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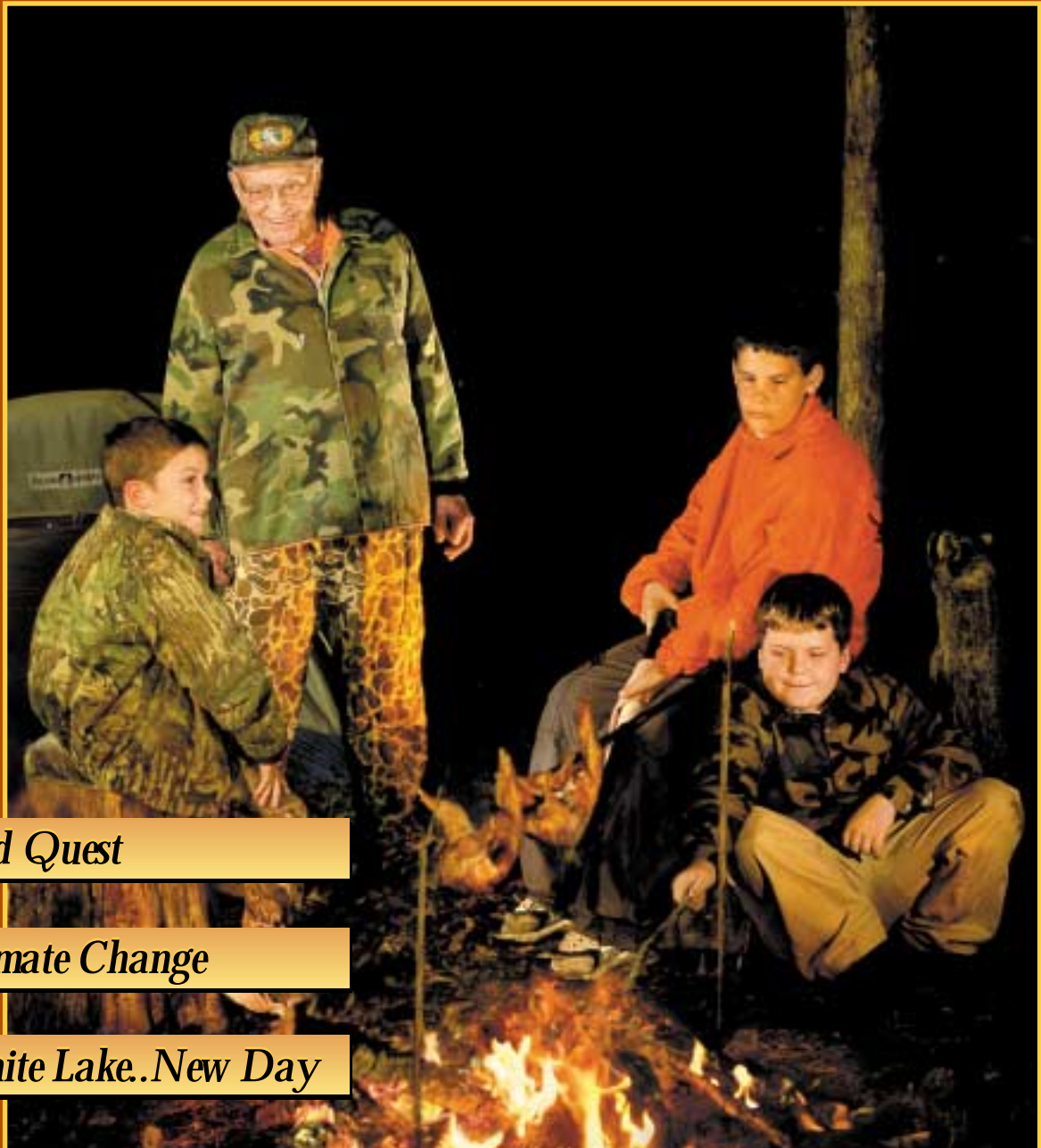
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■ *Bird Quest*

■ *Climate Change*

■ *White Lake..New Day*

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On the Cover...

Stories around a campfire -- a time-honored ritual tying families together, fortifying young ones with a sense of place and a foundation of values that will help carry them through their lives. Sharing the campfire links new generations to their heritage. In Louisiana, an important part of that heritage is the enjoyment of our abundant natural resources. To pass that on, those resources must be conserved and used wisely, and our freedoms preserved. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation works hard on "conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them" every day. But sharing the campfire is up to you! Here Wilson J. "Tibby" Thibodeaux, pushing 90 (Tibby says that's 90 years, not 90 miles per hour), shares a campfire with great grandson Jesse and friends Caleb and Devin, the boys hoping those roasting rabbits will be ready to eat, SOON. Photo by Jon Barry.



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Magazine Staff
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



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



As we welcome the new year I want to thank all of you who helped the Louisiana Wildlife Federation have a banner year in 2004. I am particularly gratified by the overwhelming support expressed by Louisiana voters at the polls last November when an 81% majority voted to add the Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap to the "Declaration of Rights" in the Louisiana Constitution. It took 3 tries in successive legislative sessions to get the proposition on the ballot. But thanks to the hard work of Senator Joe McPherson and colleagues, the determination of the LWF, our members and friends, and the support of the Governor, we succeeded and you all responded with resounding affirmation that our state is still the "sportsmen's paradise." Read more about it on Page 7. This is the second ballot proposition successfully initiated by the LWF in support of conservation and conservationists. In 1987, Louisiana voters



Louisiana Wildlife Federation office at 337 S. Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge received a "facelift" this past summer with new siding and paint.

approved an amendment giving constitutional protection to the Conservation Fund, the operating fund of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, thus protecting our investment in conservation. In earlier days, the LWF was the leader in assuring that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was designated by the Louisiana Constitution as the authority for conserving the wildlife resources of the state. The LWF legacy continues.

A report on the many LWF activities

and accomplishments in 2004 follows this column. You can see that your support of the Federation goes a long way toward conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them. One thing not covered in this summary is the exterior renovation of the LWF office. LWF owns a modest old home on Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge that has served as its headquarters office since 1986. The building has been in need

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Randy
Lanctot**



Its an exciting time for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation as we bid adieu to a productive year that saw major initiatives achieved (read about the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" and White Lake in this issue). Most importantly, we welcomed hundreds of new members who will add their vigor and "clout" to LWF's efforts this year. They are acknowledged at the end of this column. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to your participation. Most of these new

members responded to a survey soliciting their views on various conservation regulations and hunting issues. The survey included questions on issues such as buck harvest limits, tagging for deer and turkeys, willingness to pay a nominal fee for tags, LWFC rulemaking procedure, waterfowl regulations to reduce hunting pressure and enhance waterfowl numbers, and other subjects of interest to sportsmen and women in our state. LWF will share the results with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission which will soon be proposing regulations for next season. A summary of the survey results will be printed in the next issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine.

The new year brings many challenges. Some will be carried over from last year like: reopening Elmer's Island on the Louisiana coast for public camping, surf fishing and all



Joe Herring and Randy Lanctot ring the bell outside the visitors center at the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge at the NWR Fall Celebration.

Continued on page 12

In Quest of Four Hundred Life North American Birds — A Trip to California

by Jay Huner

The broad definition of a “birder” is

over that “barrier.” So, when I had an opportunity to go to a professional meeting in Sacramento, California, I jumped at



Elegant Trogon, a much sought after Arizona bird, courtesy High Lonesome Ecotours.

anyone who enjoys birds enough to watch them and care for their well being. The specific definition of a “Birder” is a person who actually takes the time to identify and list the various birds that he or she has encountered. I’ve always been a birder but, as a consequence of my professional research activities, I rather quickly became a Birder about four years ago.

A Birder keeps a “life list,” usually based on the area where he or she lives, plus a world list. I live in Louisiana so I maintain a life list of North American birds plus those found elsewhere in my travels. One is recognized as being serious about birding when he or she reaches 400 North American life birds. I passed 300 about a year ago. Thanks to a trip to the bird rich lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas plus fortuitous encounters of unusual birds in southern Louisiana and the northern Texas Gulf Coast, I managed to reach 365 NA life birds by the end of October 2003.

The Rocky Mountains divide the North American Continent such that there is a reasonably unique avifauna on either side with, of course, numerous crossovers! Once you hit 300 life birds, the only way to quickly add new life birds is to cross

the chance to cross the Continental Divide to seek out new life birds.

Ever read stories about memorable hunting and fishing trips? Careful planning was needed to ensure success in bringing home trophies and limits. Of course, dumb luck often plays an important part in any successful outdoor endeavor. But, if you are not situated in the right location, dumb luck rarely helps you to be successful.

I did my homework, checking with knowledgeable people who knew the San Francisco - Sacramento area, secured field guides for the area, and went to the worldwide web to locate good sites. I scrutinized the field guides to find out what common life birds might be present in the area. My list included 40 species with about half associated with the arid Central Valley east of the coastal mountain range and the other half found along the wet, narrow sliver of forested coastal land to the west of the mountains. I was directed to the Point Reyes-Bodega Bay area along the Pacific Coast and “found” a likely nature preserve, the Bobelaine Nature Conservation Area, about half an hour north of Sacramento.

I also found that a birding field trip was planned for Bodega Bay by the Central Valley Audubon Club on the Saturday that I was to be in California. Well, folks, I’ve been Birding, hunting, and fishing enough to know that any time you can find a guide, especially a free one, you take advantage of the opportunity. (Note: Numerous birding clubs across the country have monthly birding tours and visitors are almost always welcomed. State and federal wildlife management areas often have “nature walks” and checking ahead can secure the necessary information to take advantage of these opportunities.)

Well, how did I do? We are always at the mercy of the weather whenever we make excursions outdoors. Birding is no exception. My two trips to the Pacific Coast itself were hampered by rain and high wind. My trip to the Audubon site near Sacramento was made in excellent, cool overcast weather with wonderful visibility. The symposium I attended sponsored a post meeting field trip to the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and the weather, although brisk and windy, did not hamper our ability to view thousands of ducks and geese, hundreds of swans, and numerous other birds associated with the refuge’s managed wetland habitats.

I wound up with twenty-five NA life birds bringing my total to 390. I suspect that I could have found another 5-10 life birds IF my trips to the Pacific Coast had not been hampered by bad weather. But, maybe not! So, I’m now looking forward to a trip to southeastern Arizona which is the one easily accessible area where 20-40 life birds are possible over a 3-4 day trip with, of course, preplanning.

What were some highlights of my trip? I was driving along California Highway 1, a tortuous low speed two lane roadway, trying to locate the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and looked up to see a striking Stellar’s jay, the only one I saw, on top of a tree as I slowed to make a curve. Slightly farther down the road, I encountered a flock of California quail complete with top knots, black faces, and reddish-brown barred breasts in a pasture next to the road. Driving along the coast, I made

a sharp turn with a sheer rock cliff to my right and water to my left and I found a flock of bobbing black surf scoters. Male surf scoters have a colorful red and yellow beak and a bright white eye patch. Later, as I returned to Sacramento, I stopped to shop at a brand new Wal-Mart off I-80 and thought I saw a yellow-billed magpie. As I left the parking lot, I passed a “dumper” and found a whole flock of these neat colorful birds.

On another trip to the coast, we stopped in the parking lot of a convenience store overlooking the water. It was windy with light to heavy rain. There was a steep drop off to the water at the edge of the parking area. We heard a buzzing, and chirping sounds, and found 10-20 Anna’s hummingbirds hovering around and hiding in a thicket of rose bushes. All hummingbirds are neat but the males of this species have a reddish-pink throat, which makes them look very striking. Later we saw several, new to me, gull species including glaucous gull, Heerman’s gull and mew gull as well as two new cormorants - Brandt’s cormorant and pelagic cormorant.

On my trip to the Bobelaine Audubon site, I was greeted by a number of western bluebirds with their intense blue backs and bright orange breasts. I found spotted towhees with reddish-orange breasts and black head, wings and backs. I walked several miles past numerous white-crowned and golden-crowned sparrows to finally find the clown-faced acorn woodpeckers, said to be common by “everyone” but real-

ly hard for me to find. Later, I saw a mixed flock of small songbirds flitting across the path from bushes on either side “fly catching.” At first, I thought they were wintering yellow-crowned warblers, probably the most common North American warbler, but close examination showed a number of them to be grayish bushtits, a tiny, 4-inch-long bird.

I did not see any life birds at the Sacramento NWR, but I saw over 50 cinnamon teal, a species that is rarely encountered in Louisiana. The drakes of this species are a beautiful cinnamon brown color that is best seen in person to appreciate. Prior to my visit to the refuge, I had seen only two individual drake cinnamon teal.

I almost thought that the post symposium field trip was going to be a “wash” as far as life birds go. However, as I was getting off the bus at our hotel in late afternoon, I heard the characteristic “twittering” of swifts. I looked high above me and found swifts darting about just above the high rise buildings in Sacramento. I quickly checked them out with my binoculars and “got” life bird 390, the white-throated swift!

The American Ornithological Union (OAU) is the official body that generates the list of birds in North America. There is continuous “discussion” about whether or not certain species are “good” species or simply variants of a diverse species assemblage. Thus, it is just as common for a Birder to lose a life bird as gain one when the AOU makes its annual list of “changes”

to its official North American bird list. The yellow-rumped warblers that I saw are the so-called Audubon’s variety common to the western USA. The yellow-rumped warblers most often encountered in Louisiana are the myrtle variety. It is, therefore, possible that my life list might increase IF these two subspecies are separated by the AOU. I also saw the red-shafted form of northern flicker and two new forms of fox sparrow!

In conclusion, birding can be very rewarding to those interested in learning more about the birds seen while outdoors, especially on hunting and fishing trips. Interestingly, some of the best Birders are also avid hunters and, if you think about it, the skills needed to be a good hunter are the same as those needed to be a good Birder. And, you always have a list at the end of the day while it is not all that unusual to come away from a hunt with no game! I’ve found combining birding with hunting ensures that I always have a good day in the field.

400 (Plus) At Last!

Birding is just like hunting and fishing. To get “trophies” as noted in this article, you have to go where the trophies are and plan your trip carefully. Since the preceding account of my effort, I made a trip to southern Arizona (late April) and managed to reach and surpass 400th life North American Bird as recognized by the American Birding Association (ABA).

Here’s how it happened.

I spent the week of 24-30 April on a tour organized by High Lonesome Ecotours (Sierra Vista, AZ). We visited Portal Peak, Sierra Vista, Nogales, and Tuscon areas and logged over 175 Arizona birds for the week, including 70 “lifera” for me. Remember, to reach the 400 level of lifers, you just about have to “Go West” or “Go East” depending on where your home base is located. All of those western lifers will be fond memories ranging from colorful trogons, warblers and tanagers, flighty hummingbirds, majestic eagles and hawks, and nondescript chickadees, titmice, flycatchers, sparrows and vireos, to noisy jays and ravens.

It was a great trip but there are still “trophies” for me to seek like Green Kingfisher, Red Crossbill, Five-striped Sparrow, Virginia’s Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, and others. Well, there’s always next time!



Mexican Spotted Owl, another “lifer” for Huner on his Arizona trip, courtesy High Lonesome Ecotours.

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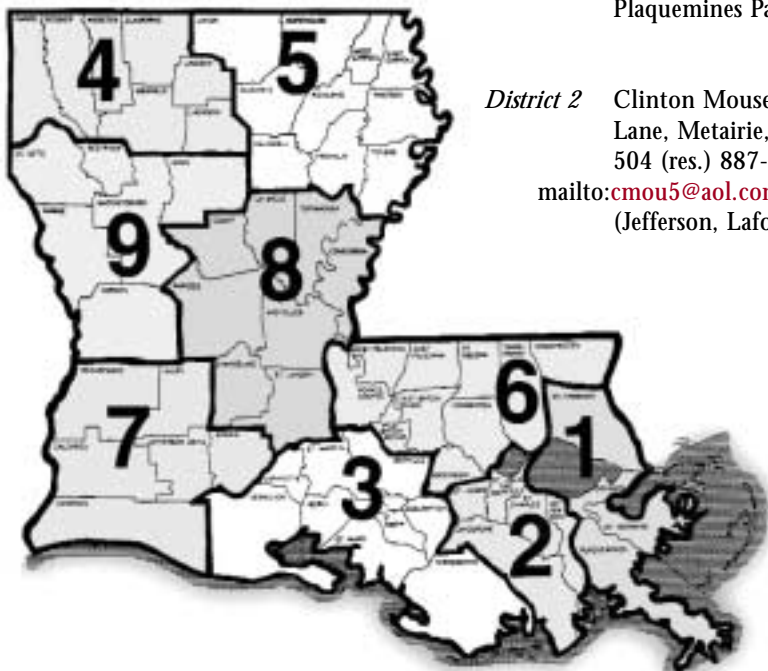
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Voters Pass Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap by Landslide

On November 2, 2004, Louisiana voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to guarantee every citizen the freedom to hunt, fish and trap. The amendment, garnering 81% of the votes (1,194,907 to 281,161) adds the following specific language to Article 1, the "Declaration of Rights," in the Louisiana Constitution: Section 27. *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.*

Prior to the election, naysayers challenged the wisdom of "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" (FHF&T) saying that it could be used to justify use of private property without permission, authorize the restriction of public access to public waters by private landowners, 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 amendment.

The concern about trespassing and access is answered by the last sentence of the amendment which reinforces the right of private owners to control the use of private property.

The reference in the second sentence of the amendment 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. Another complaint offered was 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 FHF&T, requires conservation and protection sufficient to sustain fish and wildlife resources which in turn sustains "nonconsumptive" uses of these resources.

The Advocate (Baton Rouge), *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans), *Town Talk* (Alexandria) and other newspapers around the state questioned the need for FHF&T, and recommended that voters reject it. The newspaper editors apparently did not think that hunting, fishing and trapping was threatened in Louisiana and opined that the Legislature should handle any related issues that come up. They must not have been down at the capital during the 2004 legislative session. By missing the point (that adding this amendment before these freedoms are seriously threatened was a major purpose behind it), they made the point of why it makes sense to add it to the constitution now, before animal rights activism in Louisiana grows in influence. The papers also suggested that the amendment may tie the Legislature's hands in limiting hunting, fishing and trapping activities, thereby opening a "can of worms." The amendment is very clear on that in making hunting, fishing and trapping subject to law and regulation that are necessary to preserve, protect and replenish the natural resources of the state. However, prohibitions for other reasons not related to conservation, absent a clear and compelling public interest, are what the amendment is intended to address and protect against. Clearly, a large majority of Louisiana voters agree with this rationale.

The following questions and answers provide background and explain what the amendment does and does not do.

What does "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap" do?

- Confirms that the freedom to hunt, fish and trap is an inherent right of citizenship and that the authority to limit that right for the common good is conveyed by the citi-

zens to government, with the government accountable to the citizens.

- Preempts the prohibition of hunting, fishing and trapping, except as required to meet the obligation to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources of the state pursuant to Article 9, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution.

- Serves 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.

- Reinforces Louisiana's rich hunting, fishing and trapping heritage.

- Reminds lawmakers and regulators of the importance of this heritage and their obligation to respect and protect it.

Will "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" permit hunting, fishing or trapping activities on private property without permission?

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

Will "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" give a person the right to break wildlife and fisheries laws and regulations without consequences?

No. The 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.

Will "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" impair the enactment or effect of legislation or regulation that restricts or manages hunting, fishing, and trapping?

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

Will "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap" prevent the State from limiting or revoking a citizen's right to hunt/fish/trap as a penalty for violation of the State's conservation

laws?

No. Similar to the freedom of speech, the right to own firearms and other rights guaranteed by the constitution, the freedom to hunt/fish/trap cannot be exercised in violation of the law or 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 possess firearms, even though both the US and 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, practice a religion of their choice, own and lawfully use a firearm, and vote.

What are the threats that make the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap" a good idea?

The population of the state is increasingly urban and detached from the reality of food production, and its relationship to the land and to wild nature. Therefore Louisiana citizens are more subject than ever to ignoring that relationship and supporting efforts to prohibit hunting, fishing and trapping activities that are practiced by a diminishing proportion of citizens.

Is this a Louisiana idea?

No. At least 8 other states have a provision in their constitutions similar to what Louisiana has adopted. Wisconsin, Montana and Louisiana are the states that have most recently added this right to their constitutions. Alabama is the closest neighbor that has such a constitutional provision.

What organizations endorsed "Freedom to Hunt, Fish & Trap?"

The amendment was officially endorsed by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, NRA, East Ascension Sportsman's League, Delta Waterfowl, Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, National Taxidermist's Association, Safari Club International, Recreational Fishing Alliance, Conservation Force, Iberia Rod and Gun Club, Central Louisiana Chapter, SCI, Jefferson Rod and Gun Club, Westlake Hunting Club, Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League, Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Ducks Unlimited.

Alaska and Louisiana: Not So Far Apart

by Jerome Ringo

Alaska in the summertime is stunning. The state is blessed with majestic mountains; icy blue waters full of salmon, sea otters, and humpback whales; and vast open lands teeming with grazing caribou. Alaska Natives still live off the landscape on wildlife bounty the way their ancestors did for generations before them. I had the good fortune to see all of this on a recent trip to The Last Frontier.

But I also saw signs of major changes in Alaska, and I fear I have witnessed first-hand the beginnings of a disaster lapping at the shores of our own beloved Louisiana if we fail to take action on solutions to a growing threat: global warming.

Global warming is happening, and Alaska is on the front line. The evidence is everywhere. I saw remnants of the second largest fire season in Alaska's history - more than 4.5 million acres have burned this year — thanks to warmer conditions that are turning rich forests into dry tinderboxes. I photographed the brittle, brown dirt exposed under glaciers melting faster than at any time in recorded history, and I witnessed severe coastal erosion where sea ice and permafrost no longer protect the shores. The entire coastal village of Shishmaref is contemplating relocating because the land its residents live on is literally melting under their feet.

While it may seem like Alaska and Louisiana are as different as night and day, I see a lot we have in common. Alaska's rapidly melting sea ice means that Coastal Louisiana faces a growing threat from rising seas. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, about one-third of Louisiana's barrier islands have disappeared since 1880, while our coastal wetlands are slipping away at the rate of several acres per hour. New Orleans, built on a river delta, could sink further below sea level as the ocean rises.

Scientists estimate that if we do not stop global warming, sea levels will continue to rise by up to three feet before the century is out. That could mean that much of Louisiana's coastal wetlands will

become open water. Songbirds, ducks and other wildlife dependent on marshes will be forced out. Shrimp and menhaden fisheries could face substantial losses. And, just as Alaska is grappling with moving entire communities away from its coast, so too will Louisiana have to grapple with a similar fate for cities like New Orleans.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Solutions to global warming are right at our fingertips - strategies that we can begin implementing now, such as using energy-saving equipment in our homes, businesses, factories, and cars, and expanding renewable energy like wind and solar power. We can urge Congress to enact policies today, such as the bi-partisan McCain-Lieberman climate change bill that would limit global warming pollution while at the same time spur innovation and promote an emerging market for alternative energy sources.

The upshot is, American companies already are developing renewable energy and more efficient fuel technologies that will reduce the pollution that causes global warming. Our ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit are alive and well in the board rooms and manufacturing plants of companies that want to invest in a cleaner, better energy future. Louisiana industries have an opportunity to be part of these solutions.

Are we really willing to say goodbye to the Louisiana water thrush, whose southern range may someday end in Arkansas? Can we afford to lose a segment of our seafood industry to sea level rise? Are we prepared to saddle our children and grandchildren with the cost of moving entire towns and cities inland?

The sky isn't falling. But the ice is melting. Let's develop a serious action plan now before Louisiana is completely swamped.

Jerome Ringo is president of Progressive Resources, Inc. in Lake Charles. He is chair-elect of the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

NWF, Affiliates Defend Ducks and Sue FSA Over Harmful Grazing/Haying Policy

Citing the Conservation Reserve Program's (CRP) enormous value to ducks, pheasants and many other species of ground-nesting birds, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Louisiana Wildlife

waterfowl conservation, LWF president, E. R. "Smitty" Smith said, "It doesn't make sense to be providing good nesting habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife (through CRP) on the one hand, then destroying nests, eggs and even ducklings by mismanag-

wildlife. At the time, Congress explicitly mandated that any haying or grazing of CRP lands must be "consistent with the conservation of soil, water quality, and wildlife habitat (including habitat during the nesting season for birds in the area)." The FSA subsequently implemented a blanket policy of allowing enrolled croplands to be hayed or grazed every third year on all CRP lands nationwide, even though in the Great Plains and in the Interior West, where rainfall is limited, it can take five to 10 years to establish optimal grassland cover after haying has occurred. When haying or grazing outpaces recovery, according to the lawsuit, the result is degraded habitat.

The FSA's managed haying and grazing policy is also problematic, the lawsuit holds, because the agency implemented it without conducting environmental impact assessments or providing public notice and comment as required by federal law.

"Procedurally speaking, the Farm Services Agency's current haying and grazing regime sprang up out of nowhere," France said.

In seven states - New York, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Washington - the FSA allows haying and grazing to occur during primary nesting season, while its policy of allowing haying and grazing every third year applies in most of the Central Plains and Interior West states.

Among the states with the most enrolled CRP acreage land are Montana (3.4 million acres generating \$115 million in annual rental payments), North Dakota (3.3 million acres, \$111 million), Kansas (2.9 million acres, \$111 million) and Colorado (2.3 million acres, \$71 million).

Nationally, the CRP makes \$1.7 billion in rental payments to farmers each year.

"CRP pays farmers with taxpayer dollars to conserve soil and provide nesting cover," said Smith. "Grazing and haying during the nesting season must stop. A deal is a deal," Smith concluded.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Seattle, Washington. Besides the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, NWF was joined in the lawsuit by its state affiliates in Indiana, the Dakotas, Washington, Arkansas and Kansas.



Federation (LWF) and five other NWF state affiliates have filed a federal lawsuit to stop the mismanaged haying and grazing of lands in the program.

The lawsuit, filed on October 22, 2004, holds that the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Department of Agriculture Division that administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), has violated the program's conservation mandate by allowing the haying and grazing of millions of enrolled acres in the Great Plains and Interior West at intervals too frequent to sustain healthy levels of the grassland cover required by nesting birds.

"When the Conservation Reserve Program is being managed in a way that works against conservation, something is fundamentally wrong," said Tom France, NWF senior counsel.

The lawsuit also charges the FSA with compromising the program's conservation value in some states by allowing haying and grazing during primary nesting season - a time when birds are likely to still be on the nest or to be rearing their broods.

Noting Louisiana's keen interest in

ing the program on the other."

The nation's largest private lands conservation program, the CRP pays farmers incentive fees to retire environmentally sensitive croplands for a period of 10 to 15 years. Much of the 34 million acres enrolled in the program consists of high-quality nesting cover, which, collectively, has become essential to sustaining America's migratory bird population. Between 1992 and 1997, for example, CRP habitat was credited with adding more than 12 million ducks to the fall migration. Every year, substantial numbers of migratory birds that nest on CRP lands in Montana, the Dakotas and other northern states fly south along the Central Flyway to winter in southern states like Texas and Louisiana.

From CRP's inception in 1985 until 2002, haying and grazing on enrolled lands was only allowed during drought emergencies. In 2002, when reauthorizing the Farm Bill, Congress chose to allow managed haying and grazing, based on the rationale that light grazing or very occasional haying could actually make lands more productive for

Report Forecasts Disruption of Wildlife Populations

A Wildlife Society report, *Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America*, finds that “there is sufficient evidence to indicate that many species are already responding to warming, and that animals and plants are exhibiting discernible range changes consistent with changing temperatures.”

The report also details the disruption of essential ecological processes, displacement or disappearance of coastal wetlands species, significant loss of coastal marshes and disruption of alpine and Arctic ecosystems. Direct threats to many species are reported, including polar bears, migratory songbirds and waterfowl and alpine amphibians.

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society is the nation’s preeminent association of wildlife professionals, with nearly 9,000 members including wildlife biologists and research scientists, habitat managers, field technicians, educators and wildlife agency administrators.

Previous reports from The Wildlife Society have played a significant role in determining major trends in wildlife conservation and influencing public policy. Reports from The Wildlife Society on wolf restoration (1991), acid rain (1993) and conservation opportunities in the national Farm Bill (1995), for example, articulated a consensus among wildlife professionals that ultimately played out in national policy reform and innovation.

“Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America” is the distillation of a two-year review by a professional panel of hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific reports examining the wildlife implications of global warming.

The report’s major findings include:

- During this century “the ranges of habitats and wildlife are predicted to generally move northward as temperatures increase.” The ability of plants and animals to shift to new ranges in response to climate change, however, will be limited by several factors, including migratory pathways, pollinator availability and the concurrent movement of forage and prey.

- Diverse responses to climate change by interdependent species “could cause significant restructuring of existing plant and animal communities.” Changes in the timing and length of seasons due to

global warming may cause closely interacting species to become out of phase, disrupting essential ecological processes such as pollination, seed dispersal and insect control by birds.

- Effects of global warming on populations and range distributions of wildlife are expected to be species specific and highly variable, with some effects considered negative and others considered positive.

- In the southeastern United States, the range of the dominant pine and hardwood forests is projected to expand northward while the conifer forests of New England and much of the Northeast are expected to change to temperate deciduous forests similar to those today found in southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Virginia. “Some forest species such as sugar maple are projected to disappear entirely from the United States over the next century.”

- Projected sea level rise due to global climate change may cause some wildlife species to be displaced inland or disappear entirely if their lowland wetlands are rapidly inundated, “critical mudflats used by migratory shorebirds” may be flooded, and “submergence of coastal marshes is expected to be most severe along the U.S. Gulf and Atlantic coasts.”

- “Even a small amount of warming may eliminate some wetland plant and animal species in alpine regions because there is little opportunity to disperse among these isolated habitats.”

- “Loss of sea-ice will likely directly affect marine mammals and seabirds dependent upon ice shelves and flows as platforms for reproduction, pupping, nesting and migration.” Polar bears, walrus, ringed seals and bearded seals are considered particularly vulnerable to loss of sea-ice.

- In areas where warming is greatest, “changes in forest dynamics due to disease and insects are very likely.” In conjunction with rapid Arctic warming from 1992 through 1996, the report notes, a sustained outbreak of spruce bark beetles has caused over 2.3 million acres of tree mortality in Alaska. “This was the largest loss to spruce bark beetles ever recorded in North America.”

- “Amphibian populations and distributions are likely to change significantly as air and water temperatures change,” with species inhabiting high-altitude areas being

particularly at risk.

- “Climate change may cause a mismatch in the timing of breeding between birds and their prey.”

- In the Prairie Pothole Region from northern Iowa to central Alberta - the duck factory of North America - “most scenarios and models projected significant declines in wetlands, and thus declines in the abundance of breeding ducks in this region by the 2080s.” Projected declines in duck breeding range between nine and 69 percent.

Based on the report, The Wildlife Society will consider adopting formal policy recommendations at its March meeting. In draft form, those recommendations now include measures such as reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions and that state and federal wildlife agencies consider climate change in developing long-range wildlife management plans and strategies.

“We need to build support for a workable, market-based approach that will first cap and then begin to reduce this nation’s carbon pollution emissions,” says Jeremy Symons, manager of the National Wildlife Federation’s Climate Change and Wildlife program. “That is the approach taken in legislation sponsored in Congress by Senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman.”

The Wildlife Society panel responsible for the report includes Michael G. Anderson, Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research at Ducks Unlimited, Canada; Andrew R. Blaustein, Department of Zoology, Oregon State University; Virginia R. Burkett, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, La.; Benjamin Felzer, The Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.; Brad Griffith, Biological Resources Division Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska; Doug Inkley, National Wildlife Federation, Jeff Price, American Bird Conservancy in Chico, Ca.; and Terry L. Root, Center for Environmental Science and Policy, Institute for International Studies, Stanford University.

Global Climate Change and Wildlife in North America is available in PDF format at: <http://www.nwf.org/news>

Nominations Sought For Top Conservation Awards

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) is now accepting nominations for the 41st Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards. The program recognizes those persons and organizations who make outstanding contributions to the natural resource welfare and environmental quality of the community, parish and state.

to the program, these awards are widely acclaimed as the most prestigious recognition of conservation accomplishment that are presented annually in our state."

Smith noted that, in keeping with tradition, Governor Blanco has endorsed the program. He encouraged the public to make nominations.

Nominations are now open and will be

dreds of key communicators about the loss of America's WETLAND;

Robert E. Stewart, Jr. Director of the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette for developing and guiding the Nation's premier wetlands research facility and lending its expertise to better understand and preserve wetland resources;

James Walker Moore, Jr. of Monroe for dedicating his time, skills and energy to conserve wildlife in his community though his work with Friends of Black Bayou and the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge;

The Ascension Parish Youth Council for numerous clean-up and beautification projects in the parish, particularly the effort to restore New River;

Roy O. Martin Lumber Company for leadership in forest stewardship and wildlife management on almost 600,000 acres of company forest lands in Louisiana;

The Louisiana SeaGrant Extension Communications Committee for facilitating the delivery of fisheries and wetlands science and conservation information to the people of Louisiana through the development of the web site: SeaGrantFish;

Senator Reggie P. Dupre, Jr. of Bourg for championing the cause of coastal



Winners of last year's conservation awards L to R: Chris Clayton (Roy O. Martin Lumber Company), Dr. Bob Stewart, Senator Reggie Dupre, Jim Moore, J. C. Ashford (Toledo Bend Lake Association), Melissa Dufour (SeaGrantFish) and John Felsher. Not pictured: Mark Schleifstein and Ascension Parish Youth Council.

There are eight award categories for which nominations can be made. They are: professional; volunteer; business; educator; youth; elected official; communications and organization.

The awards themselves, handsome statuettes of majestic wild animals, are unique to the program and highly coveted by all who receive them.

According to E. R. "Smitty" Smith, III, LWF president, "For over 40 years the federation's annual conservation awards program has recognized those individuals, organizations and businesses who have gone 'above and beyond' in their efforts to conserve fish and wildlife resources, to enhance opportunities for all of our citizens to enjoy the outdoors, to improve the quality of the environment, and to educate and advocate on behalf of our natural resources here in Louisiana. Thanks to the participation of hundreds of Louisiana citizens who have, over the years, encouraged good conservation work by submitting nominations

accepted until February 8, 2005. The awards will be presented on March 5th at a special banquet held in conjunction with the 66th annual convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at the Holiday Inn in Monroe.

Complete program details and nomination form are available from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, www.lawildlifefed.org or 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806; phone/fax 225/344-6707;

<mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org>.

Last year's honorees were:

Times-Picayune environment reporter, Mark Schleifstein for his award-winning environmental writing and particularly for the series, "Washing Away," an expose on the Louisiana's coastal land loss and the increasing vulnerability of coastal communities to tropical storms. He was also commended for convening a major conference of environmental journalists in New Orleans that succeeded in informing hun-



Mark Schleifstein (R) receives the Governor's Award for outstanding conservation achievement at the '04 awards banquet.

restoration in the Louisiana Legislature;

John N. Felsher, Outdoor Editor for the Lake Charles American Press for advocating, in word and deed, the preservation of Louisiana's outdoor heritage;

The Toledo Bend Lake Association for being Toledo Bend Reservoir's chief citizen stewards and tenacious guardians of its natural resources.

the enjoyment provided for so many years before it was closed and put up for sale; restoring public use of coastal waters for fishing and navigation, where that right is protected by law, and negotiating equitable agreements with coastal landowners where it is not; reducing mercury pollution that threatens the quality of our waters and the fish we want to catch and take home to eat; establishing a state policy on reservoir development that does not diminish important habitat resources and private property rights in favor of the enrichment of a few, and that is driven by the state's real current and future water supply needs. Then there is the perennial challenge of securing authorization and funding for large-scale coastal restoration that is made even more daunting by the massive federal budget deficit, and taking a hard look at the causes and solutions to global climate change. Others are new, at least in their specificity, like the threat to marine resources posed by the location of liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification facilities in coastal and offshore waters. More on that ahead. Some of these new issues will be determined by the resolutions adopted at LWF's 66th annual convention March 4-6 in Monroe. If you would like to suggest a resolution for the delegates to consider at the convention, please notify one of the LWF's officers or District Vice-Presidents listed on page 6.

The LWF convention will have the distinction of being attended by the new president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, Larry Schweiger. Larry is a hunter and angler from Pennsylvania who grew up involved with the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, one of NWF's largest affiliates. He is one of us. He is tentatively scheduled to speak at the Saturday Board of Directors Luncheon and later that evening at the Conservation Awards Banquet. Both events are open to LWF members and guests. Knowing Larry, he will be available and involved throughout the meeting. Come and meet the leader of the National Wildlife Federation at the LWF convention. Details of the convention, including room reservation and registration forms, a preliminary agenda and other information will be posted on the LWF website soon, or you may contact the Federation office if you would like to receive the information in the mail.

The convention host affiliate is the

award-winning Friends of Black Bayou (FoBB). FoBB is the "Friends" support group for the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge on the outskirts of the City of Monroe. FoBB was recognized by the LWF two years ago with the Governor's Award, our top recognition of conservation achievement. It was also named the outstanding NWR "Friends" group in the nation for its efforts last year and will be recognized at a national meeting of "Friends" groups in Washington, DC in February. One of FoBB's major achievements has been winning support and funding for the development of the refuge visitor's center, nature trail, observation tower and 400' pier, and it is currently very successfully pursuing the development of a wetlands learning center adjacent to the refuge visitor's center that will be available to the community and educational institutions for hands-on nature study and learning. It has accomplished a lot in its short 7-year existence and is a model for volunteer community conservation groups. Come to the convention and meet this outstanding group of conservationists.

One last word on convention. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will have its LaserShot exhibit set up outside the registration area. This is an exciting new computer game the department is now utilizing in its hunter education program to demonstrate shoot, don't shoot situations, effective shot placement and other shooting and hunting skills. I haven't tried it yet, but I'm told it's almost like the real thing. So come on out to the convention and give it a try.

You may have heard about the LNG issue I mentioned earlier. High domestic natural gas prices have made it economic to convert natural gas produced in other countries to liquid form, transport it to the United States in vessels on barges and ships, regasify it and pump it into existing natural gas pipelines. Several LNG regasification facilities are proposed for coastal and offshore waters in the Gulf of Mexico. To convert the LNG back to the gaseous state, it must be safely warmed which requires a heat source. Water is a good source of heat, even cold water as long as there is sufficient volume available and it is moving quickly enough to keep from freezing as it transfers its heat to the LNG. Where the supply for heating water is limited, a sufficient volume of water can be contained in a closed system and heated by solar energy or fossil fuel combustion so it can do the job of heating the

LNG then be recycled and reheated within the closed system to be used over and over again. Another much cheaper processing method that can be used where the available water volume is unlimited is to simply pump ambient water through the heating coils continuously, discharging the cooled water out the other side. That sounds like the way to go until you consider the important marine organisms that will be killed when they are caught (entrained) in the volume of water being pumped through the heating/cooling coils. I think you get the picture.

The waters of much of the Gulf of Mexico support a living soup of organisms. All those tiny eggs and larvae may not look like much, but they grow up to be shrimp, and fish, including red snapper, redbfish, cobia, amberjack, tuna and others of significant economic importance to the recreational and commercial fisheries of the Gulf States. So you can see that the cheap way to go for the LNG facility can be very costly to public natural resources. The case in point is the Gulf Landing, LLC Deepwater Port facility proposed for the Gulf of Mexico south of Cameron Parish. Using an open system as proposed by Gulf Landing, the company's own environmental impact statement (EIS) predicts that the system could destroy enough redbfish eggs and larvae to impact up to 8.5 percent of total redbfish landings (annual) in the Gulf of Mexico (11.5% of Louisiana Redfish landings). That doesn't account for the other species impacted and the food chain impacts. Keep in mind that other such facilities are considering locating in the Gulf and coastal waters. If the estimates of potential mortality are even close to accurate, it is simply not permissible from a resource conservation perspective to allow such a facility to be built off our shore. Although more expensive to build and operate, a closed, recirculating heating/cooling system would avoid this unreasonably severe threat to our marine resources. Sometimes it's necessary to just say NO, and if the impacts of this facility, as proposed, are as severe as suggested by the EIS, I hope the powers that be will say just that, NO. You can help them make up their minds by contacting the U. S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management Facility, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001 and refer to License Application DOT Docket Number USCG-2004-16860. Better yet, isn't that

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Where the Ducks Are on LDWF Website

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in partnership with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is expanding waterfowl surveys statewide to provide additional information to the Louisiana public. LDWF annually conducts four aerial waterfowl surveys from September through January of the coastal zone, Catahoula Lake, and central and northeast parishes. This year the survey will be expanded to include the Red River and other wetland complexes in northwest Louisiana, along with new and expanded waterfowl counts on numerous



department managed Wildlife Management Areas and USFWS National Wildlife Refuges. Most of these surveys will be conducted by air, but some will be estimates derived from ground counts. In addition to waterfowl population estimates, timely information will be included on local habitat conditions, weather patterns, waterfowl migration events and results of recent hunting at WMAs and NWRs. This information will be posted at the department's website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov. Other helpful links at this website include U.S. weather maps that will provide insights into winter weather patterns across the country and waterfowl survey reports from other Mississippi Flyway states north of Louisiana. Results of some of these surveys are currently on-line and will be updated regularly throughout the waterfowl hunting season. To locate this waterfowl information, click on "Hunting Information" on the LDWF website.

* * * * *

Crab Trap Cleanup Set

The second annual derelict crab trap removal project is scheduled for 4 areas along the Louisiana coast in 2005.

Volunteers are needed to assist with retrieving and disposing of the traps under the direction of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. During the time of the cleanup, the fishing of crabs with crab traps will be closed in the designated areas. The areas subject to the closure and cleanup program are the east side of Sabine Lake in Cameron Parish from Feb. 19 - 27 with the main volunteer days scheduled for February 19 and 25; the Breton Sound area near Delacroix and Pointe A La Hache in St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes on Feb. 26 - March 13 with the primary volunteer days on Feb. 26 and March 5; the Dulac/Cocodrie area of Terrebonne Bay from March 5 thru 20 with primary volunteer days on March 5 and 12; and the Cypremort Point/Quintana Canal area of Vermilion Bay/West Cote Blanche Bay from the opening of the spring inshore shrimp season and continuing for 9 days. For more details of the program and to volunteer to help go to <http://www.derelictcrabtrap.net>.

* * * * *

Public Comments Invited on Invasive Species Plan

The Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, has completed the draft State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species in Louisiana. Public comment on the draft is being solicited. "Invasive species" are non-native organisms whose introductions cause or are likely to cause adverse environmental, economic, and/or human health impacts. The Task Force has determined that invasive species pose a serious threat to the economic and ecological health of the state of Louisiana. This draft management plan describes the nature and extent of this potential threat and proposes specific actions toward addressing it. The draft State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species in Louisiana may be downloaded at:

<http://is.cbr.tulane.edu/LouisianaAIS.html>. All comments must be provided in writing to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and directed to Mark McElroy. The comments may be e-mailed <mailto:mmcelroy@wlf.louisiana.gov>, faxed to (225)765-5176 or mailed to LDWF, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

* * * * *

Turkey Season Dates Set

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the dates for the 2005 turkey hunting season at its December meeting. The seasons were proposed in September and open for a 4-month public comment period. Area A will open on March 25 and close on April 24; Area B will open on March 25 and close on April 17; and Area C will open on March 25 and close on April 3.

* * * * *

Turkey Lottery Hunts Announced

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has announced the locations for the season's turkey lottery hunts. The 2005 turkey season will feature lottery hunts on nine of the department's wildlife management areas. Bayou Macon, Boise-Vernon, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island Hills, Tunica Hills, Union, and West Bay wildlife management areas will have lottery-only hunts for a least a portion of the open turkey season. In addition, youth only lottery hunts will be held on Bens Creek, Big Lake, Fort Polk/Peason Ridge, Jackson-Bienville, Loggy Bayou, Sherburne, Union, and West Bay WMAs. Hunters 15 years old and younger are eligible for the youth hunt lotteries. Lottery hunt applications are available from any LDWF regional office and can also be found on the department's website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>. There is a \$5 nonrefundable application fee that must accompany each application. Applications must be received in the Baton Rouge office by February 15, 2005 to be eligible for the drawing.

* * * * *

Trade in Alligator Snapping Turtles Prohibited

The alligator snapping turtle, or loggerhead, once a common site in Louisiana markets, can no longer be trapped for commercial sale. In addition to banning commercial harvest, the new regulation limits recreation-

Continued on page 18

Green Wins 2004 State Duck Calling Title

With a focused, consistent performance through three rounds of competition, Phil T.



Phil Green of New Iberia, 2004 Louisiana State Duck Calling Champion. Green went on to take 2nd runnerup in the World Duck Calling Contest.

Green, II of New Iberia maintained his early lead and eased away from an outstanding field of 20 callers Sunday to win the 2004 State Duck Calling Championship. The Senior Duck Calling Competition was the premier event at the 36th Annual State Duck and Goose Calling Contest hosted by the Gueydan Duck Festival Association and conducted under the auspices of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. This was the first time for Gueydan, the "Duck Capitol of America," to host the contest which traditionally has been held in Baton Rouge.

The victory was especially satisfying to Green who had finished second in last year's state competition. This time, persistence and practice paid off as Green outscored the competition in each round. Green went on to represent Louisiana in the World Duck Calling Contest on Nov. 28 in Stuttgart, Arkansas where he finished 3rd.

Shannon Housend of Des Allemands

took 2nd place in the state contest followed by Jason Campbell of Iowa, LA in 3rd. Housend had finished 3rd in last year's contest. Only a few points separated the top scorers.

In the Intermediate (14-16 years of age) duck calling division, Ryan Champagne of Luling placed 1st followed by Bobby Jorden of Lafayette. Charles "Slade" Norfleet of Luling repeated as the Junior Division (under 14) champ. Second place in the Junior Division went to Matthew Laprairie of Deville (3rd in last year's contest) and Bo Bourque of Gueydan took 3rd. Laprairie competed in the Junior World Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart where he came in second place.

In the goose calling competition, James Meyers of Sulphur repeated as champ in the Senior Division of the Blue/Snow category followed by Cody Vincent of Gueydan in 2nd place and Joe Dantin of Raceland in 3rd. The Junior Blue/Snow division was won by Hunter Canik of Grand Chenier. Ryan

field of 17 specklebelly callers to take 1st place in the Senior Division. He was followed by Scotty LePrete of Gueydan in 2nd and Tom Fulkerson of Kaplan in 3rd. The Junior speck competition was won by Ian Woods of Jennings with Chris Daniels of Lake Charles taking 2nd place and Casey Bertrand of Gueydan taking 3rd.

Thanks to the following sponsors and donors for supporting the contest with their products, services and financial contributions: Academy Sports and Outdoors; Angelle Concrete, Inc.; Agri Sport Coating; Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League; BellSouth; Budweiser; Enterprise Rent-a-Car; Farm Bureau Insurance; GO-DEVIL Manufacturers of Louisiana, Inc.; Gueydan Duck Festival Association; Lipsey's, Inc.; Richard Louque; Louisiana Wildlife Federation; Paradise Louisiana; Toyota; Trade Winds Blinds.



State Senator Nick Gautreaux keeps track of the scoring on his laptop at the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest.

Godare of Sulphur took 2nd place followed by Laikin Canik, also of GrandChenier, in 3rd. Laikin was the only female caller entered in any of the competitions.

Nathan Lopez of Lake Arthur bested the

Fisheries Issues, Cooperation the Focus of Special Legislative Committee

On January 10th the Joint Natural Resources Committee of the Louisiana Legislature met to review recommendations from 16 commercial and recreational fishing and seafood industry groups. The committee was holding its second meeting pursuant to SCR 107 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The groups providing recommendations were requested to identify priority issues that could be worked on cooperatively with other fishery users and user groups.

SCR 107 was introduced by Senator Walter Boasso, a freshman legislator and businessman from St. Bernard Parish. He had become frustrated by what he observed as an unnecessary, unproductive

conflict between recreational and commercial fishing groups down at the state capitol. So he introduced SCR 107 in an attempt to promote cooperation and to get the most out of Louisiana's public fishery resources for everyone. Although many of the veteran legislators on the joint committee have been down this road before, they were cautiously hopeful as they listened to the testimony.

At the meeting, Senator Boasso had several questions of his own which he directed mostly to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. They pertained to getting information about the various fisheries that will be necessary to formulate concepts and recommendations for improved or alternative management. Things like harvest records, number of commercial and recreational resident and nonresident licenses sold, fees generated from the licenses, etc. will be provided to the committee by the department. He also tossed out a few issues and ideas like extending state jurisdiction for fisheries management from 3 to 9 miles offshore; controlling black drum populations to reduce predation on oysters; identifying underutilized species that could be harvested and sold for crawfish bait; a commercial red-



fish hook and line fishery restricted by conservation quota with limited entry to certified commercial fishermen; increasing funding for enforcement of fishery laws; limiting the number of "sow" speckled trout that can be taken within the overall creel limit; restricting the use of trawls and skimmers in shallow water nursery areas; and resolving the issue of access to public waters for fishing and navigation, among others. This last issue was also emphasized at the meeting by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and shrimping industry groups.

Some of the other recommendations offered by the advisory organizations that demonstrate a common interest and desire to cooperate included establishing new sources of funding for fisheries

law enforcement and management (Allocation of the state tax on fuel sold at marina's was suggested by the Louisiana Charterboat Association.); restoring and conserving fish and fishing habitat; respectful behavior on the water and reporting violations; establishing a process/forum for discussing fisheries issues and legislation among user groups prior to consideration by the Legislature; continuing the derelict crab trap removal program; fair and equal application of fisheries law enforcement; and protecting marine resources from the impacts of liquefied natural gas processing facilities proposed for offshore and coastal waters.

Senator Boasso recommended that subgroups be formed to examine the concepts and recommendations identified at the meeting and Senator Malone, serving as chairman of the joint committee, summed up the sentiment of all stating that the committee's number one priority is to make sure that enough fish, shrimp, oysters and crab are available for future generations. The committee will continue to examine the issues and make a final report early next year.

Sponsor Members

First-time \$100 or greater LWF Contributing members are entitled to receive a sponsor plaque for their home or office. We extend our grateful appreciation to the following Sponsor Members of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Their support and that of all our loyal members is directly responsible for the Federation's growth and success.



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LWF ANNOUNCES 41ST CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is now accepting nominations for the 41st annual Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards. The awards program seeks to recognize those individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant and outstanding contributions toward the protection and wise use of the state's natural resources — its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

There are 8 award categories for which nominations can be made. The *deadline* for submitting nominations is *February 8, 2005*. Self-nominations are completely acceptable. Further, in nearly all cases it is necessary to enlist the cooperation of the nominee in order to provide the judging committee with adequate supporting information. So please do not feel awkward about nominating yourself or providing background material for someone who may wish to nominate you for one of these awards. We urge you to bring your accomplishments or those of others to the public's attention through this program.

Awards will be presented at a special Saturday evening recognition banquet to be held in conjunction with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's 66th annual convention, March 5, 2005, at the Holiday Inn in Monroe, Louisiana.

A nomination form, explanation of the award categories, rules, procedures and other details of the program follow.

Award Categories

Nominations will be accepted for the following categories. Winners may not be named in every category. Recognition will be based primarily on accomplishments during 2004. Immediate past winners are not eligible to succeed themselves in the same category of accomplishment for which they were recognized the previous year.

1 - PROFESSIONAL

For outstanding accomplishments during the year by a person who, in a professional capacity, has made a significant con-



Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

With the knowledge and understanding that conservation, wise management and use of our State's natural resources is essential to the health, happiness, welfare, and economic well-being of Louisiana's citizens; and with the belief that proper recognition of conservation efforts promotes wise resource management and use.

I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of Louisiana, do hereby endorse the concept of the Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards Program as conducted annually under the auspices of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor

tribution to the management, enhancement, or protection of Louisiana's fish, wildlife, air, water, soil or forest resources, or related recreational opportunities. (For the purpose of this category a Professional is a person who receives monetary compensation for the work that has resulted in the accomplishments for which she/he has been nominated. This includes, but is not limited to, persons employed in renewable natural resource management or recreation fields including biologists, enforcement officers, wildlife managers, administrators,

scientists, researchers, etc.)

2 - VOLUNTEER

For outstanding accomplishments during the year in the management, enhancement, or protection of Louisiana's fish, wildlife, air, water, soil or forest resources, or related recreational opportunities by a person acting in a volunteer capacity.

3 - YOUTH

For outstanding conservation effort by a youngster (18 years old and younger). Youth groups are also eligible in this category. The winner should have demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership, and accomplishment in any phase of conservation, either individually or as a group.

4 - BUSINESS/CORPORATE

For outstanding achievement by a business in pollution control, habitat conservation/restoration, donating lands for wildlife conservation and public recreation, etc. (This category is to honor a company, not an individual person. It covers a wide variety of possible achievements. Submit an entry and let the judges consider the nomination.)

5 - EDUCATOR

For outstanding effort in conservation education by a professional or volunteer. Instructors of hunter safety and outdoor ethics are eligible in this category as are teachers of the natural sciences, fish and wildlife management, environmental design and management, various aspects of environmental education, etc. Emphasis should be on teaching and working with students or the public rather than research or administration.

6 - ELECTED OFFICIAL

For outstanding conservation effort by an elected official. All Louisiana elected officials are eligible in this category.

7 - COMMUNICATIONS

For outstanding effort by a writer, reporter, radio or T.V. broadcaster, photographer, artist, cartoonist, radio or T.V. station, or newspaper or other publication in creating a public awareness of the importance of environmental quality and natural resource conservation or making a significant contribution toward the solution of a major conservation problem in the state.

8 - ORGANIZATION

For outstanding contribution to the conservation effort by a state or local organization. Bona fide organizations including but not limited to civic organizations, environmental groups, sportsmen's clubs, environmental groups, garden clubs, etc., are eligible. Nominees should have taken action and developed programs to address significant natural resource management and environmental quality challenges. In special cases where state, federal or local agencies or institutions have accomplished extraordinary work above and beyond their normal responsibilities, such organizations will be given consideration for this award.

Program Rules and Procedures

1. The Forty-first State Conservation Achievement Recognition Program awards shall be restricted to achievement completed prior to December 31, 2004.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD

For the outstanding over-all conservation effort and achievement. The Governor's Award recipient is selected by the judging committee from among the award category winners. Nominations are not accepted for this award.

Nominations will be evaluated based on efforts and accomplishments in the immediate past year. Prior records may be considered but this will be left up to the judges.

2. Nominations for the Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards must be hand-delivered or sent by mail or other delivery service (return receipt requested) to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239 (street address: 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806), and be post-marked on or before midnight February 8, 2005.

3. The Conservation Achievement Awards will be presented at the annual Recognition Banquet held during the 66th Annual Louisiana Wildlife Federation Convention, Saturday, March 5, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Monroe, Louisiana.

4. Please specify on the Nomination Form the category for which the nomination is made. No nomination will be

accepted for the Governor's Award. Attach the Nomination Form to the nominee's resume' of achievements. The resume' should be a narrative description of the nominee's accomplishments and include an explanation of their significance or impact, that is, why the nominee's accomplishments are important and worthy of recognition. The resume' should not exceed 3 single-spaced typed pages. Information such as past recognition, organization memberships, etc. may be appended to the resume'. Documentation of accomplishments such as newspaper clippings, correspondences, etc. should be included as a supplement to the resume'. If a nomination is submitted for more than one category, a separate nomination form and complete resume' must be submitted for each category entered.

5. If possible, please include a photograph of the nominee with the nomination, or mail:to lwf@lawildfed.org Nominations without photos are acceptable, however, and submission should not be delayed. A photo can be forwarded at a later date.

6. All rules must be strictly adhered to. Nominations which do not meet all standards and criteria will be returned to sender to be resubmitted with appropriate additions/modifications. Program judges may declare any nomination ineligible if proper documentation and supportive materials are not included. The decision of the judging committee will be final.

NOMINATION FORM



Date: _____

Full Name of Nominee: _____ Category #: _____

Address: _____

Recommended By: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Signed By _____

Email address _____ Title (if any): _____

Reply to: LWF • P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station • Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239
337 South Acadian Thruway • Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Conservation Line:Continued from page 13

al take of the turtles to one-per-day per boat or vehicle. The alligator snapper, America's largest freshwater turtle, was once processed by the thousands each year in Louisiana, ending up in turtle soups and gumbos. That market had waned during the 1980s, but biologists were still concerned that populations of the turtle and its habitat were diminished to the extent that additional protection was necessary. In response, LDWF placed commercial size and recreational take limits on the turtles in 1993. To determine population levels, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funded a five-year study in which two Louisiana trappers caught, tagged and released nearly 550 alligator snappers. Those results, as well as numbers trapped in other states, satisfied the Fish and Wildlife Service that the turtles did not require Federal regulation. Even so, by 1998 Louisiana was the only state that allowed commercial harvest of alligator snapping turtles. Spurred by Senator Robert Barham of Rayville, the Louisiana Legislature adopted a resolution requesting that a moratorium be called on the commercial harvest of this species. As of November 20, alligator snapper cannot be taken from the wild for commerce, and the sale of the turtles, their meat, shells and other parts are prohibited. However, licensed turtle farmers will still be allowed to sell alligator snappers that hatch from their breeding stock, and Louisiana residents can still satisfy their culinary desires and traditions by doing their own trapping.

* * * * *

Bobwhite Restoration Gets Boost

Seventy-five years ago, Herbert Stoddard, the acknowledged "father of quail management," advised in his classic 1931 book, *The Bobwhite Quail; Its Habits, Preservation and Increase*, that row crop cultivation "should be held back a few rods, for such border cover furnishes one of the most favored feeding grounds of the bobwhites...." Bobwhite managers have sought, unsuccessfully ever since, to establish cropland field borders on a sufficiently large scale to make a difference for quail populations. The US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has taken the historic

step to establish field borders for bobwhites on an unprecedented scale with the creation of a new 250,000-acre field border practice, "Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (CP33)," in the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). CCRP, a streamlined variant of the Conservation Reserve Program, is designed to place a variety of



buffer practices on working cropland, to enable mutual accommodation of cropping and conservation. A notable feature of the CCRP is its continuous signup process, whereby producers with eligible land can apply any working day of the year and be accepted immediately, instead of having to wait for periodic competitive signups. Most CCRP practices are focused on sediment retention and water quality improvement, not wildlife enhancement. But CP33 is designed and intended as a wildlife practice. The Southeast Quail Study Group (SEQSG) and other conservation organizations first proposed a CCRP field borders practice to FSA in 1996, but it was not accepted. In 2002 the SEQSG later published the first nationwide quail restoration plan, the "Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative" (NBCI), which aims to restore the birds' populations back to 1980 levels. See <http://qu.org/seqsg/nbci/nbci.cfm> for a copy of the plan. Congress subsequently issued guidance in the 2002 Farm Bill for the Secretary of Agriculture to accommodate habitat needs of quail, per the NBCI. According to FSA's "Notice CRP-479," the CP33 acreage, which equals 62,500 miles of 33 foot-wide borders, has been allocated by FSA among the 35 states in historic quail range. Each state gets an initial allotment of from 500 to 20,000 acres. According to the NBCI, the practice could produce as many as 750,000 additional quail per year. The borders can be from 30 to 120 feet wide, and must be established to and managed for veg-

etation best suited for the targeted species. To learn more about the program or to enroll contact mailto:fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov

* * * * *

Wood Duck Banders Recognized

The Region 6 staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been recognized for its efforts in banding wood ducks. Robert Helm, LDWF waterfowl study leader, presented wildlife biologist Pat Deshotels with the annual trophy acknowledging that Region 6 had banded more wood ducks than any other of the state's seven regions. Region 6, which includes the Atchafalaya Basin northward to Avoyelles Parish, and is headquartered in Opelousas, banded almost 600 wood ducks. Just over half of those bands were placed on wood ducks caught with cannon nets and the remainder were hens captured in department nesting boxes. The department's total was 1,600 banded wood ducks, which is double that of 2003, and Region 6 banded almost 40 percent of that total. Helm stated that the purpose of this annual award is to show appreciation for the hard work of the banding crew in the winning region and to help promote the program. Banding provides essential information used to calculate the population status and distribution patterns of this native waterfowl species. Due to their use of wooded swamps and sloughs, wood duck populations are very difficult to monitor using traditional survey techniques, making banding the most important management tool.

* * * * *

Michaelsen Wins '05 State Duck Stamp Competition

Ken Michaelsen, a well-known wildlife artist from the state of California, was selected as winner of the 17th Annual Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Competition sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Runners-up were Michael Braun from New Jersey with the second place entry and Tony Bernard of Lafayette who placed third. Michaelsen's painting was chosen from a field of 15 artists to appear on the 2005-2006 state Waterfowl Conservation

Stamp (Duck Stamp). The winning image depicts a black Labrador retriever in a marsh-hunting scene with pintails in the background. The department initiated a "Retrievers Save Game" series this year that featured the black lab. Competition requirements specified that entries had to also include a discernable species of live waterfowl. A second retriever will be chosen for the duck stamp contest next year. Judges for the 2005 Louisiana Duck Stamp contest included Dr. Headley Adelman, biology professor and artist from Hammond, Bimbo West, Leesville dog trainer/contractor and current state Ducks Unlimited chairman, Bob Kennon retired Baton Rouge attorney and lifelong Labrador trainer/judge, Charles Frank, New Orleans artist/author and Dale Pousson, the winner of the 2003 Louisiana duck stamp competition. Prints will be available from the artist in the summer. The 17th anniversary 2005 - 2006 stamp, featuring Michaelsen's work, is expected to go on sale on June 1, 2005. The Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was established in 1988 by the Louisiana Legislature to generate revenue for conservation and enhancement of state wetlands and has generated over \$8.5 million since its inception. Approximately \$4.5 million has been used to acquire wetlands for the department's wildlife management areas. Other duck stamp funds have also been used to manage wetland projects on the state's Wildlife Management Areas and to fund the Louisiana Wetland Project in association with Ducks Unlimited and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

* * * * *

Grand Isle Fine Arts Exhibition

The 3rd annual Grand Isle juried art competition is open for entries. The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2005. The Exhibition will be held at the Grand Isle Community Center on Highway One, April 9-17, 2005 and is sponsored by Team City Grand Isle, a not for profit organization, along with the Grand Isle Port Commission and the Town of Grand Isle. The 8th Annual Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration also is held during that same week. The goals of the Exhibition are to raise awareness of coastal erosion through

the artist's eye and to encourage preservation of images of this island culture and its disappearing habitat for future generations. The awards reception will be held April 17, 2005 featuring the presentation of Best of Show (\$1000) and three Awards of Excellence (\$500 each). Two new fine arts categories have been added this year: Installation Art and Video. More information is available at <http://www.grandisleport.com>.

* * * * *

DMAP / LADT Violations Cited

Two hunters were recently cited in separate cases by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division Sgt. David McAlpin for allegedly violating DMAP and LADT regulations in Natchitoches Parish. James E. Sturm, 28, of Leesville, was cited on October 23 after Sgt. McAlpin found him to be in possession of an untagged button buck that had been killed on Po' Folks Hunting Club. The hunting club's land is enrolled in the Landowner Antlerless Deer Tag (LADT) program. Sturm was cited for possession of an illegally taken deer and failure to abide by commission rules. He was also issued a civil summons to pay \$524.50 in restitution to LDWF for the deer. The hunting club was dropped from the LADT program, and the antlerless tags issued to them were seized. The deer was also seized and later donated. Halstead B. Ayrton III, 44, of DeRidder, was cited on October 25 after Sgt. McAlpin found him in possession of an untagged doe deer that had been killed on Cypress Hunting Club, which is enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Sgt. McAlpin also found that the deer had been shot with a .308 caliber rifle, when the only legal method to hunt deer in this area at this time was by archery or muzzleloader. Ayrton was cited for taking deer by illegal method, possession of an illegally taken deer, and failure to abide by commission rules. He was also issued a civil summons to pay \$524.50 in restitution to LDWF for the deer. The hunting club was dropped from the DMAP program and the antlerless tags issued to them were seized, pending an administrative hearing by LDWF to determine continued DMAP participation by the remaining club members. The deer was also seized and later donated.

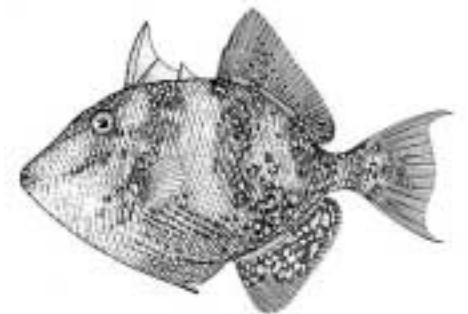
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LOWA Makes 2 More Species Eligible For Fish Records

The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association has added two species to the list of fish eligible for the state record book. Starting in January of 2005 the Louisiana State Fish Records will accept applications for both gray triggerfish (*Balistes capricus*)



and smallmouth buffalo (*Ictiobus bubalis*). Smallmouth buffalo, is a first cousin to the bigmouth buffalo and is frequently targeted by freshwater anglers for its sweet, although



"boney" white, meat. Known by many as a "razorback" due to its highly arched back, this spunky fish ranks with its cousin and many catfish species as freshwater big game fish. The gray triggerfish, is becoming more and more popular with snapper/grouper fisherman and is frequently a targeted species by these offshore anglers. Weighing up to 10 pounds, the gray triggerfish is excellent table fare and a challenge on light tackle. The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association has been the official custodian of the Louisiana State Fish Records since the

Continued on page 23

of some maintenance and improvements which we were able to accomplish this past summer. Thanks to the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League, Georgia Pacific and other donors for supporting this much needed project. Another accomplishment not mentioned in the report is the recruitment or reinstatement of over 500 new members. Many of their names are listed elsewhere in this magazine. Thank you for your confidence in the LWF and I welcome your participation.

Even with the successes, significant challenges in the conservation and outdoor recreation arena remain. One of the important issues facing us in the coming year is the fair resolution of the controversy regarding public access to coastal waters. This is a dicey debate with strong feelings held on both sides. Last year the Legislature showed a strong interest in working on the problem and took some modest steps, but more effort must be applied. It is a priority issue for the LWF and our Fisheries Policy and Management Committee, chaired by Keith Saucier. Anyone wanting to get involved should contact the LWF and volunteer to work with the committee.

The acquisition and reopening of Elmer's Island on the Louisiana coast, reducing mercury contamination in fish, developing the state's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, establishing a sound state policy on reservoir development, restoring the coast, and preserving our waterfowling heritage are other ongoing challenges that LWF will be working on this year, along with any new direction given by the resolutions that will be adopted at our upcoming convention. Speaking of convention, the LWF's 66th Annual Meeting will be held in Monroe on March 4-6, 2005. Please make plans to attend. Our host affiliate is the Friends of Black Bayou. For more information about the convention, contact the LWF office via phone or email.

Another important way you can contribute to the conservation effort is by nominating some outstanding individual, business or organization for a conservation award. A nomination form and details of the awards program are included in this magazine, or you can visit the LWF website for a nomination form. The awards will be presented on Saturday evening at the LWF convention. Awards Program Chairman Joe Herring is doing a great job encouraging the

submission of nominations and I want to thank Governor Blanco for renewing the tradition of the Governor's endorsement of the program. Submitting nominations is a great way to recognize and encourage conservation efforts in our state.

Before closing, I want to welcome our newest affiliate, Hunters for Hardwoods, and their president Glenn Maxwell. I look forward to their participation.

2004 was a good year for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and I hope it was as stellar a year for each and every one of you. I hope that 2005 can only be better for all of us and I want to wish everyone the best for a great start to the new year ahead. I am hoping to see many of you as you get more involved in the Federation and its work. This can be as simple as joining one of our committees, attending our annual meeting, or getting involved down at the legislature by contacting your legislator concerning an outdoor issue you deem important. The gratification of knowing that you have done something to protect wildlife and wild places will be most satisfying and will be part of a unique legacy of stewardship that you can leave behind for future generations. While many of us may not be able to leave vast fortunes to our children and grandchildren, we can insure that the places that they work, live, and play will remain at least as good as we found them if not better. An inheritance no ancestor could or would turn down. So, until next time, keep her between the buoys and enjoy what's left of wintertime here in the sportsman's paradise.

Yours in conservation,

E. R. "Smitty" Smith, III
President

LWF 2004 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LWF sponsored and conducted the 40th State Conservation Achievement Recognition Program, awarding 9 individuals and organizations for outstanding conservation work.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation held its 65th Annual Convention to develop policy/positions on important natural resource management and environmental protection issues. Convention delegates debated and adopted twenty-seven conservation policy resolutions. The convention program included two panel discussions — "Where the Ducks Were" and "Public Access

to Coastal Waters" which were attended by overflowing crowds and acclaimed as interesting, informative and steps toward understanding and addressing these two extremely important concerns of hunters and fishers and boaters.

The "Declaration of Rights" in the Louisiana Constitution now guarantees every Louisiana citizen the "Freedom to Hunt, Fish and Trap." LWF succeeded in its 3-year effort to place a proposition on the ballot, and, after presenting a strong defense against opponents and naysayers, was gratified when Louisiana voters agreed, by an 81% landslide, that this important part of Louisiana's heritage should be protected.

LWF continued to oppose the management of state wildlife lands, the White Lake Property, by a private corporation with no accountability to the public or opportunity for public participation in management decisions that is rightfully and normally afforded to the public when decisions are made concerning the management and use of state conservation lands. The Federation joined a lawsuit contesting this arrangement and in 2004 was successful in getting legislation adopted, with the support of Governor Blanco, to restructure the management for the property. A favorable appeals court ruling has given impetus to negotiations that should lead to a satisfactory resolution of the issue in early 2005.

LWF, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Forestry Association, won a \$5,000 grant from the National Wildlife Federation's Species Recovery Fund to demonstrate the placement of red-cockaded woodpecker nesting cavity inserts to forest managers and owners as a means of encouraging and enhancing RCW colony development on their property. The inserts can be used by landowners as tools in establishing "Safe Harbor Agreements" with the US Fish & Wildlife Service that provide for conservation of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker while allowing a landowner leeway in managing property without violating the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

LWF renewed its call for the reduction of discharges and emissions of mercury into the environment in the wake of additional advisories against consuming fish that are being contaminated with mercury and won the support of the Legislature for a resolution requesting similar mercury reductions.

LWF successfully advocated acceleration of the development of the Statewide

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan as required by the State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG). SWG is a federal matching fund program that supports planning and management efforts for species that are not hunted or fished and provides about \$1 million annually to LDWF. The planning for this 3-year-old program had languished, but with LWF's prodding and new LDWF leadership, more vigor is being applied toward developing a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan by the October 2005 target date.

The LWF continued its campaign for state acquisition of Elmer's Island to preserve and reopen it for the traditional, compatible public uses of fishing, camping and birding that have endeared generations of beachcombers to its shores. Elmer's Island is a barrier beachfront located across Caminada Pass from Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish. It has been closed to the public for more than 3 years. Through LWF's efforts, funding was made available to acquire and operate Elmer's Island in the 2004 Capital Outlay Budget, however, ownership and appraisal issues have conspired to complicate the acquisition process. The results of a user survey and economic study released by the LSU AgCenter last year confirmed the strong public interest in acquiring and reopening Elmer's Island and the substantial economic impact associated with doing so. A conservative assessment of the survey results indicates that the cost of staffing and maintaining the area could easily be supported by the projected admission fees. Despite the fact that buying Elmer's Island is a good business deal for the state, legal constraints on the amount of money the state can offer for the property, and the apparent reluctance of the owner to negotiate, have delayed the acquisition. LWF is firmly resolved to continue this campaign to fruition.

Following up on the momentum from its annual meeting, LWF succeeded in getting the Legislature to support the work of the State Land Office in accelerating efforts to identify state waterbottoms the public has the right to access for fishing and boating by appropriating funds for the work and requesting expedited effort. At LWF's urging, the Legislature also encouraged the Governor to take steps to ensure that the public is not being prevented from utilizing state lands and waters. Although other strategic legislation to address the issue failed to pass, legislators got a healthy exposure to the problem and indicated a sincere desire to fairly resolve it in the future. LWF will press

the issue until it is resolved to the benefit of the citizens and natural resources of the state.

LWF brought to the attention of the Governor, legislators and the public the proliferation of reservoir funding proposals in the state's capital outlay budget, most of which would adversely and irreversibly impact fish and wildlife habitat, and urged that they be thoroughly evaluated and prioritized within the context of the state's ground and surface water supply needs before any additional state funds are allocated for land acquisition, detailed engineering and other pre-project work that tends to commit the state's support, even though the projects are damaging to the ecosystem and poor investments of scarce taxpayer dollars. We will continue this campaign until an acceptable evaluation and prioritization process for reservoir development is established.

LWF's Deer Management Committee responded to proposals and actions by the Louisiana Legislature and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Through the committee's guidance, LWF was able to salvage legislation authorizing the LWFC to develop a tagging system for harvesting deer and turkeys. In response to LWFC action that made significant changes to hunting season rules at the same meeting the rules were finally adopted, LWF proposed that the LWFC establish a policy against adopting rules at the same meeting major changes to those rules are adopted and to strive to set the dates for the hunting seasons at least 6 months in advance of the opening of the season. Defending the equitable allocation of the deer resource, LWF objected to an LWFC proposal to allow individuals hunting on private land the opportunity to harvest more than the season limit of deer. The LWF conducted a survey of hunters concerning some of these issues and will provide the results to the LWFC in 2005.

The LWF Waterfowl Committee challenged the practice of hunting waterfowl over artificially-flooded, unharvested crops based on the principle of fair chase and the potential adverse impacts the practice may have on waterfowl and waterfowling traditions, including the distribution of birds in the flyway. Early responses from hunters indicate considerable support for prohibiting this practice, but a significant number of hunters support it and the bureaucracy has shown no interest to date in examining the issue. It will take strategic prodding to get a fair hearing on this issue. This committee is

also investigating approaches to improve the duck hunting experience in the face of apparent changes to the habitat and historic migration and movement patterns, including strategies to reduce hunting pressure and improve winter habitat.

LWF was instrumental in assisting the formation of the Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus that will be helpful in guarding sportsmen's rights and promoting conservation within the state legislature.

With continued LWF involvement and support, the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program moved forward with projects and plans to enhance recreational opportunities and improve water quality through water management. LWF weighed in with its support for implementing the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit, a pilot project to improve the water quality in the basin and established an ad hoc committee to coordinate LWF's involvement in the Atchafalaya Basin Program and provide additional support and guidance to the program. The Federation also continues to play an important supporting role in garnering national attention and support for stemming the loss of the Mississippi River Coastal Delta through its work with the America's WETLAND Campaign and the National Wildlife Federation. The LWF's Louisiana Coastal Area Study Committee reviewed and commented on the LCA near term plan prior to adoption of the final report. The LWF was also able to get the Louisiana Legislature to support a recommendation to establish a "Coastal Forest Reserve Program" to provide landowner incentives to preserve cypress swamps and other forested habitats that contribute significantly to the stability of coast lands.

In addition to those already mentioned in this report, LWF successfully supported several important pieces of legislation including: revision of law pertaining to the reservation of mineral rights in conservation land donations to ensure that the conservation purposes of the donation are sustained by subsequent surface owners; ensuring that regulation of aquaculture adequately protects native species and habitats from escape and invasion of non-native species; review of enforcement powers of LDWF employees; a prohibition on the feeding of bears; establishing an aquatic invasive species task force; increasing the funding for the restoration of abandoned oilfield sites; addition of streams in southwest Louisiana to the Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

LWF presented a backyard habitat dis-

play and educational materials at the annual Baton Rouge Earth Day celebration; exhibited at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event in Baton Rouge, the National Wildlife Refuge celebration at Black Bayou Lake NWR in Monroe, New Orleans City Park Fishing Rodeo, and other venues distributing National Wildlife Week posters and other conservation education material.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation held the 36th Annual State Duck and Goose Calling Contest in conjunction with the Gueydan Duck Festival. Duck calling contest winners in the senior and youth divisions went on to take 3rd and 2nd places, respectively, in the World Duck Calling Championships in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Local and other statewide organizations affiliated with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation conducted various activities such as organizing youth fishing events, hunter education classes, litter pick-ups, wood duck and bluebird nest box building and placement projects, etc.

LWF monitored legislative proposals concerning natural resources conservation and environmental quality and provided representation before the Louisiana Legislature and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. LWF reports on the status of legislation to its members and the outdoor media in an effort to keep the public apprized of legislation that can impact the natural resources, environment and recreational opportunities in the state, and publishes the report on its website, www.lawildlifefed.org.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation was represented on numerous panels, task forces and committees pertaining to natural resources conservation and the quality of the environment including the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission, Groundwater Management Advisory Task Force, Atchafalaya Basin Program Advisory Committee and additional ABP working subcommittees, Habitat Advisory Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, Management Conference of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Louisiana Pesticide Advisory Commission, Louisiana Invasive Species Task Force, America's Wetland Foundation, Abandoned Crab Trap Cleanup Program Committee, Governor-elect's Transition Panel on Wildlife and Fisheries, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, among others.

New Future For White Lake

On the heels of legislation (Act 613 of the 2004 Regular Session) directing transfer of management of the White Lake Property to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), an agreement has been negotiated between the state, BP America Production Company and White Lake Preservation, Inc. (WLPI) to complete that transition by July of this year. A LDWF press release issued on January 10th announced that transfer of control of the 71,000 wildlife preserve and all facilities on the property has begun. The agreement allows WLPI to complete fundraiser hunts through the current hunting season, and WLPI's three full-time property managers will have the option to maintain their positions as LDWF employees. BP retains its mineral rights on the property.

According to LDWF, habitat assessment will begin following the current hunting season with staff biologists assessing site resources and gathering data to formulate the department's management plan. Due to the unique features of the preserve, public access to the property will be determined only after staff assessment is complete and the White Lake Property Advisory Board, established by Act 613, has reviewed staff recommendations. Nominations to the advisory board are now under review by the Governor, who will make the appointments.

The "Reserve," as it's known locally, is in Vermilion Parish near Gueydan, Duck Capitol of America and new home to the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest. Its relatively pristine freshwater marsh is a magnet for wintering waterfowl and for many other species throughout the year. It also includes a slice of White Lake waterbottom and about 16,000 acres of agriculture, mostly rice. It was managed for years by owner Amoco Corporation as an exclusive hunting retreat. Pumps and water control structures help maintain the property's prime marshland.

When British Petroleum bought Amoco a few years ago, the "Reserve" didn't fit well with the new owners' priorities and discussions began on how best to dispose of the property.

Perhaps the "greenest" of the world's largest energy companies, BP wanted to

do something good for the environment and wildlife and was contemplating the possibility of donating the property to one or more of the major national habitat conservation organizations. But ultimately a deal was made with the state and the donation was announced in July of 2002. The state would own the property, but it would be managed by a private corporation controlled by Governor Mike Foster and some of his friends. Normally, state conservation lands are managed by a state agency like LDWF.

When this peculiar management arrangement was questioned by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and alternatives suggested, the LWF was dismissed. "They have no legitimacy," retorted the Governor when a reporter asked him about LWF's concerns.

State Senator Joe McPherson also questioned the deal, as did the state's major newspapers. Rebuffed by the Governor, too, McPherson filed a lawsuit challenging various provisions of the donation agreement on both statutory and constitutional grounds. The LWF filed to join the lawsuit. Subsequently, McPherson introduced legislation directing that the management of the property be transferred to the LDWF. On the second attempt, with the support of Governor Blanco, the legislation was adopted by a wide margin.

In consideration of the legally binding agreement that transfers the management of the White Lake Property to the state, the lawsuit has been settled and dismissed. According to LWF Executive Director Randy Lanctot, "Essentially all our concerns have been addressed by the new agreement and we are gratified that we can now focus on mustering sufficient resources to properly manage the property and on developing and implementing a management plan that fulfills the conservation, education and recreation purposes of the donation."

The following background information further describes the requirements of the Act of Donation of the White Lake Property, the provisions of Act 613 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and the guidelines and responsibilities for the White Lake Property Advisory Board.

Conservation Line: Continued from page 19

The White Lake Property has been historically managed as a waterfowl and wildlife refuge and hunting preserve with water control structures and pumps to maintain the freshwater marsh, and agriculture leases on 16,000 acres farmed primarily for rice. Some of the agriculture leases are subleased for private hunting. Since the donation, some public waterfowl hunting has been allowed via lottery hunts and high-dollar fundraising hunts have also been provided.

The act of donation (donation) of the property to the State requires that the property be conserved and protected in perpetuity as a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife or plants, or similar ecosystem. It further requires that the state prevent any use of the property that will significantly impair or interfere with the conservation values of the property, its wildlife habitat, natural resources or associated ecosystem. The donation also reserves the mineral interest in the property and the right to access the property and to maintain the mineral production on the property to the donor, including priority use of facilities on the property as required to conduct energy development operations. The donation requires the State to honor existing servitudes and leases on the property. It requires the State to maintain the quality and extent of marshlands on the property to the extent that is possible. It also requires the state to make a reasonable effort to maintain and preserve the agricultural character of that portion of the property that is currently in agriculture, particularly rice culture, because of the benefits to waterfowl and the larger ecosystem and to require the agriculture lessees to maintain canals, ditches, levees, roads and other structures needed to maintain agriculture production, as long as there are lessees willing to perform the agricultural operations on commercially reasonable terms. The donation prohibits commercial hunting on the property except to the extent provided for in existing leases and requires that any such leases be modified to prohibit commercial hunting if and when the leases are renewed. With the exception of harvesting alligators and controlling pest animals, the donation limits the discharge of shotgun to not less than 200 yards and rifles to not less than 1,000 yards from any present or future structure on the property, including mineral production facilities.

Act 613 of the 2004 Regular Session

of the Louisiana Legislature authorizes the establishment of the White Lake Property Advisory Board (Board) whose members are appointed by the Governor, subject to approval of the Senate. Organizations/entities designated to make nominations for consideration of the Governor include: Ducks Unlimited; Delta Waterfowl; Louisiana Nature Conservancy; Louisiana Wildlife Federation; Louisiana Ornithological Society; Sierra Club (Delta Chapter). Other nominees are to come from LSU, Southern and the UL System; Vermilion Parish, BP, the Louisiana House and Senate and White Lake Preservation, Inc. Up to 13 members will be appointed. Three members of the Board must be residents of Vermilion Parish and 7 members of the Board must have expertise in scientific disciplines pertinent to the conservation and management of the natural resources found on the White Lake Property. The members of the Board will serve without compensation and not be eligible to engage in the taking of fish or game resources or other recreational activities on the property at times and places when these activities are not also available to the general public. The Board will meet at least twice annually at times and places determined by the chairman. The duties of the Board are to advise the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regarding the administration, control, management and operation of the property consistent with the conservation purposes of the donation, including the development and implementation of a conservation management plan and the establishment and maintenance of a wetlands center for environmental research and education on the property. Duties further include advising the LDWF and LWFC regarding the protection of natural resources, preserving and promoting biological diversity, undertaking land and water management projects that enhance or restore natural wetland and upland habitats, and promoting environmental education and research. The board has a fiscal role in that it may solicit and accept gifts and donations to be used to operate and manage the property, and its recommendations will have weight with respect to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature for the operation of the property.

1950's. The complete records can be reviewed at the following web sites: <http://www.rodreel.com> (under Fish & Game Statistics), <http://www.louisianasportsman.com>, and <http://www.rodreel.com>. Record book applications can be downloaded from the <http://www.rodreel.com> site.

* * * * *

LSU Seeks Participants for Coastal Fishing Bait Survey

In an effort to strengthen Louisiana's saltwater bait industry, Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU Agricultural Center are conducting a study of the current status of bait species and the potential for further development of this industry in Louisiana. During the first phase of research, conducted last summer, Sea Grant agents interviewed numerous bait harvesters and retail bait dealers along the Louisiana coast. In Phase 2 of the study, coastal anglers and charter boat operators are being asked to participate in the study through an on-line survey. Information derived from this portion of the study will help to guide future research and extension programs related to the production and distribution of marine bait species and to enhance economic development in this vital component of the state's coastal recreation fishing industry. The results of this study, along with information concerning the industry's history, current regulations, and technological aspects will be published in the coming year. Coastal anglers and charter boat owners/operators who have access to the world-wide-web and 15-minutes to spare can take the survey on-line at:

<http://www.agecon-extension.lsu.edu/caffeyweb/bait.htm>
For additional information about the survey, contact Rex Caffey (225-578-2393) or Rusty Gaude (504-433-3664).

* * * * *

LDWF Names New Turkey Leader

Larry Savage, a 28-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, has been appointed to be the

turkey biologist in the LDWF Upland Game Section. Savage replaces Danny Timmer, who retired after 32 years with the department. Savage has been serving as the Deer Management Assistance Program coordinator since 1998. During this time, he initiated the DMAP newsletter, coordinated the harvest data reporting program conversion to a new data system and has coordinated the Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance program for the past two years. Savage began working with wild turkeys while doing his graduate work at LSU where he studied two turkey populations occupying bottomland hardwood habitat in Louisiana. He continued that interest as district biologist with the department, trapping and relocating turkeys and doing habitat and harvest management work.

* * * * *

LDWF's Capello Recognized as Outstanding Educator

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Educator Angela Capello was recently presented with the Outstanding Educator Award from the Southern Association of Marine Educators. The award was given to Capello at the SAME regional meeting on November 19 and 20. The organization is comprised of marine educators from Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida and is the southern chapter of the National Marine Educators Association. Capello works out of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery and was also named the 2003 Louisiana Science Teachers Association Informal Educator of the Year.

* * * * *

Native Planting Guide on eNature

Now is a great time to plant trees, shrubs and many perennials. But have you ever visited the garden center and wondered which plants were native and good for wildlife, and which ones were problematic invasive exotics? Check out:

http://enature.com/native_invasive/natives.asp to view the new field guide to native and invasive plants. Unlike other native/invasive guides, this guide focuses on plants that are commonly found at garden centers or in plant catalogs so it's relevant to the home

gardener. The plant guides are searchable by state and the native list can then be subdivided according to plant type (for example, evergreen shrubs, wildflowers, vines or aquatic plants). And, each plant has a color photo and a full field guide description as well. This guide is going to be an invaluable resource to anyone wanting to garden in an environmentally friendly way and is a much needed resource for those involved in habitat work.

* * * * *

Get Connected: Learn About Natural Gardening Online

There's no better time than the present to get started developing a wildlife-friendly habitat-and if you've an Internet connection, finding out how is just a few keystrokes away. NWF's tuition-free online learning program, Wildlife University™, offers interactive courses, downloadable study guides and presentations from noted experts. Its award-winning "Creating Places for Wildlife" series contains all the basics you'll need to begin attracting the wildlife you love to your yard, balcony, workplace or schoolyard. If you really want to get "back to school," you can pursue academic credit for your educational experiences from the College of the Humanities and Sciences, NWF's partner. This option provides you with the opportunity to work with a faculty member and mentor while you earn Continuing Education Credit, Experiential Learning Credit or Service Learning Credit for participating in and successfully completing the "Creating Places for Wildlife" series. For more information, contact the College of the Humanities and Sciences toll-free at 1-877-248-6724 or log on to the Wildlife University website:

<http://www.nwf.org/wildlifeuniversity>, click on "Earn Credit."

* * * * *

Marine and Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration Grants Available

The FishAmerica Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center announce the availability of up to \$600,000 for hands-on, grassroots projects across the coastal United States to restore marine, estuarine and ripar-

ian habitats, including salt marshes, mangrove forests, and freshwater habitats important to anadromous fish species. Community-based nonprofit organizations, such as local sporting clubs and conservation associations, as well as state and local agencies are encouraged to submit proposals. Projects must result in on-the-ground habitat restoration, clearly demonstrate significant benefits to marine, estuarine or anadromous fisheries resources, particularly sportfish, and must involve community participation through an educational or volunteer component tied to the restoration activities. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate the participation of NOAA staff to strengthen the development and implementation of sound restoration projects. Grant recipients will be contacted prior to receipt of the grant contract to discuss specifics of the contract, matching requirements and reimbursement. The FishAmerica Foundation must receive applications and required documentation no later than February 25, 2005 by 5:00 PM. Electronic and faxed applications will NOT be accepted. Proposals must be submitted to: FAF/NOAA RFP - Grant Applications; FishAmerica Foundation; 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420; Alexandria, Virginia 22314. For additional information contact Johanna Laderman at <mailto:JdeGroff@asafishing.org>

* * * * *

Boat U.S. Foundation Offers Clean Water Grants

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is seeking nonprofit groups to help educate mariners about good environmental habits with grants of up to \$4,000 for clean boating projects. Clean Water grants are designed to educate boaters on issues such as petroleum pollution prevention, pumpout education, and littering prevention. Although all clean boating education proposals will be considered, the 2005 "focus topic" is reducing the spread of aquatic nuisance species - with extra consideration given to proposals that address the issue. Last year's grant program received 62 proposals; of these, 19 projects in 15 states were selected for funding. To view previous grant projects, learn more about aquatic nuisance species, or download a 2005 application, please visit the Web at <http://www.BoatUS.com/Cleanwater/grants>

Applications must be e-mailed or post-marked by midnight February 1, 2005. The BoatU.S Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of 575,000 members of BoatU.S., the nation's largest recreational boat owners association. The Foundation has more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" clean fueling campaign, a free kid's Life Jacket Loaner program, and grants for nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects. For additional information contact: Joni Turken at 410-897-0514 or <mailto:JoniT@BoatUS.com>

* * * * *

A Guide to the Wetlands of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin

The Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences at UNO, in partnership with the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and NOAA, announces the publication of the second edition of A Guide to the Wetlands of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. This 46-page booklet is richly illustrated with color photographs and color maps, providing the reader with information for exploring the many wonderful wetland areas found around Lake Pontchartrain. The book gives an overview of the wetland habitats found in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin as well as some of the issues and challenges related to changes taking place in these habitats. The majority of the text is divided into four geographic regions: Western North Shore, South Shore, Eastern Marshes, and the Pearl River Basin. These regions are also graphically illustrated through the use of a series of Geographic Information Systems maps. A reference and resource section provides avenues of further research and can aid in the planning of field trips to sites in the book. For additional information contact Dinah Maygard at 504-280-6718 or <mailto:dmaygard@uno.edu>

* * * * *

LWFC Sets Recreational/Commercial

Red Snapper Seasons, Commercial King Mackerel Season

The recreational fishing season for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m. on April 21, 2005. The season will remain open until midnight October 31 to coincide with season dates in federal waters. The size limit for red snapper taken by recreational fishermen will be 16 inches minimum total length, with a daily bag limit



and possession limit of four fish per person. The first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on

February 1, 2005, and remain open until 12 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2005 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2005, and remain open until 12 noon on October 10. The pattern will also continue each month until the entire 2005 quota is harvested. The minimum size limit for commercially harvested red snapper is 15 inches total length. The commercial fishing season for king mackerel in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2005, and will remain open until the 2005 commercial quota for the western Gulf of Mexico is harvested or projected to be harvested. The Commission also authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change or modify opening and closing dates for both the commercial and recreational red snapper season and commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana waters to comply with changes or modifications in season dates in federal waters.

* * * * *

New LWFC Member Appointed

Frederic Miller attended his first meeting as a newly appointed member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on Tuesday, January 4.

Governor Kathleen Blanco named Miller to the board on December 23. He replaces Bill Busbice, who completed his term at the end of 2004. Miller is a lifelong resident of Louisiana and is currently working as an attorney in Shreveport. He has a long background with several conservation groups in the state. He served as chairman and commissioner on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, as state chairman for Ducks Unlimited and state president of the Coastal Conservation Association. He is also a member of Delta Waterfowl and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation. Miller's goals for his service on the commission are long-term. "I want to conserve and protect Louisiana's natural resources and sporting heritage for my grandchildren and generations as yet unborn," said the new commissioner. He is also aiming to put in place a source of stable and recurring funding for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Miller is an at-large appointment to the commission and his term runs through 2010.

* * * * *

LWFC Elects New Chair, Vice-Chair

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission voted unanimously to name Wayne Sagrera the chairman of the commission for 2005. Terry Denmon was also elected unanimously as vice-chairman. Sagrera has been a member of the commission since January of 2002. He was appointed by then-Governor Mike Foster as a Commercial Fishing and Fur Representative. During 2004, he served as vice-chairman of the commission. As a self-employed alligator dealer, Sagrera said he finds himself wearing two hats. "I wear both hats. I'm a commercial appointment, but I also go out and hunt and fish. As chairman, I will serve both commercial and recreational interests. And over the last three years that I've been on the commission, I have seen both sides coming together, being open minded." When asked how he will base his decisions as chairman, Sagrera said he try to achieve a balance between the public's desires and the recommendations provided by biologists. "We will take input from the public, work with the biologists, and then make the best decisions."

what our Congressional Delegation is for? Let them, and Governor Blanco, too, know what you think.

Thinking about coastal fisheries, I am reminded of the second annual volunteer derelict crab trap cleanup scheduled for 4 areas along the coast in the coming months. This is a great opportunity to pitch in and do some real hands-on work to help clean up the environment and make it safer for boating and fishing. The dates and places of the clean-ups are posted in a short article in "CONSERVATIONLINE" on page 13. For more details go to www.derelictcrab-trap.net.

Before signing off, thanks to all of you who recently made a special end of year contribution to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. We are inspired by your support. Year-end Appeal donors are listed following new members. Contributions received after publication will be acknowledged in the next issue of Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation magazine. Thank you one and all.

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 Dr. Edmund C. Dyas, Mobile
 Richard W. Eckman, DDS, Baton Rouge
 Charles W. Frank, New Orleans
 - Louisiana Duck Decoys
 Peter J. Gabb, New Orleans
 Byron B. Gibbs, Shreveport

Gretchen Gottfried, Baton Rouge
 Kim Hagie, Baton Rouge
 Theodore M. Haik, III, New Iberia
 Gary Hightower, Sulphur
 - Cameron Communications
 Raymond H. House, Shreveport
 John Hoychick, Jr., Rayville
 Jay V. Huner, PhD, Lafayette
 Butch Jordan, Shreveport
 - City of Shreveport Swim Team
 Clarence H. Jordon, Natchitoches
 Harold B. Judell, New Orleans
 Richard Kater, Baton Rouge
 - Richard's Printing
 Mulraj N. Katira, MD, PC, Crowley
 W. Douglas King, MD, Frierson
 R. D. Lowe, Lafayette
 Ted Lowery, Bossier City
 William G. Madary, II, New Orleans
 - International Coffee Corp.
 Kenny Mangrum, Gonzales
 Thomas Mathews, Alexandria
 Fred L. Mattei, Slidell
 Edgar E. McCanless, MD, Lake Charles
 Edward McCarty, Houma
 Everett Miller, Thibodaux
 Gordon W. Peek, MD, Baton Rouge
 Patrick J. Pitre, Cut Off
 John W. Pritchett, Baton Rouge
 Brian W. Racca, Westlake
 Mary L. Regus, New Orleans
 Lowry Riggins, Monroe
 Samuel Riggs, Orange, TX
 Gerald M. Robertson, Monroe
 Michael T. Robichaux, DDS, Slidell
 W.G. "Robbie" Robinson, Baton Rouge
 Arnold Saucier, Baton Rouge
 - Southern Fastener & Tool Co., Inc.
 Warren H. Smith, Jr., Covington
 John E. Sorrells, Jr., MD, Lake Charles
 Paul Stewart, Alexandria
 Fred Stokes, Jennings
 - LEEVAC Industries, LLC
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Support Sought For John Burroughs Association

John Burroughs (1837-1921) occupies a permanent place in American literature. Though he was a leading literary critic in his day, he was also a pioneer in the new school of nature writing and the most popular writer of his period in the field he made his own. Burroughs's influence on our appreciation of nature is so great that he is often regarded as the "Father of Recreational Nature Study."

Unlike many who are not appreciated during their lifetime, John Burroughs was honored during the latter decades of his life. Included among the famous naturalist/writer's friends were President Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Andrew Carnegie, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone. On the day of his death in 1921, the New York Senate adjourned in Burroughs's honor.

After his death, The John Burroughs Association (JBA) quickly formed. Headquartered in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), New York

City, the association's aims are fostering a love of nature as exemplified by Burroughs's life and work, and preserving the places associated with his life. To this end, the association owns and maintains SLABSIDES as a National Historic Landmark and the adjoining John Burroughs Sanctuary near West Park, New York. Additionally, since 1926 JBA has been publicly recognizing exceptional natural history publications by bestowing literary awards at a special luncheon held in the AMNH after the association's annual meeting on the first Monday of April. A permanent exhibit about John Burroughs is in the AMNH. The association keeps members informed through Wake-Robin, a distinguished newsletter published three times each year and named after Burroughs's first volume of nature essays (1871).

Over the years many outstanding nature writers have been honored with either the Gold Burroughs Medal (for a book) or Certificate for Outstanding Published Nature Essay. The list of win-

ners is a virtual catalog of the great nature writers of the twentieth century. Among them are William Beebe, Paul Brooks, Archie Carr, Rachel Carson, Loren Eiseley, Joseph Wood Krutch, Aldo Leopold, Peter Matthiessen, Roger Tory Peterson, Robert M. Pyle, Ernest Thompson Seton, John Terres, and Ann Zwinger. In fact, Gary Noel Ross, a life member of LWF, recipient of the "2001 Conservation Communicator of the Year" award, and longtime associate of the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, received the Burroughs "1995 Outstanding Published Nature Essay Award" for "Butterfly Wrangling in Louisiana" (Natural History magazine, May 1995), a story about the Falcate Orangetip butterfly, a rare and extraordinary resident of the cheniers in Cameron Parish. Currently, Ross is a nominee for the Board of Directors of JBA as well as a judge on the Essay Awards' Committee. He is a regular contributor to Wake-Robin.

In today's "dot com" society, it is refreshing to know that there is an organization that still supports this almost extinct genre of writing entertainments and education. But JBA needs to increase its financial base to continue its programs; hence, the organization is actively soliciting new members. If interested, contact information is below. (It is worth noting that all personnel of the organization are non-salaried. Therefore, 100 percent of your contribution goes to the association's programs.)

Membership Categories

Student/Senior:	\$ 15.00
Regular:	25.00
Family:	35.00
Patron:	50.00
Benefactor:	100.00
Life:	500.00

Tax-deductible check or money order can be made payable to JBA. Send to:

Secretary

The John Burroughs Association, Inc.
15 West 77th Street
New York, NY 10024

mailto: breslof@amnh.org

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TIBBY SEZ

Ole Tibby



Bon Jour, Mes Amis.

The reports I got from duck hunters before the holidays were not very exciting, however, the recent cold fronts may have pushed the ducks down making the hunting better. I really miss being able to hunt now that I am not able, so I say, enjoy it while you can.

Congratulation to the winners of the State Duck and Goose Calling Contest held at the Gueydan Duck festival this past year. I was able to attend that event, thanks to Darby Landaiche who drove me out that Sunday in late August. Being in the crowd and hearing the callers was medicine for my soul. I was

These days I have to depend on others to get around so I really appreciate it when they stop by and say, "Tibby, let's go". Taxidermist Dan Chase picked me up one day and took me to his business and home. I was really impressed with the size of his business and his home with many examples of his handiwork mounted on the walls. Thanks, Dan. You made my day. Also thanks to Carl Gremillion who brought me over to the celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day at the LDWF Waddill Game Reserve and Outdoor Education Center off Flannery Road in Baton Rouge. It was nice to see all the Scouts and other children enjoying the exhibits and demonstrations. Seeing there smiling faces and hearing them scream, giggle and laugh lifts my spirits.

Seems like the older you get, you can't escape the health issues. I sure wish that wasn't so, but at least it gives you something to talk about. In my case, I am recovering from a ruptured colon that the doc said would have killed me if I had not been so strong. I am still a little weak, but improving daily watching the hunting and fishing shows on the television. I was able to get out to enjoy a campfire with great grandson Jesse and his pals Caleb and



State Duck & Goose Calling Contest announcer Randy Lanctot and "Tibby" ham it up during a break in the competition.

chairman of the contest for over 30 years, but now it is being handled by Phil McDaniel who did a wonderful job staging the state competition for the first time at the Duck Festival. All the contestants were asked for ideas to improve the contest in a survey sent to them afterwards. Many responded with excellent suggestions which will help in the planning which is already underway for the 2005 contest.

Devin before Christmas. It's simple things like that that make me happy and I think it helps to keep the generations connected with each other and the outdoors. I wish I could do more. If you can, please do.

Nu cassi pas le lois et bonne chance.

Tibby

AFFILIATE CLUBS

DISTRICT 1

Little Tchefuncte River Association
Pontchartrain Hunting Retriever Club

DISTRICT 2

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

DISTRICT 3

Acadiana Bay Association
Iberia Rod and Gun Club

DISTRICT 4

Claiborne Parish Hunting and Fishing Club
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
Hunters for Hardwoods
Bayou Bassmasters of Alexandria
Rapides Wildlife Association

DISTRICT 9

Louisiana Toledo Bend Lake Association
South Toledo Bend Civic Association
Toledo Bend Bi-State Alliance

STATEWIDE

Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs
Bayou State Bowhunters Association
Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
La. Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
La. Chapter Safari Club International
Louisiana Charter Boat Association
Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association
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Welcome to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF). We are a statewide, non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization established in 1940 to "restore, preserve, develop and increase the birds, fish, game, forestry, wild flowers and all other wildlife resources of the State of Louisiana." LWF represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, fishers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts who believe in constructive conservation and protection of our state's natural resources and the quality of the environment. Thank you for visiting our web site. We welcome your comments. Email to lwf@lawildlifefed.org

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...](#)

Questions (& Answers) for the New Governor

Jan 15, 2004



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LWF, P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239.

- Sustaining – \$35 (LWF lapel pin or logo license plate)
- Sponsor – \$100 (sponsor plaque)
- Business – \$50 (LWF logo T-shirt; M - L - XL)
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