

Most garden experts agree that attention to initial bed preparation is the most important task when it comes to installing a flower/vegetable garden. When deciding on location, always select a sunny venue that is free of compacted tree roots. Herbaceous flowering plants are particularly responsive to a soil that is loose in texture and aerated, that is, well drained. Therefore, construct the flower bed so that it is at least six to eight inches above ground level. (Actually, most garden-variety plants in Louisiana do best in a soil that dries thoroughly between watering because a waterlogged soil is the perfect medium for fungal diseases and ultimate root rot.) Perhaps unexpected because of Louisiana's relatively uniform geography and subtropical climate, the state features a variety of major soil types. For those regions with underlying clay or muck (Baton Rouge region and south of Lake Pontchartrain, for example), I suggest augmenting the basic soil with masonry sand, river silt, pea gravel and organic material (aged barnyard manure, household compost and pine bark all work). By contrast, where the soil is relatively sandy or loamy (for instance central and north Louisiana), the emphasis should be on amending with lots of organic material. Finally, if you follow these suggestions, you most likely do not have to be concerned with the soil's pH, that is, acidity or alkalinity. To conclude, time initially spent on bed preparation will be more than compensated for with robust flowers-and those all important resplendent garden visitors.

## Butterfly Garden Addendum

### TOP BUTTERFLY ATTRACTING PLANTS FOR LOUISIANA

(E= exotic; N=native)

#### Nectar Plants

1. Lantana (Son Rise/Set and Miss Huff for tall varieties; New Gold, Gold/Silver Mound, Purple/White Trailing for short varieties): E
2. Pentas (Nova for large variety; Butterfly Cherry Red for short variety): E
3. Zinnias (Sunshine mix for tall variety; Profusion and Crystal/Star White/Yellow/Golden/Orange for short varieties): E
4. Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*): E
5. Mexican Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias*): E
6. Gayfeather/Blazing Star/Liatris: N
7. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus*): N
8. Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta*): N, E
9. Verbenas: N, E
10. Ironweed (*Vernonia*): N

#### Host Plants

1. Mexican Butterfly Weed for Monarch and Queen butterflies: E
2. Parsley, Fennel, Dill, Carrots (edible and wild), Celery and Queen Anne's Lace for Black Swallowtail: E, N
3. Passionvines (*Passiflora*) for Gulf Fritillary and Variegated Fritillary: E, N
4. Sassafras, Spicebush (*Lindera*) and Camphor (*Cinnamomum*) for Spicebush Swallowtail: E, N
5. Cassia Tree and Partridge Pea (*Cassia*) for Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow: E, N
6. Citrus, Rue, Prickly Ash or Toothache Tree (*Zanthoxylum*) for Giant Swallowtail: E, N
7. Hackberry (*Celtis*) for American Snout, Hackberry Butterfly, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak): N
8. Oaks (*Quercus*) for Banded Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak, Southern Hairstreak, White-M Hairstreak, Gray Hairstreak, Red-banded Hairstreak, Spring/Summer Azure, Red-spotted Purple, Juvenal's Duskywing, Horace's Duskywing: N
9. Tulip Tree/Yellow Poplar (*Liriodendron*) and Ashes (*Fraxinus*) for Eastern Tige Swallowtail: N
10. Willows (*Salix*) for Viceroy, Red-spotted Purple, Banded Hairstreak, Mourning Cloak: N, E

**Tibby Sez:** Continued from page 30

tions, habitat, etc.

I send Jamie clippings of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries activities and articles regarding conservation. She enjoys that very much. I better make her a member of the



Jamie and her Dad view an egret rookery at Lake Martin.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League. It amazed me to see how interested she was in the sights we saw. The rice was up in some places, she liked that. She once said that she would not come back to Louisiana, but now it seems to me that has changed, but we'll see. We still see where some people litter, pollute, use electricity and water when they do not need it. These are conservation matters, too, along with recycling.

I'm sorry I missed the Earth Day celebration that was held in Baton Rouge. We had visitors from out of town and I could not make it, much to my regret. I wish all the anglers good luck. Be sure not to litter or take over the limit. Remind your friends to do the same.

My neighbor, Robert Cockerham, lives behind me in a subdivision that has a pond. His grandchildren catch small bream and turn them loose. About 15 bream go for the bait at one time, and that is something to see. Look out when they get big! Sometimes I join them as it's better than no fishing at all. Enjoy the outdoor activities while you can. Being old and unable to go in the sun is very depressing, believe me.

It is not too early to practice duck and goose calling in preparation for the state and world duck calling contests, and of course, for the forthcoming hunting season. Take a look at your equipment, decoys, etc. We all hope we will have a better season this year.

Bonne chance a la peche et tous la nature.

Ole Tibby

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## Ole Tibby



Bon jour, mes amis. Congratulations to the new leaders in the Federation. I know you will do well. I was really impressed and proud of the reports and resolutions that came out of the convention earlier this year and that were covered in the last issue of the LWF magazine. I add my congratulations to the recipients of the conservation awards. You all deserve it. It is hard on me, not being able attend the conventions anymore because of health concerns, but I am proud to be a member of such a wonderful organization as the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

One of my granddaughters, Jamie (Jay's daughter), was visiting here for the Easter break. She asked to go see the Rockefeller Refuge. She lives in Madison, Wisconsin and

Mervis Saltzman, a rice farmer near Gueydan, the Duck Capital of the World. She wanted to see the rice farms. We left Baton Rouge at 7 AM and returned at 9 PM. I was excited to go, as I had not visited Rockefeller and Lake Martin before. There were plenty of alligators, ducks and other birds in the refuge. We also visited Holly Beach, as Jamie is also interested in coastal erosion. She said the same thing many experts are saying about the waterfowl — they are there but do not go all the way south.

Sonny Ourso, a past 4-time Louisiana State Duck Calling champion who placed 4th one year in the World Calling Contest, and I went to a Delta Waterfowl program to talk about where the ducks were this past season. Delta says that placing "hen houses" on the breeding grounds is one effective way to produce more ducks, especially mallards. Artificial feeding (putting corn out and growing crops just to attract waterfowl) is causing the ducks to stay longer up north. Also many are staying on the refuges where they are not being shot at. In other words, the ducks are being short stopped. Remember we went through that some years ago. What will we do about it? The LWF has proposed prohibiting hunting of waterfowl over artificially flooded standing



Tibby (R) and Granddaughter Jamie visiting with Mervis and Wilda Saltzman at their home in Gueydan. Mervis, along with his son Kendall, are makers of the famous La Chien Caille duck and goose calls.

is an employee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (like our Department of Wildlife and Fisheries), much to my liking - wonder what made her interested in that? She conducts hunter safety programs and is also very interested in the environment, wildlife and fish. Boy, did she like seeing all the birds and other wildlife at Rockefeller and Lake Martin and asked many questions. We visited

crops that are not planted according to normal agricultural practices. For example, flooding an unharvested milo field and hunting over or within a specified distance of it would be illegal. That would discourage some of the practices that are shortstopping our waterfowl. I do not hunt anymore as I'm physically unable to. But I am still very concerned regarding condi-

*Continued on page 29*

## 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  
Twin Creek Hunting Club

### DISTRICT 5

Friends of Black Bayou

### 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  
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### New Orleans Journalist Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners

Mar 01, 2004

*Times-Picayune* environment reporter, Mark Schleifstein was honored Saturday evening (February 28) with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Governors' Award. The award is presented annually to the person or organiz... For the entire story [More ...](#)

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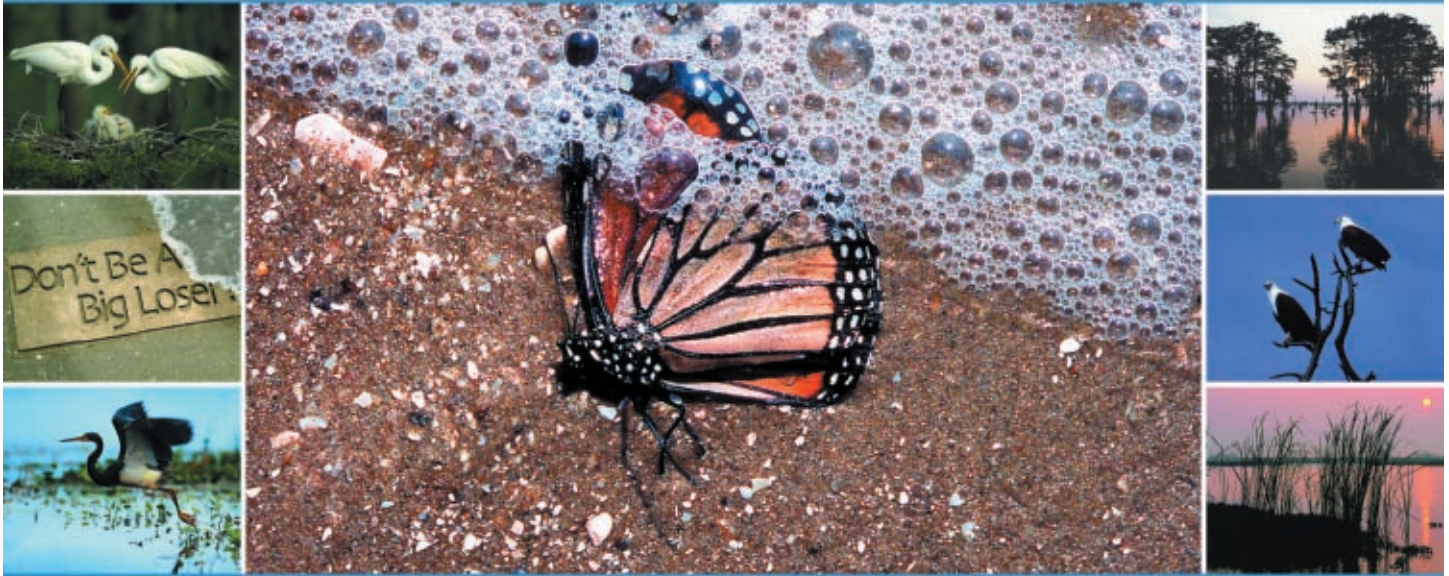
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