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☐ *Award Winners*

☐ *Bill Boosts Basin*

☐ *Funding Deferred*

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On the Cover.....

As summer wanes the golden orb weavers stretch their webs between low-hanging branches and tall grass tops at a height just right to ensnare the nose of unwary hikers. These are the big "banana spiders" that that amaze us with their size and weaving skills. Of the genus Nephila, there are numerous species found around the world. This one is Nephila clavipes, familiar to us in Louisiana. Note the little male above the female web proprietor. Photo by Jon Barry.



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A Tribute to Terry L. Melancon, 1958-2007

By Randy Lanctot

Terry Melancon died on December 7th 2007 in a fight with cancer. He was 48 years old and completing his 4th term as president of the Louisiana Wildlife

elected for the first time to lead the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. He was reelected in 1997. Later, after devoting his attention, along with wife, Lisa, to raising his two boys, Aaron and Paul, he found time again to provide leadership to the LWF as its president in 2006.



Terry Melancon, 1958-2007

Federation when he was finally overtaken by the disease that he had been battling for over a year.

Terry had been involved in conservation work most of his adult life. He had served several terms as an officer, including president, of the East Ascension Sportsman's League and in 1996 he was

Terry was a lifelong sportsman, raising 2 boys in the spirit of the chase, whether it be in a duck blind, deer stand, squirrel woods or on the water catching specs and reds or jerking fat sac au lait from Spanish Lake near his Prairieville home in Ascension Parish. Terry was the leader of the EASL's wood duck nest box



This and the next 2 are photos Terry took of some of his wood duck nest boxes that he shared via email a few weeks before his death with a gentlemen who had inquired about how to construct and place them

program, annually constructing and placing wood duck nest boxes in suitable locations around the parish. He and his boys routinely maintained a string of boxes in and around Spanish Lake.

Terry had been anticipating running for a 4th term as LWF President when he was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. He called to tell me and ask for advice. I told him to keep the





helm if he felt able, and that we would work together to accomplish the goals of the Federation. After family and health, LWF was his priority and he served magnificently at the LWF's 2006 convention

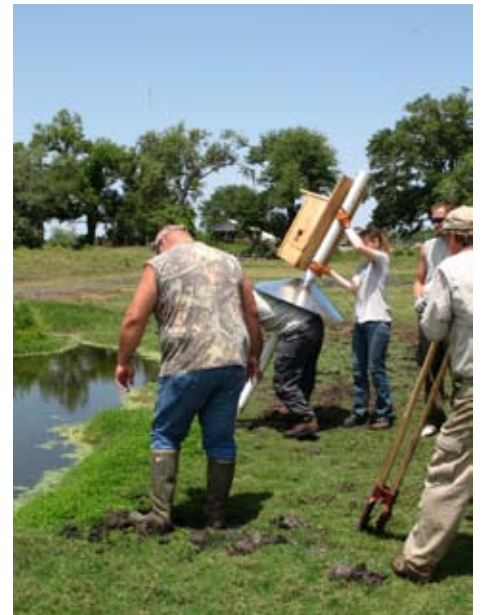


Some of the wood duck nest boxes assembled by members and friends of the East Ascension Sportsman's League as a tribute to Terry Melancon. Photo by Lynne Williams.

despite the effects of his therapies and the heavy weight on his shoulders.

Being an average hunter and angler with respect to personal wealth, he strongly advocated for the public's right to access navigable waterways and to reopen Elmer's Island to public use. The Federation is still in the midst of those campaigns, but with the help of dedicated sportsmen like Terry, it will prevail. He was able to make at least one successful duck hunting trip to the Mississippi Delta last season before he could no longer safely go afield. We were on the phone talking LWF business only a week or so before he passed on. He was engaged until respiratory failure took him to the hospital for the last time.

In one of his last emails that he copied me on, he was explaining to a gentleman who had expressed an interest in the wood duck nest box program how he (Terry) assembled the boxes and the different designs he liked best, the location



One of Terry's wood duck nest boxes going up at Pecan Island as part of a habitat restoration project. Photo by Marty Floyd.

where he placed them and other details to help the fellow along in getting started. You could tell he was not thinking about his cancer, but relishing the opportunity to share his love of the outdoors and wildlife with another sportsman.

Last Spring, the East Ascension Sportsman's League, in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation's Coastal Louisiana Restoration Initiative, held a wood duck box assembly event in Terry's honor. The boxes had been prefabricated from freshly-milled cypress by Terry's friend and craftsman Russ Bourgeois and the pieces laid out for more novice builders to assemble. In a few hours, we had 50 boxes ready for mounting in the wetlands.

I doubt that Terry ever had a thought or an ambition of leaving a legacy. But he did leave one, not only to his family and friends, but to sportsmen everywhere. I could feel it as I was riding up the Interstate carrying a dozen freshly made wood duck boxes in the back of my pickup.



*Barney.
Callahan*



Wow! Where do I begin?

Let me first say, that I am much more comfortable with a rod and reel or shotgun in my hands, piloting a boat on the bayou or driving a four-wheeler through the woods, than sitting at a computer “pecking away” on a column for the LWF magazine, so please bear with me. I am so proud to have been given the opportunity to serve as President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, elected to office during the 2008 convention earlier this year. Having served in various other Executive Committee positions I honestly never expected that the office of President would come with so many responsibilities, many that I have yet to learn. My hat’s off to everyone who has helped me thus far with their mentoring, personal advice and past experience toward bringing me “up to speed” with this position, especially my predecessor Terry Melancon, who made this job look so easy from the outside looking in. I will forever have the utmost respect for him in his leadership of the Federation and his passion for defending the rights and freedoms of all outdoorsmen and conservationists. Very, very big shoes to fill.

Introductions are in order, for those of you I have not had the privilege to meet as of yet. I am a native of Houma, father of two and a newly wed (second time around), residing in Gonzales for the past 18 years where I have been extremely fortunate to be accepted by the people of Ascension parish with open arms and their generous hospitality. I’ve always lived for the enjoyment of the outdoors - hunting, fishing, trapping, alligator hunting, frogging and the like shared with friends and family in Terrebonne and Ascension Parishes. My first exposure to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation was through newsletters received via an affiliate hunting club in the 1970’s. Particularly intriguing to me were the annual convention highlights



Russ Herman (L) receives his LWF Life Member plaque from Edgar Veillon.

that detailed the resolutions and the potential effects on conservation laws and regulations. I read many of them in awe, thinking “who are these people that are so knowledgeable of these issues,” never imagining that I would some day have the opportunity to meet them in that “far away, mysterious place,” Baton Rouge!

This year’s Convention in New Iberia was a huge success; kudos to Iberia Rod and Gun Club for hosting and arrangements. Thanks and, well done! Coverage of the convention and the resolutions adopted, as well as the conservation awards is printed elsewhere in this issue. The Federation’s 2009 convention will be the weekend of February 27, 28 Mar. 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Monroe hosted by the Friends of Black Bayou. I am really looking forward to that event. Mark your calendars and I hope I will see you there.

A couple of personal highlights for me at this year’s convention were the recognition



Commemorating Edgar Veillon’s (R) 50 years of service on the LWF Board of Directors.

of Edgar Veillon for 50 years service to the LWF as a member of the Federation’s Board of Directors and welcoming the LWF’s newest Life Member, Russ Herman. Russ, a New Orleans attorney, was escorted to the convention by District 6 At-large Director, Sandra Thompson. I’m told that since then, the two have gotten hitched. Thanks Russ and congratulations to both you and Sandra. And as for Edgar, at the rate he’s going, another 50 years seems doable. Hang in there, Edgar, and thanks for all your help and support of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Since being elected president I have had some great opportunities to get out and participate in LWF activities. A couple of those events were associated with the National Wildlife Federation’s Coastal Louisiana Restoration Initiative. On one occasion, I joined many of my fellow members of the East Ascension Sportsman’s League on a cool April morning to assemble 40 wood duck nest boxes that had been prefabricated out of fine cypress lumber earlier in the year by Russ Bourgeois. The activity was a memorial to Terry Melancon who died



A trailer load of wood duck nest boxes assembled at a special activity hosted by the East Ascension Sportsman’s League in honor of Terry Melancon.

last December. The boxes were ultimately placed in the wetlands to be occupied by native wood ducks, some of which lost their nesting cavities to the hurricanes of 2005.

A couple Saturdays later I found myself wading in the marsh at Pecan Island, joining dozens of volunteers plugging California bulrush into the mud in marsh ponds that have been eroding. It was a sight to behold as a flotilla of boats piled high with the plants eased their way from the landing to the designated planting sights on a warm but not too hot early May morning. It took the better part of the day to put about 6,000 bulrush plugs in the knee to waist deep water. The participants, mostly lessees of

Vermilion Land Corporation, were enthusiastic, contemplating how the restoration work would improve the habitat for ducks, and duck hunters.

In between those events the LWF held its Spring Board Meeting and I attended the annual awards banquet of the Acadiana Sportsmen's League in Crowley where Terry Melancon was recognized posthumously with ASL's Sportsman Emeritus Award. Great bunch of "Guys and Gals" down in Crowley with genuine enthusiasm for their organization and its conservation objectives.

Somewhere among all these activities was the giant Earth Day Celebration in downtown Baton Rouge. LWF's exhibit was one of the most popular, as always, with kids and parents thronging to the coloring table staffed by Maura Wood and Juanita Constible to make headbands, to see the live hawks and owls shown by Gina Stanton and her helpers, to play the "what's in the box" touch game (I and Joe Herring helped with that), and to observe Robbie Robinson's bird, bat, and butterfly houses and squirrel and bird feeders, Randy Lanctor's collection



Some of the visitors to the LWF Earth Day Exhibit in Downtown Baton Rouge last spring.

of critters from the backyard, and other interactive displays to emphasize the *Nature in Your Neighborhood* theme of the exhibit. Thanks also to the several other volunteers including Jaime and Jay Thibodeaux and friends, Heidi Hitter, Edgar Veillon, Mary Enright and Clint & Virginia Mouser who drove up from Metairie to participate, and Kathy Wascom who coordinates the exhibit each year with the organizers of the Earth Day event. It was a lot of fun and well worth the time and effort just to see all those inquisitive and wondrous looks on the faces of kids and adults alike as they visited the LWF tent. For the second year, the LWF promoted a "Wildlife Watch" activity in conjunction with Earth Day to encourage youngsters and their parents to be observant

of nature in their lives. A checklist of observations was posted on the LWF website, and the names of all school-aged kids who returned the checklist to the LWF exhibit at the Earth Day event were entered in a drawing for 3 bundles of great wildlife-watching prizes. Our 3 winners were Nabil Essajee, Kara Peneguy and Alicia Stamey, all Baton Rouge Area students. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest.



Clint Mouser (L) and Barney Callahan staff the "touch boxes" at the LWF Earth Day Exhibit.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend the National Wildlife Federation's 2008 annual convention, held mid-May in Keystone Colorado. It was a fantastic experience for me, along with Mr. Edgar Veillon (LWF Representative to NWF) and Ms. Gina Stanton (Alternate Rep) to meet and network with some of the country's most prominent, knowledgeable, and passionate experts in the field of wildlife habitat conservation today. Not to mention the breathtaking scenery of the snow capped Rocky Mountains as a backdrop!

The recurring theme (other than shortness of breath @ 10,000 feet) throughout the convention was centered around Global Warming and its effects on wildlife habitat, with powerful speeches and presentations from many NWF officials and invited guest speakers including NWF Chairman Tom Gonzales and President Larry Schweiger who's keynote speech also highlighted existing and future potential impacts on wildlife habitat affected by oil and gas exploration activities on public lands.

Edgar, Gina, and I also had the opportunity to participate in various resolutions committee meetings covering several topics

from protection of water resources to future wetlands development and insurance restrictions; very important topics not only for Louisiana, but nation wide. I also attended some interesting breakout sessions discussing technology and staff support available to LWF thru NWF.

Other NWF Convention business pertaining to us locally: congratulations to newly elected NWF Region 8 Director, Dr. Greg Smith, nominated by LWF for this position, for his long time conservation efforts along the Gulf Coast and his current position as Director of the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette. Greg fills the directorship held for 3 terms by LWF member and supporter Dr. Earl Matthew of Rockport, Texas. Best wishes to Earl and his wife Lonnie in their future endeavors and many thanks for all they have done for us over the years. Keep in touch guys!

As I said, it was an experience of a life time for me (and my new wife) to attend such a prestigious gathering of dedicated, professional people, meeting and making dozens of new friends that we hope to see again in the future. Next Year's NWF convention is moving to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. If you think the world is filled with only pessimistic criers and whiners, make your reservations to attend an NWF convention and you'll see what real positive attitudes, personal enthusiasm and "making a difference" is all about!

It's been a while since the last issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine was published so I want to thank all those new members who have joined since then. They are listed at the close of this column. The LWF depends on the loyal support of its members for most of its income and I am especially grateful and thankful to our members and supporters. We strive to live up to your expectations in "conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them." You will see many examples of LWF's work in this magazine, from efforts down at the state capitol during the legislative session, sponsoring, promoting and participating in events and activities like I have just mentioned, and pursuing action directed by the many convention resolutions that serves to protect and enhance the quality of the environment, habitat and those outdoor activities that are such important components of our lives in the Sportsmen's Paradise. Enjoy

Continued on page 24

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Randy
Lanctot*



When I went out this morning to see what kind of day it would be I detected, or so I thought at least for a moment, a bit of coolness to the air. Maybe it was just because the cover of last night's darkness had given the earth a breather from the 98 degrees it had been the afternoon before. (I noticed in today's paper that Dallas has just endured the hottest July on record there; not so hot in Baton Rouge, thankfully). Despite the lingering summer heat, days are shortening; rays are slanting and the year creeping toward the fall season and all the outdoor activity it brings.



Russ Bourgeois (R) and Dane Bourgeois demonstrate wood duck nest box assembly as Tyson Lee looks on.

The year has been flying by, with one activity after another here at the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Some of those are chronicled in this edition of the magazine. LWF members are involved at both the state and local affiliate levels in projects and events that encourage participation in

the outdoors and support of conservation. Some are just meant to be fun, others are more thematic and educational, and others actually get work done, all on a volunteer basis.

In April, on the heels of the LWF convention, volunteers took time out on a Saturday morning to honor the memory of LWF president Terry Melancon by assem-



Ronald Coco drove down from Mansura with wife Faye to help with the wood duck nest box assembly. Ronald is an expert woodcrafter himself, making and donating dozens of his handicrafts each year to the LWF and his local club, the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation.

bling 40 wood duck nest boxes to place in wetlands. It was a labor of love for those participating, especially for Russ Bourgeois who took it upon himself, as a personal tribute to his friend, to secure the cypress lumber, cut all the pieces and group them so that the volunteers had essentially a wood duck nest box "kit" to drill and fasten into a finished product of the highest quality. To boot, Russ branded the side board of each box with the LWF's waterfowl logo, identifying the boxes to all who may observe them in the field. The electric branding iron was furnished years ago for just such a purpose by one of LWF's most loyal supporters, Carl Gremillion. I mention Carl for a reason which I'll get to later. The project was coordinated by Rebecca Triche as a component of the National Wildlife Federation's Coastal Louisiana Habitat Restoration Initiative.



Lisa Melancon and youngest son, Paul accept the handsome plaque crafted by Ronald Coco (C) that was presented posthumously to husband Terry at the LWF convention.

LWF participated in the post-Katrina revival of the New Orleans City Park Bass Rodeo the last Saturday in March. Kaye Florane did an outstanding job putting it together with her small army of volunteers. The Rodeo was started many years ago by New Orleans Sportsmen's League president and LWF director Paul Kalman. LWF Treasurer Clint Mouser and wife Virginia joined me at an LWF exhibit that featured an old J. C. Higgins tackle box stocked with vintage baits and a few heirloom casting rods. The Park was filled with fishing families and the competition was fierce. Hundreds participated. This is one of my favorite events which should grow in participation as the Park's lagoons are enhanced for fish and fishing.

The first Saturday in May we were down at Pecan Island, plugging California



Don Dubuc interviewing one of the winners of the City Park (New Orleans) Fishing Rodeo.



Goin' fishin' – City Park style.

bulrush to reestablish vegetation that will buffer the marsh against erosion. This was another NWF Louisiana Coastal Habitat Restoration Initiative Project that LWF helped organize along with NWF Regional Representative Marya Fowler. Judge Edwards, President of the Vermilion Corporation was our host and, you might say, project director. He marked all the areas to be planted and enlisted dozens of Vermilion Corp. leaseholders to bring their boats out to assist. I worked on the Fontenot's lease where camp patriarch, Mr. Ellis Fontenot, guided us through the ruins of his family's duck camp that Rita pushed off its foundation and filled with mud. At 80, he was saddened but not deterred as he and son Wayne described their plans to rebuild, this time up on piers. He stayed back to run catfish lines while Wayne, LWF President Barney Callahan, Keith Segrera, Sharon Nabours and Wayne's friend Ken putted off in the mudboat towing a skiff stacked with bulrush. On site, a few of us eased over the gunnels into the thigh-deep water and plugged bulrush in the soft pond



Volunteers load the California bulrush for planting in the Pecan Island marsh. Photo by Marty Floyd.

bottom. It was fun, the kind of fun grown men have when they can legitimately act like boys again, getting wet and playing in the mud. The crew was elated to be contributing their effort to coastal restoration as we traded quips and enjoyed each other's company in that unique setting. Wayne was already anticipating how the bulrush would make the lease more attractive to the ducks, and where he would place his new blinds for the upcoming duck season.

A handful of us were privileged to be Judge's guests at the Vermilion Corp. Camp and were treated to a boat ride early Sunday morning and hike on Cheniere au Tigre guided by Keith Segrera. What a unique and interesting spot! We hiked a few miles to the old graveyard and its profusion of Easter lilies that sweetened the morning air. Along the way we botanized and looked for migrant songbirds. We saw a few, but our pace didn't allow for pausing long enough to really see the many species that were present. Perched high in a decadent hackberry, a great-horned owl allowed a glimpse by all of us until it was hazed off its perch by a



Vermilion Corporation Camp. Photo by Marty Floyd.

peregrine falcon which I seemed to be the only one of our party to see well enough to identify. It did not linger, and now I have to wonder if I really did see what I saw.

Other business was going on during this time: the legislative session, the LWF Spring Board of Directors Meeting, the EPA public hearing on the Corp of Engineers Yazoo Pumps Project, more wood duck box building. Thanks to Edgar Veillon and Bill Herke for making the trip to Vicksburg for the Yazoo Pumps meeting. They stayed till the wee hours when Edgar finally was able to deliver a statement of LWF's support of the EPA's proposed veto of the project. The final outcome is pending, but should be decided soon. The project would install the world's largest pumps to drain the backwater of the Yazoo River and pump it over the levee into the Mississippi, degrading thousands of acres of wetlands with little



Vermilion Corporation President Judge Edwards (standing, center) and boatload of volunteers returning from a hike on Cheniere au Tigre (L-R) Jared Mott, Marya Fowler, Marty Floyd, Sharon Nabours, Mike Dever, Lonnie & Earl Matthew, Randy Lanctot, Keith Segrera. Photo courtesy of Jared Mott.

benefit to the local community at a cost to taxpayers of hundreds of millions of dollars. It's truly a "poster child" for bad Corps projects.

I got to enjoy Keith & Cindy Saucier's new camp on Grand Isle a few weeks ago and fish with them in the East Ascension Sportsman's League's "Saltwater Challenge" fishing contest. There was a great turnout of almost 60 anglers, fishing in about 20 teams. It was a lot like the club fishing rodeos of days past, before the predominance of bass tournaments and other more sophisticated fishing competitions. It was good to visit with old friends and especially to see Aaron and Paul Melancon who always fished with their dad in past Challenges. Terry's brother Todd joined the boys this year. Everyone caught fish, with our team limiting out on specs and back at the marina before 11 AM. We didn't have the heaviest stringer of 5 or the biggest trout,



Edgar Veillon states LWF's support of the EPA's proposed veto of the Yazoo Pumps Project at a public meeting in Vicksburg.

but we had plenty of filets to bring home. I was particularly impressed with Vince Diez's team which had a stringer of flounder that he could hardly heft. They tell me Vince does that every year, drifting along a bayou

in the marsh using plastic for bait.

With what seems a celebration of interest in building and placing wood duck nest boxes on these pages, I have to mention that boxes are available for purchase from



(L-R) Randy Lancot, Cindy and Keith Saucier with their limits of speckled trout taken during the East Ascension Sportsman's League "Saltwater Challenge" fishing competition in July at Grand Isle.

various outlets around the state. LWF member Robbie Robinson of Baton Rouge is one such craftsman who at the young age of 88 supplements his retirement by crafting and selling all sorts of bird houses, nest boxes, feeders and even butterfly and bat "houses." I have included, after the close of this column, a listing of retail outlets that Robbie supplies with wood duck nest boxes. Many other hardware, farm, yard & garden and even sporting goods stores carry them, too. Retired LDWF wildlife biologist, Bob Kimball of Minden also makes wood duck nest boxes to order. He can be reached at 318-377-0915. If you are aware of other



Barney "the butcher" Callahan, takes the big knife to a redfish, assisting Aaron Melancon prepare the harvest for the evening fish fry at the EASL's "Saltwater Challenge."

retail or wholesale outlets that carry wood duck nest boxes, please send that information to me (mailto:randy@lawildlifefed.org). LWF is compiling a list of sources to share with folks who are looking for places to purchase them.

It's been a heartrending 12-months for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Last September, Carl Gremillion died while on a dove hunt in Mexico. I would have been with him except for unexpected family business that prevented me from making the trip. Carl was a personal friend as well as a great supporter of LWF. Outspoken, kindhearted and "bossy" (from his many years as a mechanical contractor, I suppose) describes Carl; sort of one-of-a kind



J. C. Ashford (L) presents an honorary membership in the Toledo Bend Lake Association to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at the LWF Spring Board Meeting. LWF Executive Director Randy Lancot accepts for the Federation. Photo by Joe Herring.

for whom the expression "they broke the mold" fits. Dove shooting was Carl's passion, even as he filled his backyard feeders to nourish so many generations the "grey ghosts" that frequented his Baton Rouge neighborhood. I'm told that Carl's Mexican bird boy reported counting 70 without a miss before Carl left the field and returned to the lodge where a short time later he was found slumped over his bunk, dead of a heart attack. Thanks Carl, old friend. See you in the fields this autumn.

Carl's death was followed by Terry Melancon's in December. Terry was serving as LWF president at the time. Please see "A Tribute to Terry" on these pages. A few days later I received word that past LWF President Pete Mindek had died. Pete was LWF president in 1980 when the LWF



LWF Past President ('88-'89) George Ann Bernard, 1944-2008.

hired me to be its ED. He served 2 terms. He was a resident of Maryland when he died. In May, LWF Past President George Ann Bernard of New Iberia died. George Ann was the first woman to be president of the federation, serving in 1988 and 1989. During her tenure LWF successfully led the campaign to provide constitutional protection for the Conservation Fund, the operating fund of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, was the first organization to publicly call for a moratorium on the commercial harvest of redfish in state and federal waters, and was recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as its Affiliate of the Year. We also lost past LWF District 7 At-large Director Lenny Hensgens of Crowley last January. Lenny was a well-known and respected rice farmer and waterfowl conservationist. And just a few weeks ago Johnnie Miller, husband of past District 9 Vice President Sharon Miller, died after a long illness. Johnnie was a retired military helicopter pilot who continued to fly in his civilian employment serving the offshore energy industry until he became ill a couple of years ago. Please join me in recognizing these LWF leaders and offering our condolences to their families and friends.

Like Tibby SEZ, get into the outdoors as much as you can, while you can! Thanks for your loyalty and support of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Partial Listing of Sources for Wood Duck Nest Boxes

Baton Rouge Area –

Brothers Ace Hardware - 3085 Millerville Road (225) 753-6183; Clegg's Nurseries - 5696 Siegen Lane (225) 292-9153, 10645 Greenwell Springs Road (225) 275-2006, 274 North Donmoor (225) 927-

Continued on page 18

69th LWF Convention Report

Photos by Joe L. Herring

The annual convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is the organization's biggest event of the year. In one short weekend, Federation members adopt policy on conservation issues, honor conservation heroes, learn about new conservation initiatives and adopt a budget and choose leaders to guide the LWF over the next 12 months. Then, there is the hospitality and camaraderie that always accompanies the gathering of an organization that is celebrating almost 70 years of conservation education and advocacy work.

This year the convention was held at the Holiday Inn in New Iberia and hosted by the Iberia Rod & Gun Club over the weekend of March 14-16. Special thanks to IR&GC members for agreeing to host the convention when miscommunication with the sales staff of the intended meeting site in Natchitoches necessitated securing another venue.

A large crowd was on hand for the kickoff social event on Friday evening where over \$5,000 was raised, thanks to meeting benefactors who supported the convention

Laborde and past LWF director Dr. Bobby Fulmer for spotting bids and hawking raffle tickets and Jaime Thibodeaux and friend Craig Taylor for helping to set up. A listing of convention sponsors and donors is posted at the close of this article. LWF is grateful for their support.

On Saturday evening, the Federation welcomed guests who came to honor the 9 conservation award winners cho-



Sherri Johnston was the lucky winner of the 52-card raffle of the "President's Gun" donated in memory of Terry Melancon by past LWF President Smitty Smith.

sen in the 44th Conservation Achievement Recognition Program competition, also known as the Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards. Photos of the presentations and summaries of each honoree's accomplishments begins on Page 37. Jerald Horst, retired fisheries biologist and author served as banquet Master of Ceremonies. Jerald filled in for outdoor media personality Don Dubuc when Don's schedule could not accommodate the revised convention dates and venue. He did a splendid job of delivering the presentations of the honorees.

The award presentations were not the only thing special about this evening. LWF member and renowned chef, Alex Patout collaborated with the Holiday Inn catering staff to treat guests to a meal of Cajun roasted duck with rice dressing, corn machoux, sweet potato casserole and home made pecan pie. Banquet guests were duly



Keith Saucier (R) and Dane Bourgeois served as chairman and secretary of the Conservation Policy, Laws & Enforcement Committee.

dazzled with the presentation and rewarded with an outstanding and unanticipated meal. Thank you, Alex!

Between the Friday evening fun-raising and grandeur of the awards ceremony Saturday night, meeting delegates got down to the main reason they came: to debate, adjust and adopt (in most cases) the 18 conservation policy resolutions submitted by LWF affiliates and directors. Enthusiasm always runs high among participants who roll up their sleeves and jump right in to the discussion. Resolutions are assigned by subject matter to convention conservation committees that meet on Saturday morning. Committee chairs mediate what are usually lively and sometimes heated discussions of the proposals. Only the designated representatives to each committee can vote on the outcome of a resolution, but anyone attending the meeting may comment if recognized by the chair at the request of a committee representative. Normally, just



Ray Bordelon calls the auction at the LWF convention.

with their generous gifts, and enthusiastic bidders willing to let some cash go for a good cause. Special thanks to Ray Bordelon, president of affiliate, the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation for serving as auctioneer, AWF members Ronald Coco, Kim Masling, Jesse



A group of enforcement officers from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries attended the convention.

about everyone present gets to have their opinion heard before a vote is taken to forward the resolution to the general assembly of delegates for a final vote on Sunday

morning, or to reject it. Most resolutions that are recommended by the conservation committees pass the general assembly as adopted, or with strengthening amendments. Those adopted by committee on a narrow margin sometimes bite the dust as opponents use the Saturday evening socializing as an opportunity to lobby against the less popular resolutions. This democratic, inclusive and highly participatory process in developing conservation policy positions is unique among conservation organizations in Louisiana and a big reason why LWF is effective and why members maintain interest in and support of the organization. The resolutions as finally adopted are printed later in this report.

LWF wishes to thank the following leaders who served as chairs and secretaries of the convention conservation committees this year: Migratory, Forest & Upland Wildlife Committee – Ken Dancak, Chairman, Tyson Lee, Secretary; Environmental Quality Committee – Vance Gordon, Chairman, Kathy Wascom, Secretary; Habitat Conservation & Management Committee – Virginia Burkett, Chairwoman, Sandra Thompson, Secretary; Boating & Fresh/



LDWF Secretary Robert Barham was the guest speaker at the Board of Directors Luncheon. Later that evening at the banquet, Secretary Barham presented the conservation awards on behalf of Governor Jindal.

Saltwater Fisheries Committee – Smitty Smith, Chairman, Gina Stanton, Secretary; Conservation Policy, Laws & Enforcement Committee – Keith Saucier, Chairman, Dane Bourgeois, Secretary.



From top-left, clockwise, LDWF biologist Andy Ardoin, NWF Regional Representative, Marya Fowler, LWF Past President Edgar Veillon and LWF Director Gina Stanton presented during the convention General Session.

Following the Convention Conservation Committees, LWF leaders assembled at the Board of Directors Luncheon to elect officers and district vice-presidents. Rather than name those reelected or newly elected here, please refer to Page 36 of this magazine for the names and contact information for LWF's 2008 leaders. Guest speaker at the luncheon was the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Robert Barham. Secretary Barham had recently been appointed to the post after serving three terms in the Louisiana Senate. The fact that Secretary Barham is a LWF member and winner of its Legislative Conservationist of the Year (1999) Award stood him in good stead with LWF leaders and guests in attendance as he outlined some of his priorities for the LDWF.

Sandwiched between Saturday's elections and awards, a cast of knowledgeable and distinguished presenters informed members and the public about current wildlife and conservation topics. *Guide to Conservation – Louisiana's Wildlife Action Plan*, was presented by Plan Coordinator Andy Ardoin with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. The Plan was approved by the US Fish & Wildlife Service in 2005 and serves to guide the State Wildlife Grants Program. It is largely unknown outside the agency, but is the basis for long-term conservation funding for all wildlife, with emphasis on those species not hunted or fished, and for the development of Louisiana's Teaming with Wildlife Coalition. *Hunters*

& Anglers & Climate Change, a presentation developed to spur action to both address wildlife needs in the face of a warming climate and to promote action to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses was presented by National Wildlife Federation Regional Representative Marya Fowler. The final presentation, *Leadership and Resource Development*, was delivered by LWF's own Edgar Veillon and focused on organizational development strategies. LWF's Gina Stanton showed a sneak preview of the LWF outreach PowerPoint presentation she has been working on during Edgar's session.

Once again, thanks to Chad LeBlanc, president and the other members of the Iberia Rod and Gun Club for hosting the convention. The LWF's 2009 convention is scheduled for February 27, 28 & March 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Monroe and will be hosted by the Friends of Black Bayou. Further details will be available later



Randall Zeringue (L) with Shell Pipeline presented a check representing the company's convention sponsorship to LWF President Barney Callahan.

in the year. Make plans to attend.

The following resolutions were adopted by the delegates to the 69th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation held March 14-16, 2007 in New Iberia, Louisiana.

WAIVER OF WMA HUNTING PERMIT FOR SMALL GAME HUNTERS TO ENCOURAGE RECRUITMENT/RETENTION OF HUNTERS

WHEREAS, hunters provide both financial and political support for wildlife conservation, and more than any other segment of the population, are responsible for the preservation and enhancement of habitat and science-based wildlife management that benefits all species of wildlife, and

WHEREAS, hunters' willingness to pay for conservation is a hallmark of their dedication to the stewardship of the Earth's living natural resources, and is the foundation upon which institutional wildlife conservation is largely based, and

WHEREAS, due to many factors, including urbanization, loss of tradition, aging population, modern technology and alternative recreational opportunities, as well as loss of available places to learn woodsmanship and about hunting, and to engage in that activity, the numbers of hunters are declining, thus diminishing the support base for wildlife conservation, and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the future of conservation that its traditional support base of hunters be maintained, even as other strategies to expand the wildlife conservation support base are pursued, and

WHEREAS, a traditional avenue for the recruitment of hunters has been the opportunity to roam the woods hunting small game, particularly squirrels, and

WHEREAS, for various reasons, including the popularity and proliferation of lands dedicated to deer hunting/management, and emphasis on big game and turkey hunting by the popular sporting media, entry-level hunting for small game has received less attention as the vital hunter recruitment and retention pathway that it is, and

WHEREAS, a longstanding tradition in Louisiana has been the celebration of the opening weekend of squirrel season with large, extended family campouts, and woodland adventures involving many young hunters and their mentors stalking wily bushytails, and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that, since the \$15/year Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permit has been in effect, the numbers of early-season WMA squirrel hunters has declined, and

WHEREAS, in response to the imperative to recruit and retain hunters, the traditional support base for wildlife conservation, it is reasonable to consider a variety of strategies to stimulate participation, including relaxing fee requirements when such fees are determined to be an impediment to recruitment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to consider waiving the Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permit

for small game hunting during the first 9 days of the squirrel hunting season and that the Louisiana Legislature amend pertinent statute to authorize the Commission to take such action.

NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), was established in Kentucky in March 2002 with 22 middle schools participating in the first year, and

WHEREAS, of the 1600 kids (45% girls; 55% boys) participating in the NASP during its initial year, 72% did not own a bow and 62% had never shot one before, and

WHEREAS, 89% of the participants enjoyed the class, and 45% wanted to own archery equipment, 59% wanted to become target archers and 39% wanted to try bowhunting after participating in the program, and

WHEREAS, over 800 Kentucky schools have adopted the NASP program and in 2006 the NASP championship competition attracted 2,164 student archers, and

WHEREAS, NASP has been adopted by 44 states as of September 2007; Australia and Canada have also initiated NASP, and

WHEREAS, over 3 million youth have participated in archery through NASP, during school hours, and

WHEREAS, there have been zero accidents/injuries involving participants or instructors, proving that NASP is a safe and carefully thought out program, and

WHEREAS, the instructors and teachers of the NASP are required to attend training where they are taught safety and how to institute the NASP in the schools, and

WHEREAS, NASP was introduced to Louisiana in 14 pilot schools around the state in 2004, and

WHEREAS, C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport held the first Louisiana NASP tournament in May 2007, with 37 young archers participating in the competition, and

WHEREAS, although just 3 Caddo Parish schools participated in the NASP during the 2006-2007 school year, over 700 kids learned about archery and benefited from the program, and

WHEREAS, considering the decline in hunter recruitment, especially among

youth, and low youth participation in the shooting sports, NASP is a perfect program for schools to introduce kids to archery skills that can lead to a lifetime of wholesome recreational enjoyment as well as promote the development of capacities that will be useful to them throughout their lives.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the growth of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) in Louisiana and urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), in partnership with the Bayou State Bowhunters Association and other appropriate sporting and education groups to promote the development of NASP throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to consider establishing a position of "shooting sports coordinator" within the agency to work on the development of the NASP and other organized shooting education programs, activities and events to promote the shooting sports among youth and adults alike.

STATEWIDE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal has recently issued Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 – Green Government, establishing state policy on energy efficiency and conservation, and waste management and recycling practices by state agencies, and

WHEREAS, municipal solid waste generation is a major contributor to the global problem of excess garbage and trash currently disposed of in landfill operations, and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the waste stream waste consists of recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, glass, aluminum, copper, and tin, and

WHEREAS, there are currently many successful, and profitable municipal recycling programs in operation throughout the state and the nation, illustrating that effective recycling programs are feasible if designed, promoted and managed properly, and

WHEREAS, there is a huge variation in the availability and comprehensiveness of recycling programs among communities in the state, from popular single-stream curbside recycling operations that enjoy strong citizen participation to "Maw Maw, where

should I put my empty soda can for recycling like we do at home?” “Aw, baby, just throw it in the trash, it all goes out with the garbage here in _____.”, and

WHEREAS, every citizen of this state and especially our children have a stake in the outcome of our waste management practices, pollution and its effects on the environment, but many residents of our state are not afforded the means to conveniently contribute to the conservation effort through an effective community recycling program, and

WHEREAS, municipal governments, managing cities of sufficient size and populations to support a viable recycling program, should be obliged to afford their citizens the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive recycling program including “curbside” pick-up as well as managed drop off sites.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation commends Governor Jindal for issuing Executive Order No. NO. BJ2008-8 – Green Government, and urges that he consider expanding that order to direct the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to develop and implement a plan, in cooperation with local governments, to make comprehensive recycling programs conveniently available to citizens in all communities in the state.

REDUCING LOUISIANA'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, it is well accepted within the world's scientific community that sea levels and temperatures are rising globally and that our global climate is changing due to excessive emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases, and

WHEREAS, with hundreds of miles of coastline and thousands of square miles of fragile low-lying coastal wetlands that are important to both the state and nation's economy, Louisiana is more at-risk to the effects of rising sea levels and violent tropical storms than most other states, and

WHEREAS, a significant economic benefit of Louisiana's at-risk low lying coastal wetlands derives from their productivity as fish and wildlife habitats and the commercial and recreational uses of their dependent natural resources, and

WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of Louisiana's electricity is generated by fossil fuels which contribute greatly to the state's

greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks third among the fifty states in per capita energy consumption, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has substantial bioenergy potential due to its productive agriculture and forestry industries, and considerable potential for the generation of power from wind and solar energy provided disincentives are removed and incentives applied, and

WHEREAS, current means are available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, mitigation in the form of enhancing carbon sequestration is an important way to reduce greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, and

WHEREAS, other coastal states such as Florida, California, and North Carolina have adopted renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction standards, and

WHEREAS, the actions Louisiana takes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in concert with actions taken elsewhere in the United States and the world could significantly reduce the potential for adverse climate change impacts in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, because of our rapid loss of coastal wetlands and the potential exacerbation of this crisis from rising sea levels caused by a warming climate, Louisiana should lead by example in the fight against global climate change by reducing our own emissions of greenhouse gases and demonstrating the economic value of such reductions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) commends Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, for his vision and wisdom in recognizing that energy efficiency and conservation are essential components of responsible fiscal management, by issuing Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 which promotes the use of renewable and alternative energy sources, waste management and recycling, and other conservation measures by the state agencies under his direction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF, for the intended purpose of reducing Louisiana's greenhouse gas emissions, does hereby urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal to issue an Executive Order to establish specific goals for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the state and develop a plan for reducing such emissions

that includes the increased use of renewable/clean energy sources and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for significant sources of such emissions including public utilities and industrial producers of electricity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Governor to establish a full-time coordinator in his office to be responsible for developing the plan in cooperation with all state departments and to take actions needed to increase Louisiana's carbon sequestration through reforestation and other resource management practices.

REDUCING NON-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, millions of plastic bags are provided to Louisiana shoppers at retail checkout counters each year, and

WHEREAS, often, more plastic shopping bags are used than are needed to secure groceries and other retail goods for the trip home, and

WHEREAS, although some plastic shopping bags can be put to good secondary uses as garbage bags and for storing household goods, in most cases, a shopper's supply of bags far exceeds any practical and useful secondary uses for which they can be employed, and

WHEREAS, untold billions of such bags are distributed to shoppers each year in the United States; the worldwide estimate is 4 trillion to 5 trillion non-biodegradable plastic bags distributed annually, and

WHEREAS, it takes 430,000 gallons of oil to produce 100 million plastic bags, and

WHEREAS, not only are errant plastic shopping bags a blight on our scenic Louisiana landscapes, the environmental impact of their proliferation includes the combustion of fossil fuels used in their manufacture causing the emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants and soil and water contamination as they slowly decompose, releasing toxic chemicals from which they are made, and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of excess plastic shopping bags encourages their escape into the environment where they can create litter, despoil Nature, plug storm sewers and strangle and choke wildlife, and

WHEREAS, countries all over the world have recognized the problems caused

by the proliferation of plastic shopping bags in the environment and some, including China, Belgium, India, Denmark, Hong Kong, Australia, Ireland, South Africa and Canada have initiated measures to address the problem, and

WHEREAS, across this country legislation has been passed or is pending approval in New York City, San Francisco and San Jose, CA, Anchorage, Alaska, Virginia, New Jersey, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and other places, dealing with this problem in various ways, such as banning their use, taxing their use, rewarding reuse of the bags, or use of alternate methods of carrying goods such as canvas bags, or use of biodegradable carrying bags, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation recognizes that a workable solution for the problem of errant non-biodegradable plastic bags in the environment must be found for Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal's Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 regarding "Green Government" states: efficient and effective waste management conserve tax dollars and natural resources, and reduction of waste and recycling of what would otherwise be waste are proven waste management strategies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges retailers and other purveyors of plastic shopping bags to reduce their distribution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF commends those businesses in Louisiana that have already taken it upon themselves to cease distributing non-biodegradable plastic bags and applauds them for their environmental responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF does hereby urge and request Governor Bobby Jindal in reference to Executive Order No. BJ 2008-8 regarding "Green Government" to direct the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to develop a plan to ultimately ban the free distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags in Louisiana.

HISTORIC & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION FOR BAYOU MANCHAC

WHEREAS, beautiful Bayou Manchac, which lies along the boundaries of three parishes - Ascension, East Baton Rouge

and Iberville - has been a river significant in Louisiana history, and has been included in the Louisiana State Historical Markers program, and

WHEREAS, throughout history, Bayou Manchac was home to numerous native American cultures, as well as later European settlements including Galveztown, Fort Bute, Fort San Gabriel, Manchac, and Hope Villa, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac served as an international boundary in the original Louisiana Purchase, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac, known for a time as the Iberville River, is described in the journals of Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and in later writings of William Bartram, and

WHEREAS, much of the banks of Bayou Manchac are wooded and provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of riparian and aquatic plants and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, Bayou Manchac remains a quiet, natural, scenic waterway, protected by a canopy of trees growing from both banks, and is regarded by those that live in the vicinity as one of Louisiana's most beautiful examples of nature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the designation of Bayou Manchac, from its origin near the Mississippi River to its union with the Amite River, as a Louisiana Historic and Scenic River, and urges the Louisiana Legislature to nominate Bayou Manchac for such designation.

LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM DESIGNATION FOR CASTOR CREEK IN RAPIDES PARISH

WHEREAS, Castor Creek was judged to be qualified for the National Scenic River System by the U. S. Forest Service in the 1999 Forest Plan, and

WHEREAS, much of its 4.9 mile length flows through towering loblolly pine, beech, magnolia, sweetgum, ash and bald cypress within the Evangeline Unit of Kisatchie National Forest and is crossed by the Wild Azalea National Recreation Trail, and

WHEREAS, Castor Creek and two tributaries make up the expanded Castor Creek Scenic Area with numerous trees over 100 years old, and

WHEREAS, this clear, sandy-bottomed

stream is habitat for the federally listed threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel and the sensitive Teche painted crawfish, and is a good stream fishery for largemouth and spotted bass, longear and bluegill sunfish and eastern chain pickerel (jackfish), and

WHEREAS, Little Brushy Creek, Long Branch, Loving Creek and Little Loving Creek are part of the Castor Creek watershed and come together to enter Bayou Boeuf, and

WHEREAS, together these streams constitute over half of the pearlshell mussel population in Rapides Parish and have similar older plant communities and aesthetic appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the nomination of Castor Creek, Little Brushy Creek, Long Branch, Loving Creek and Little Loving Creek for designation from their origin to their terminus as Louisiana Natural and Scenic Streams, and urges the Louisiana Legislature to nominate these streams for such designation.

CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT

WHEREAS, H.R. 2421 and S. 1870 will return protection to isolated wetlands as originally intended under the Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act, as originally interpreted protected small isolated potholes and other wetlands, and

WHEREAS, small isolated wetlands constitute 20 million acres and supply breeding habitat for 40% of the waterfowl in the prairie pothole region of the Dakotas, and

WHEREAS, these wetlands are jeopardized by rising product prices, and

WHEREAS, these wetlands provide vital storm water absorption capabilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation hereby is in support of H.R. 2421 and S. 1870.

PROVIDING PUBLIC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH COASTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS

WHEREAS, participation in recreational fishing and recruitment of young people into the sport is declining in Louisiana and across the nation, and

WHEREAS, lack of opportunity due to limited access discourages participation and recruitment of new participants to the recreational fishery, and

WHEREAS, in years past many people started out fishing when they were kids, at places that they could access on their own, and

WHEREAS, the creation of new “borrow pits” that will be necessary for building new and expanded hurricane protection levees presents the opportunity to provide for public access for fishing and other appropriate recreational uses of such borrow pits, and

WHEREAS, lands and wetlands created by coastal restoration projects as well as lands that the state must acquire for coastal restoration projects may provide further opportunities to secure access for public fishing and recreation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF), for the purpose of creating recreational fishing opportunities for the public, urges the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to secure public access to and use of suitable borrow pits that are created in the construction of hurricane protection levees, and to provide for public access to and use of public and suitable private lands/wetlands in cooperation with participating landowners that are created by coastal restoration projects as well as lands that the state must acquire to implement coastal restoration projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to coordinate appropriate federal and state agencies to select borrow pits that are best located and suitable for public fishing and to provide fish stocking and habitat management services to establish and maintain healthy native fish populations.

USE OF TRIPLOID GRASS CARP FOR HYDRILLA CONTROL

WHEREAS, grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) are voracious vegetarians, consuming up to 300% of their own body weight a day, and

WHEREAS, a preferred food of the grass carp is hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*),

and

WHEREAS, hydrilla is one of the most problematic invasive, aquatic weeds in Louisiana waters, and

WHEREAS, standard methods of aquatic vegetation control – mechanical removal, draw-downs, and chemicals – are expensive and provide only a short term remedy, and

WHEREAS, triploid grass carp are sterile, and

WHEREAS, grass carp require moving water in order to spawn successfully, and are therefore incapable of reproducing in static bodies of water, and

WHEREAS, fertile, diploid grass carp are already present in the major rivers of the state, thus diminishing the concern that utilizing triploid grass carp for aquatic vegetation control will promote the uncontrolled spread of grass carp in state waters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the experimental use of triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) in an integrated program of aquatic vegetation control in state waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Legislature to modify and clarify RS 56:319 to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and/or the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to utilize triploid grass carp in nuisance aquatic vegetation control efforts, including providing for the possession of diploid grass carp at LDWF fish hatcheries to produce stock for use in the LDWF’s aquatic vegetation control program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to consider and include the use of triploid grass carp in the Comprehensive Statewide Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to allocate hatchery resources to producing the triploid grass carp required for hydrilla control.

LOUISIANA OCEAN POLICY

WHEREAS, with its commercial and recreational fisheries, mineral development, ports, pipelines, and potential for wind energy and aquaculture, Louisiana has the most heavily utilized and impacted coastal region in the country, and

WHEREAS, the amount of ocean activity will only increase offshore Louisiana as world needs for energy, food and international trade increases, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s commercial fishery annually ranks second in the U.S. in number of pounds landed and in value of catch landed, trailing only Alaska, and Louisiana’s coastal and offshore recreational fishery ranks among the best in the world, and

WHEREAS, the congressionally-created US Ocean Policy Commission set forth the need for a coordinated US ocean policy nationally, regionally, and at the state level in its final report: An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century (Ocean Blueprint), and

WHEREAS, the Ocean Blueprint stated that the nation’s coastal zones and oceans are suffering from polluted runoff, extensive coastal development, habitat loss, and overlapping regulatory jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, the United States Government recognizes a 12 mile Territorial and a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone off its coasts as a generally accepted rule of International Law giving it control over resource exploitation, and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana currently has jurisdiction over state coastal waters out to 3 miles, it is likely that additional jurisdiction out to 12 miles will be ceded to the states by the federal government in the future, and

WHEREAS, the probability of an expanded territorial sea has motivated 13 US ocean states to develop or be in the process of developing state comprehensive ocean policy documents, among them Florida, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Alaska and California, often through ocean resource management improvement funding pursuant to Section 1456 (b) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana should follow the lead of its sister states in embarking on the development of a comprehensive, coordinated Louisiana Ocean Policy for the next 2 decades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Governor and Legislature to establish a committee or other appropriate task group to research and draft a comprehensive state ocean policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges that such Louisiana Ocean Policy work group be comprised of stakehold-

ers including representatives of pertinent government and non-government organizations, industries, businesses and members of the academic community with ocean law and policy expertise and that Louisiana ocean resource management enhancement funds be obtained under Section 1456 (b) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and other appropriate funding sources to support this work.

EXPIRATION DATES OF HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

WHEREAS, in recent years, hunting and fishing license sales have stagnated or declined, and

WHEREAS, declining hunting and fishing license sales impacts the operating funds for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and

WHEREAS, a change in the expiration date of hunting and recreational fishing licenses to twelve months from the date of issue may result in more new resident licenses being sold, and could also increase the sale of annual non-resident licenses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct a fiscal impact assessment of, and consider the relative benefits of, making the expiration date of recreational hunting and fishing licenses twelve months from date of issue.

LOUISIANA BULLFROG MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), and its close cousin the pig frog (*Lithobates grylio*) have been a part of the culinary culture of South Louisiana since Native Americans inhabited the woods and waters of our great state, and

WHEREAS, for untold generations these miniature “amphibian athletes” have maintained their abundance, protected from ever increasing harvest and predation by a variety of natural defenses including impenetrable swamp and vast grassy marshland habitats, keen senses, and resilience to environmental stressors, and

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational harvesters have always depended upon the seemingly endless supply of frog’s legs available for home consumption and

the enjoyment of restaurant diners around the world, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law currently allows harvest of frogs for 10 months of the calendar year, excluding April and May during the peak of the bull and pig frog reproduction season, with no daily/nightly limits during open season, and

WHEREAS, during the months of February and March as frogs emerge from their winter “sleep,” they are sluggish and less capable to respond to danger, and much of their protective cover in the form of water hyacinth and other aquatic plants have been greatly reduced or completely eliminated during the cold season die-off, factors making it less sporting and easier for froggers to approach and capture them, and

WHEREAS, the coastal wetlands of Louisiana, home to the majority of the bull and pig frog populations of the state, are particularly susceptible to dramatic changes in habitat and water quality due to salt water intrusion and storm surge flooding; the population of frogs residing along the state’s coastal freshwater barriers likely were significantly reduced due to the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita that diminished both cover and forage for bull and pig frogs, and

WHEREAS, with the degradation and loss of wetland habitat in Louisiana and the increase in frog harvest efficiency afforded by modern-day tools and technology such as stronger lighting, high-powered mud boats, airboats, mechanical grabbers, nets, etc., coupled with the increased market demand for frogs both domestically and internationally, an assessment of the status of the bull and pig frog populations in the state and consideration of new harvest regulations to insure and conserve sustainable populations of these species is warranted, and

WHEREAS, coastal restoration should include consideration of restoring populations of bull and pig frogs and other sensitive, wetland dependent species to their former abundance in the coastal wetlands of the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to determine the status of the bullfrog and pig frog populations in the state, with emphasis on the coastal parishes impacted by the hurricanes of 2005, and further, to consider the need to establish a daily bag limit on bull

frogs and pig frogs.

USE OF MUZZLELOADERS- ONLY IN MUZZLELOADER SEASON

WHEREAS, the muzzleloader has one characteristic that distinguishes it from other firearms: it is loaded from the muzzle of the gun, and

WHEREAS, the black powder cartridge rifle shoots a rifle cartridge, and is loaded from the rear of the gun, and

WHEREAS, each time a muzzleloader is fired, powder must be measured and loaded into the muzzle, followed by the projectile, in order to reload, and

WHEREAS, the cartridge rifle has the exact amount of powder, and the projectile is seated in the exact same position every time and can be reloaded simply by inserting a fresh cartridge into the firing chamber, and

WHEREAS, the cartridge rifle has an the advantage of both accuracy and consistency compared to the muzzle loading rifle and is a substantially different firearm than envisioned for use when the muzzle-loader or primitive firearm season was first conceived.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation opposes allowing the use of firearms which are breech loaded during the designated muzzleloader deer season and supports allowing only those weapons that are loaded from the muzzle to be permitted to be used during the muzzleloader hunting season for deer.

RECOGNIZING PREVENTION AS A VITAL COMPONENT OF COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION

WHEREAS, the 2000 census documented that over 50 percent of Louisiana’s population live and work in the coastal zone, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s coastal zone and marshes support and protect extensive oil and gas production and infrastructure, five of the nation’s fifteen largest ports, a highly productive commercial fishing industry, as well as recreational fishing, hunting, wildlife-watching, fur harvest, and alligator harvest, and

WHEREAS, the historic and continued loss of Louisiana’s coastal barriers and wetlands represents a threat to the state’s

economy and a clear and present danger to people and communities, and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that projects and activities in support of commerce, flood control and the development of natural resources for sustenance and economic gain have contributed substantially to and accelerated the natural processes of erosion and subsidence of coastal lands, and

WHEREAS, plans to restore Louisiana's coastal wetlands, while critically needed, have a daunting price tag, and their implementation is dependent upon the support of the tax-paying American public and the vagaries of the federal funding process, and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable and realistic for federal appropriators to expect the state of Louisiana to demonstrate consistency between requests for federal funding to restore areas experiencing land loss, and the stewardship and protection of existing coastal barrier and wetland habitats, and

WHEREAS, the least expensive and most effective "coastal restoration" is achieved by preventing the destruction of coastal wetland habitats in the first place, and

WHEREAS, regardless of the past inattention to the application of this common-sense approach to the conservation of coastal barriers and wetlands, it is imperative it be embraced as Louisiana moves forward to save its coast from further loss and degradation, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor, Bobby Jindal in his recent **Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, "ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST"** recognized the importance of managing coastal activities such that they are not counter to the state's imperative to protect, restore and conserve the coast, and therefore also recognizes the concept of prevention as a vital component of coastal protection, restoration and conservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges that coastal land loss "prevention" be fully integrated into the state's coastal protection and restoration policies and plans, including in the exercise of its existing authority to guide and regulate coastal uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF calls upon those industries and

operators in the coastal zone who, by virtue of their activities, may contribute to the loss of coastal barriers and wetlands, to avoid damages to coastal barriers and wetlands where feasible and to fully mitigate damages so that such activities do not contribute to further loss and jeopardy of Louisiana's coastal communities, and further, to pioneer innovative practices and techniques that prevent damage or destruction of existing coastal wetlands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF encourages Governor Jindal to fully execute the policy articulated in **Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, "ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST"** to prevent further degradation and loss of Louisiana's coastal barriers, cheniers and wetlands.

RETURNING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO ITS DELTA

WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana was formed by the depositional processes of the Mississippi River over the past 7,500 years, and

WHEREAS, the thick fluvial deposits that comprise the Mississippi River delta are naturally prone to compaction under their own weight, but if sediment supplies are sufficient the delta can build and maintain its surfaces as sea level rises, and

WHEREAS, the land building processes of the Mississippi River have been halted in South Louisiana by a combination of levees (which prevent seasonal overbank flooding and sediment deposition), dredged waterways (which channel fresh water and sediment to the Gulf of Mexico), and upstream dam construction (which prevent sediment from naturally reaching the Louisiana coast), and

WHEREAS, over 1,500 square miles of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands have been lost to open water since the early 1930's and scientists project that another 500 square miles will be lost by 2050 if current resource management practices continue, and

WHEREAS, more than 120 million tons of river sediment that could be used to sustain the Mississippi Delta will be lost to the Gulf of Mexico each year if nothing is done to restore the natural hydrology of the Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS, prevention of wetland loss in the Mississippi River Deltaic Plain, which comprises most of the southeastern Louisiana coastal zone, is dependent upon restoring flows of fresh water and sediment to the delta, and

WHEREAS, an international team of scientists convened for the express purpose of advising the State of Louisiana about its coastal land loss problem in 2006 concluded that "The most fundamental and essential action needed to achieve a sustainable coast is to reduce, to the greatest extent possible, the amount of Mississippi River sediment and freshwater flowing directly into the deep waters of the Gulf. These valuable resources, which originally built coastal Louisiana, can only benefit the coast if they are redirected to inshore and nearshore waters. This would occur naturally if the river were not artificially maintained for navigation along its present course into deep water.", and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal in his recent **Executive Order No. BJ 2008 -7, "ACTIVITY AND PERMIT CONSISTENCY WITH LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST"** recognized the importance of managing coastal activities such that they are not counter to the state's imperative to protect, restore and conserve the coast.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) calls upon the state of Louisiana, through its legal authorities and executive policies, to demand the US Army Corps of Engineers to permit no additional dam or levee construction along the mainstem or tributaries of the Mississippi River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF requests the State of Louisiana, through its legal authorities, to urge and request the U. S. Congress to fully fund the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers the total amount of funds currently being collected from the Harbor Maintenance Fees and that the funds be used for the beneficial use of dredged material to protect, restore and conserve the coast of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF calls upon the state of Louisiana and the US Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with haste to restore the deposition of sediment in the deltaic plain region, sediment that created coastal Louisiana and which is required for its survival, through

the implementation of restoration projects adopted in WRDA 2007, State of Louisiana Coastal Comprehensive Plan, the Corps' Louisiana Area Coastal Protection and Restoration Plan, and other restoration actions that enhance deltaic land building processes.

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From Executive Director: Continued from page 9

1419; Louisiana Nurseries - 12289 Florida Boulevard (225) 272-9795, 8680 Perkins Road (225) 766-0300, 13121 Coursey Boulevard (225) 756-0008, Highway 42, Prairieville (225) 697-7984; Naylor's Hardware & Garden Center - 14441 Old Hammond Highway (225) 272-6412; Vernon's Hardware - 10960 Florida (225) 272-0955.

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Denham Springs –

Dodge City Farm Supply - 101 Hatchell Lane – (225) 664-3351; Cleggs's Nursery - Highway 16 North (225) 791-6060.

Folsom –

Spencer's Feed & Seed - 83103 Highway 25 (985)-796-3970.

Gonzales –

Old Time Farm Supply - 13218 Highway 44 (225) 647-4201; Sacs Pet & Feed Supplies - 125 S. Burnside (225) 647-7870.

Hammond –

Hammond Feed & Seed - 102 E. Robert (985) 345-1920.

Lafayette –

Chastant Brothers - 214 E. Pinhook (337) 234-2351; The Blue Daisy Nursery - 800 E. Broussard Road (337) 981-6514.

Mer Rouge –

Mer Rouge Farm Supply 1 (800) 841-3543.

Monroe & West Monroe –

Tyner-Petrus - 2820 Sterlington Road, Monroe (318) 388-3788; Tyner-Petrus Company - 100 Mill Street, West Monroe (318) 322-4474.

Ponchatoula –

Ponchatoula Feed & Seed - 180 E. Pine Street (985) 386-3506.

Winnsboro –

Sullivan's Ace Hardware & Feed (318) 435-3104.

Conservation Funding Deferred

With no debate, the Appropriations Committee of the Louisiana House of Representatives deferred Senate Bill 18 which would have dedicated one-twentieth of a penny of state sales tax to the Conservation Fund (Fund). The measure was deferred with the concurrence of the bill's sponsor, Senator John Alario, who conceded that the proposal needed further evaluation in the context of state finances and budget policy. Alario, Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Fannin, and several other committee members expressed support for the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and pledged to come up with a workable funding proposal by the next Regular Session of the Legislature. The committee was put in an awkward position after Governor Jindal announced earlier in the legislative session that he would veto bills that make new dedications of state funds. SB 18 had cleared the Senate on May 1st on a 33-2 vote with 29 coauthors.

The Conservation Fund is the primary operating fund of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. It receives most of its revenues from user fees. SB 18 would have supplemented the Fund with approximately \$40 million a year in state sales tax revenue that is now being allocated to other purposes in the state budget.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries has operated primarily on self-generated funds, federal funds and mineral revenue, with essentially no allocation from the state general fund. Future shortfalls in revenues from license sales, mineral royalties and other sources are anticipated. The fish and wildlife conservation agencies of other states like Missouri and Arkansas receive a significant percentage of support from state sales tax revenue, and as hunting and fishing license dollars shrink in relation to expanding responsibilities, state conservation agencies throughout the country are looking to similar general revenue support to supplement traditional sources.

Current revenue sources supporting the Conservation Fund include: sales of recreational hunting and fishing licenses

and commercial licenses, royalties from mineral production on certain state-owned (including department-owned) lands and from extraction of sand and fill material from state water bottoms, assorted fees collected for boat registrations, survey fees, Wildlife Division program fees (such as DMAP), seismic fees and sales of merchandise including The Louisiana Conservationist magazine, posters and other printed materials. Declines in recent years in the sales of hunting and fishing licenses, due primarily to senior outdoorsmen and women aging out of the ranks of licensed hunters and fishermen, has caused a reduction in this source of revenue to the Conservation Fund.

Corresponding increases in LDWF



The new Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Logo

expenses, primarily in staff salaries and benefits, but additionally in equipment and fuel costs, expanded mission including emergency preparedness and search and rescue, and from new laws and regulations pertaining to regulating snakes, primates, big cats and other functions not related to the traditional work of the agency, have placed increasing demands on the personnel and financial resources of the agency.

The allocation of state general funds to the Conservation Fund would enable the LDWF to more thoroughly fulfill its mission of habitat conservation/management, biological research, aquatic weed control and enforcement of regulations

as well as allow it to more sufficiently address nongame wildlife needs and nuisance wildlife management, scenic rivers, education and outreach, providing fishing and shooting opportunities to underserved communities, and other important functions of modern natural resource conservation agencies. Additionally, the LDWF has pressing needs to update its fish hatcheries, regional offices, and facilities on its Wildlife Management Areas, including roads and bridges. Some LDWF buildings are literally falling apart they are so old and worn.

"On more than one occasion the Legislature has recognized the impending funding crisis for the Department," said Randy Lanctot, long-time executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Lanctot, who has observed these conservation budget challenges for many years, said that the Legislature adopted a resolution (SCR 19) in 2003 authorizing the establishment of a study commission to develop a plan for achieving long-term, reliable funding for the LDWF, but nothing ever materialized. He noted that the Jindal Wildlife & Fisheries Transition Panel on which he served spent the greater portion of its only meeting last December discussing with enthusiasm the Department's funding challenges and possible strategies to address them.

"Governor Jindal now has an opportunity, no, an obligation, to step forward with a commitment to review the agency's funding needs and present a funding plan for the future," said Lanctot. "Perhaps a 'blue ribbon' panel including some of the members of the his Wildlife and Fisheries Transition Panel with knowledge and interest concerning this issue, along with other progressive user group representatives and members of the stakeholder community, could be assembled to do some brainstorming on LDWF funding and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature prior to the next Regular Session," he suggested. "That's the least that Governor Jindal should do."

Legislative Session Wrap-2008 Regular

The recent Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature was different, to say the least, from those of past years. Many legislators were just learning the ropes of their first general session. They were impressive in their determination and enthusiasm as they took the seats of their predecessors, many of whom were term-limited and could not run for the same spot again after the 3-term limit law took effect at the end of last year. They earnestly asked a lot of questions, trying to get to the bottom of the issues before them. Naturally, they were hearing about a lot of things for the first time, but that didn't stop them from jumping into the debate. It may have prolonged the discussion of some otherwise mundane matters, but it was refreshing to watch. Did they get everything right? I'm sure, by now, they would tell you, "No." Neither did they get everything wrong. For sure, by the last weeks of the session they were weary and more than ready to go home.

For a wide open general session, the number of bills and resolutions introduced was considerably less than normal. All told, there were 2,196 bills and 375 concurrent resolutions introduced. The usual percentage, about 10 percent or 250 of the measures, were related in some way to natural resource conservation, environmental quality, or the use and enjoyment of our natural resources. About 50 percent of those were finally adopted, many of which could be described as "housekeeping" or tweaking existing laws and programs. Some of the more notables for the "conservation lobby" were:

HB 420, a proposed constitutional amendment which if adopted, in addition to allowing parishes to receive a larger share of the revenues generated by the production of minerals from state lands and waterbottoms in the parishes, would allocate up to \$10 million in state mineral revenues produced within the Atchafalaya Basin to a fund dedicated to implementing the water quality and public recreation projects of the Atchafalaya Basin Program;

HB 638 requires new state vehicles, with exceptions for law enforcement, emergency vehicles and others, to have a fuel efficiency rating of no less than 18 MPG in city driving and 28 MPG highway driving;

HB 694 changed the age of eligibility for youth deer hunts to under 18 years of age

(from under 16), thus providing more incentive for youngsters to participate in hunting;

HB 1135 restructures the operating procedures, criteria for projects, and decision-making process for the Atchafalaya Basin Program within DNR, including the development of an annual plan that must be approved by the Legislature (more on this legislation elsewhere in this magazine);

SB 51 clarifies that individuals have the right to store legally-possessed firearms in locked, privately-owned vehicles;

SB 165 authorizes the use of crossbows for deer hunting and changes the name of the muzzleloader season to the primitive firearms season, opening the door to the use of antique cartridge rifles to take deer during this special season;

SB 351 requires the state to purchase alternative fuel and hybrid fuel vehicles to reduce the emissions of VOCs, NOx, hydrocarbons and particulates into the atmosphere;

SB 365 creates the Environmental Education Division within the Office of Wildlife of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and transfers the Environmental Education Commission and the Office of Environmental Education to it from the Governor's Office;

SB 367 clarifies and expands the authority of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the powers of the Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities;

SB 411 establishes the Louisiana Coastal Land Stewardship Authority within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to provide for management and administration and appropriate public uses of coastal properties acquired or assumed by the state consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of such property;

SCR 10 requests the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to consider waiving the WMA hunting permit for small game hunters during the first nine days of the regular squirrel season as an enticement to recruit and retain hunters;

SCR 64 establishes the Louisiana Recreational Saltwater Fishing Task Force to advise the LDWF, LWFC and the Louisiana Legislature on matters pertaining to the management, development, and promotion of the saltwater recreational fishing industry in Louisiana including saltwater recreational fish-

ing access.

You can read more about these and other legislation below. For the full text of bills and resolutions visit the Legislature's website at <http://www.legis.state.la.us> and enter and click on the bill/resolution # of interest.

The most significant conservation legislation to fail, for the second year in a row, was a proposal to dedicate one-twentieth of a penny of state sales tax to the Conservation Fund, the operating fund of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. There's more on that elsewhere in this publication. Another bill of special interest to anglers that failed to make it through the process was a proposal to provide for public access to the extent of the flow of navigable waters for recreational pole and line fishing. Both of these efforts are sure to be revisited.

House Bills and Resolutions

HB 1 (Act 19) by Fannin. **APPROPRIATIONS.** Governor's Office of Coastal Activities - \$1,965,879 (13 positions); Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Office of State Parks - \$32,817,424 (General Fund[GF]-\$28,988,247), 424 positions; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/Atchafalaya Basin Program - \$472,081, 4 positions, DNR Auxiliary Account for promoting energy efficiency - \$14,236,852, Office of Conservation - \$13,451,844, 132 positions, Office of Coastal Restoration & Management - \$99,984,165, 150 positions; Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality - \$145,525,999 [GF- \$12,087,791] plus \$7,189,353 federal hurricane recovery funds, 953 positions; Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - \$107,705,381 plus \$23,027,840 federal hurricane/fishery recovery funds, 800 positions: Enforcement Division - \$24,826,397, 261 positions, Office of Wildlife - \$41,046,057, 219 positions, Office of Fisheries - \$28,242,392, 230 positions. Note: of the LDWF budget, the Conservation Fund contributes \$63,359,389 and federal funds, most from federal aid in wildlife and sport fish restoration programs, account for \$19,152,579.

HB 2 (Act 29) by Greene & Fannin. **CAPITAL OUTLAY.** Provides for the capital spending of state government; includes \$37,190,000 in Priority 1 (P1) and 12,830,000

in Priority 5 (P5) bond funding for various study, acquisition, planning and construction projects (SAP&C) and maintenance and repairs for state parks and preservation areas administered by the Office of State Parks; \$2,625,000 in P1, bond funding for SAP&C for the Washington Parish Reservoir; \$100,000 in P1 bond funding for the Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir in LaSalle Parish; \$1,500,000 in P1 bond funding for AP&C for the Poverty Point Reservoir in Richland Parish; 400,000 in P1 bond funding for the Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir; \$800,000 in P1 bond funding for AP&C for the Allen Parish Reservoir; \$1,415,000 in P1 and \$1,000,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Bayou Duchene Reservoir in Caldwell Parish; \$715,000 in P1 and \$75,000 in P5 for Bayou Desiard Ecosystem Restoration in Ouachita Parish; \$2,000,000 in P1 bond funding for repairs to state-owned reservoirs and dams, statewide; \$10,330,000 in P1 and \$2,670,000 in P5 bond funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Protection and Enhancement Program; \$1,000,000 in Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Trust funds for wildlife habitat acquisition by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

HB 343 (Act 16) by Perry, et al. **SHRIMPING.** Changes reference from a channel marker latitude/longitude coordinates relative to night time shrimping in Southwest Pass at Marsh Island.

HB 360 (Act 272) by Montoucet. **ALLIGATOR COUNCIL.** Creates the Louisiana Alligator Advisory Council and transfers the alligator-related functions and funding of the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council to the Alligator Advisory Council; deletes the alligator-related functions from the Fur and Alligator Advisory Council and renames it the Fur Advisory Council and revises the membership to exclude representatives of the alligator trapping and farming industry.

HB 375 (Act 580) by Dove. **NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.** Makes housekeeping adjustments to law reflecting the change combining the House Natural Resources and Environment Committees into one committee.

HB 376 (Act 581) by Dove. **GROUNDWATER.** Provides for civil penalties for violation of groundwater management provisions, rules or orders.

HB 382 (Act 884) by Hutter. **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FEES.** Renews fees paid to store hazardous material on premises.

HB 420 (Act 932) by Gallot. **STATE MINERAL REVENUE – PARISHES/ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM.** Constitutional amendment to increase the allocation of income to parishes from mineral production on state lands within each parish; dedicates up to \$10 million per year of mineral revenue produced from state lands and waterbottoms in the Atchafalaya Basin to the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund to be used to implement the water quality and public access features of the state's master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin.

HB 439 (Act 278) by Dove. **MINING/MINERAL RECLAMATION.** Expands the abandoned mine reclamation program from coal mining to mineral development (solid minerals) and repeals the abandoned mine reclamation fund and allocates revenues formerly allocated to the fund to the Commissioner of Conservation for the purposes of abandoned mine and (solid) mineral development reclamation on eligible lands.

HB 475 (Act 722) by St. Germain. **CRAB EXPORT.** Establishes a \$100 annual crab export license to be required of any wholesaler or retailer who ships any type of crab out of state; further provides for allocation of the fees collected.

HB 488 (Act 280) by Gisclair. **OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE.** Requires that marine biologists from LSU (Baton Rouge), LUMCON and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries review an aquaculture project to be located in state offshore waters prior to permitting of the project by the state.

HB 528 (Act 81) by Lambert. **CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTS.** Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to adjust its chemical release reporting requirements to consider the reporting of releases to the Department of Public Safety (one call system), that also are required to be reported to DEQ but that do not constitute an emergency, as meeting DEQ prompt reporting requirements for such releases.

HB 539 (Act 588) by Lambert. **OZONE NONATTAINMENT.** Provides for a maximum \$5,000 per ton VOCs/Nox ozone non attainment penalty fee and that determination of non attainment will be based on the 1-hour ozone standard; further provides that the Department of Environmental Quality will adjust its ozone non attainment fee regulations to be consistent with Environmental Protection Agency, Congressional and/or court adjustments to such fees.

HB 638 (Act 592) by LaBruzzo. **STATE FLEET FUEL EFFICIENCY.** Requires new state vehicles to have a fuel efficiency rating of no less than 18 MPG in city driving and 28 MPG highway driving. Excepts law enforcement, military and emergency vehicles.

HB 694 (Act 22) by Rep. St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **YOUTH DEER HUNTS.** Increases the age of eligibility for youth deer hunts to under 18 years of age (from under 16).

HB 695 (Act 34) by Rep. St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **WATERSKIING/PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.** Requires operators of personal watercraft towing water skiers to either have an observer aboard or have required wide-angle rear view mirror attached to the watercraft the same as required for motorboat operators towing water skiers.

HB 697 (Act 35) by Rep. St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **MOTORBOAT.** Includes documented commercial and recreational fishing vessels in the definition of motorboat.

HB 698 (Act 36) by Rep. St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **HUNTER ORANGE.** Clarifies the law requiring that hunter orange be worn during the open gun deer hunting season by all hunters possessing buckshot, slugs, muzzle-loader or center fire rifle.

HB 699 (Act 363) by Rep. St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT.** Authorizes the LDWF to become a participant in the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact to facilitate the compliance of Louisiana citizens with the wildlife conservation laws of the other participating states (and the compliance of the citizens of the other participating states with Louisiana's wildlife conservation laws) by providing for the suspension of Louisiana hunting/fishing license privileges of Louisiana residents and nonresidents who violate the wildlife conservation laws of another participating state and fail to comply with the terms of the violation as well as the suspension of hunting and fishing privileges by residents of other participating states who violate Louisiana wildlife conservation laws and fail to comply with the terms of the violation.

HB 701 (Act 23) by Rep. St. Germain and Sen. Dupre. **DEFINES FISH; AQUACULTURE REGULATION.** Defines recreational, commercial and game fish and applies the terms consistently throughout the statutes; reinstates the authority for the regulation of aquaculture, especially as regards aquaculture and commercial sale of game fish species, to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife

and Fisheries from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

HB 702 (Act 24) by St. Germain, et al. **SHAD SEINES & GILLNETS.** Provides for the taking of legal sized freshwater commercial finfish with shad seines and shad, skipjack herring and up to 25 freshwater commercial fish during the open shad fishing season.

HB 733 (Act 294) by Schroder. **PARISH LITTER ENFORCEMENT.** Authorizes parishes to utilize an administrative adjudication process to enforce anti litter ordinances and levy fines up to 500 per day for violations and to appoint a litter abatement officer.

HB 765 (Act 296) by Hutter. **FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT/PROTECTION.** Requires parishes and municipalities to comply with federal flood plain management and insurance provisions prior to construction of any federally-financed flood protection measures.

HB 788 (Act 89) by Downs. **ADOPT-A-ROAD.** Transfers the Adopt-a-Road roadside litter pick-up and beatification program from DEQ to DOTD and adds minor provisions.

HB 798 (Act 808) by Hutter. **OYSTER LEASES.** Sets forth a procedure and conditions for lifting the moratorium on leasing certain state waterbottoms for oyster production.

HB 848 (Act 92) by Hutter. **OYSTER HARVESTING.** Adjusts the dates and seasons for the harvest of seed oysters and market oysters from public oyster seed grounds.

HB 1025 (Act 27) by St. Germain. **NONRESIDENT HUNTING/FISHING.** Establishes daily nonresident hunting and fishing license fees and repeals provisions for "trip" licenses of more than one day duration; makes exception for nonresident native-born Louisianans by provided such with a temporary license valid for 5 consecutive days at the same cost as the basic resident licenses and any special licenses or stamps required.

HB 1135 (Act 606) by St. Germain, et al. **ATCHAFALAYA BASIN PROGRAM.** Restructures the operating procedures, criteria for projects, and decision-making process for the Atchafalaya Basin Program within DNR, including the development of an annual plan that must be approved by the Legislature, similar to the process for the state coastal protection/restoration plan; gives specific executive authorities to the Atchafalaya Basin Promotion and Research Board (ABPRB) including the development of the annual plan; creates a technical advisory group chaired by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to advise the APPRB; requires review

of the plan by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to assure consistency with the state's master plan for coastal protection and restoration; creates the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund, the avails of such fund to be used for projects in the Atchafalaya Basin annual plan, master plan or as a match for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project of the Corps of Engineers; directs 75% of monies allocated from the fund in any one fiscal year to water management, water quality or (public) access projects with the remaining 25% available to complete ongoing projects and projects that are in accordance with the mission statement of the master plan.

HB 1138 (Act 320) by Gisclair. **SHRIMPING.** Increases the allowable size of shrimp trawl doors.

HB 1142 (Act 321) by St. Germain, et al. **OYSTER CARGO VESSEL.** Authorizes the LWFC to promulgate rules to establish an oyster cargo vessel permit for a fee of \$250/year (resident), \$1,000/year (nonresident) for vessels receiving and holding oysters transferred to such vessels on the harvest grounds and sets forth minimum provisions for such rules.

HB 1196 (Act 96) by LaFonta. **RADIOACTIVE WASTE.** Prohibits the transportation within the state of any radioactive waste generated outside of the United States; excepts any such waste generated by the US Armed Forces.

HB 1206 (Act 327) by Rep. Dove, et al. **WETLANDS DISCOVERY CENTER.** Creates the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center Commission to establish the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center in Terrebonne Parish.

HB 1270 (Act 382) by Perry. **BIOFUEL DEVELOPMENT.** Provides for the Advanced Biofuel Industry Development Initiative setting forth standards and structure for the development of an advanced biofuels industry in Louisiana from non-corn-based sources, a process for testing and certifying the quality of the fuel, and incentives for use of the fuel.

HB 1383 (Act 922) by Wooten. **OYSTERS.** Restricts access to the public oyster seed grounds through initiation of a new oyster seed ground vessel permit and provides for an Oyster seed Ground Vessel Permit Appeals Board.

HCR 12 by Hill. **SW LOUISIANA COASTAL RESTORATION.** Urges that proportionate attention be given by the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority and the US Army, Corps of Engineers to hur-

ricane protection and coastal restoration projects in southwest Louisiana and the chenier plain region of the coast.

HCR 25 by St. Germain & Sen. Dupre. **VESSEL TITLING LAW SUSPENSION.** Suspends until 60 days after the 2009 regular legislative session the effect of the vessel titling law enacted in 2007 in order to give the LDWF and affected parties more time to perfect the administration of the law.

HCR26 by St. Germain. **ATCHAFALAYA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.** Establishes a joint committee of the Legislature to oversee the execution of the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program.

HCR 28 by Foil. **BAYOU MANCHAC.** Nominates Bayou Manchac for designation as a state historic and scenic river.

HCR 98 by LaFonta. **NUCLEAR WASTE IMPORT/TRANSPORT.** Urges DEQ to review the proposed import of foreign-generated nuclear waste through the Port of Louisiana for ultimate disposal in Utah and Tennessee for compliance with all applicable rules and to halt such importation if there is noncompliance with state laws and regulations.

HCR 99 by LaFonta. **NUCLEAR WASTE IMPORTATION.** Memorializes Congress to prohibit the importation of nuclear waste generated outside of the U.S. for processing or disposal in the U.S.

Senate Bills & Resolutions

SB 13 (Act 37) by Dupre. **RECREATIONAL HOOP NETS.** Increases the number of recreational hoop nets that can be used with a recreational hoop net gear license from 3 to 5.

SB 22 (Act 38) by Sen Dupre & Rep. St. Germain. **FINFISH STOCK ASSESSMENT.** Requires a stock assessment for flounder, black drum, and sheepshead on a biannual basis and presented to the Legislature in even-numbered years rather than annually.

SB 48 (Act 42) by McPherson. **DRAKE'S CREEK – SCENIC RIVER.** Designates Drake's Creek within Vernon Parish from Lookout Road to its confluence with Ouiska Chitto Creek, as a natural and scenic river.

SB 51 (Act 684) by McPherson. **FIREARMS/VEHICLES.** Provides for the storage of legally-possessed firearms in locked, privately-owned vehicles on private and public property and provides for exceptions.

SB 67 (Act 45) by Dupre, et al. **RECREATES LDWF.** Recreates the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

until July 1, 2012.

SB 124 (Act 48) by Sen. Dupre & Rep. Dove. **RECREATES LDNR.** Recreates the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources until July 1, 2012.

SB 165 (Act 51) by Thompson, et al. **CROSSBOWS/PRIMITIVE FIREARMS.** Authorizes the use of crossbows to take deer and changes the name of the special muzzle-loader deer hunting season to primitive firearms season; further authorizes the use of a crossbow during a crossbow and bow and arrow season for deer concurrent with or in addition to a bow and arrow only deer season.

SB 283 (Act 55) by Crowe and 31 Senate Co-authors. **ED SCOGIN BOAT LAUNCH.** Names the public boat launch at US Highway 190 and the Pearl River as the Edward C. Scogin Memorial Boat Launch after the late member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, advocate of Louisiana Scenic Streams, preservation of the Pearl River Basin and Honey Island Swamp, and friend of conservation.

SB 326 (Act 56) by Hebert. **DEQ/SEWAGE HAULERS.** Authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality to regulate haulers of sewerage sludge and biosolids.

SB 351 (Act 542) by N. Gautreaux. **HYBRID VEHICLES.** Requires the state to purchase alternative fuel and hybrid fuel vehicles to reduce the emissions of VOCs, Nox, hydrocarbons and particulates into the atmosphere.

SB 365 (Act 544) by Dupre. **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.** Creates the Environmental Education Division within the Office of Wildlife of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and transfers the Environmental Education Commission and the Office of Environmental Education from the Governor's Office to the Environmental Education Division.

SB 367 (Act 545) by Dupre. **COASTAL PROTECTION/DEVELOPMENT.** Clarifies that the authority for coastal protection and restoration is primarily with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) within the Governor's office and the Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities; defines infrastructure as publicly-owned facilities with a critical public purpose that are impacted by coastal land loss and rising sea levels but excluding levees and hurricane protection systems; expands the authority of the CPRA to include infrastructure as defined and wetlands mitigation projects and

establishes a process and guidelines for allocating funding to coastal infrastructure work with a limitation of no more than 10% of the federal OCS revenues available for coastal protection and restoration to be available for such infrastructure projects; authorizes the Governor's Assistant on Coastal Activities to utilize personnel and contracting authority of other state agencies as needed to implement coastal projects; establishes positions of director of engineering and science and director of implementation to work under the direction of the Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities to execute the state's master plan for coastal protection and restoration on behalf of the CPRA; and requires a 3-year funding needs projection for coastal protection and restoration projects and a legislative review, and revision as necessary, of the master plan at least every 5 years, among other provisions.

SB 371 (Act 235) by Dupre. **AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL.** Deletes the prohibition against using monies in the Aquatic Plant Control Fund (APCF) for staff salaries and benefits and prohibits displacement of funds dedicated to aquatic plant control by alternative sources funding for this purpose so that it is in addition to rather than in place of APCF dollars.

SB 384 (Act 547) by Hebert. **AIR EMISSIONS.** Authorizes the secretary of DEQ to promulgate, adopt, and enforce air quality standards, limitations and other regulations on sources which discharge toxic pollutants into the atmosphere, but are not required to obtain a permit, including documentation of the potential for emissions.

SB 411 (Act 548) by McPherson. **COASTAL LAND STEWARDSHIP.** Establishes the Louisiana Coastal Land Stewardship Authority within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to provide for management and administration of properties in connection with coastal protection and restoration projects acquired or assumed by the state and to provide for appropriate public uses of such property, all consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of such property and compatible with the state's master coastal protection and restoration plan.

SB 430 (Act 550) by Hebert. **RIGHT TO KNOW.** Expands reporting of incidents at a facility that may have adverse public health impact beyond the property boundary of the facility but that are not otherwise required by law to be reported.

SB 525 (Act 189) by Erdey. **FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT/PROTECTION.** Requires parishes and municipalities to comply with federal flood plain management and insurance provisions prior to construction of any federally-financed flood protection measures. (Same as HB 765.)

SB 566 (Act 553) by Crowe. **WETLANDS TOURIST CENTER/ST. BERNARD.** Establishes the Louisiana Wetlands Conservation and Hurricane Protection Tourist Center in St. Bernard Parish.

SB 697 (Act 123) by Dupre. **COASTAL PROTECTION FUND.** Provides for donations by individuals and businesses of refunds of various categories of state taxes to the Coastal Protection & Restoration Fund.

SB 744 (Act 564) by Dupre. **CHARTER BOAT LANDING REPORT.** Authorizes the LDWF to solicit the completion and return of landing reports from charter boat licensees containing information concerning catch, effort and other data determined by the LWFC to be useful in managing fisheries.

SB 800 (Act 570) by McPherson. **WATERWAY ACCESS/STATE WATERBOTTOM LEASES.** Requires that public access to public waters be maintained in any lease of public lands by the state to a private lessee; makes exceptions for waterbottoms for which the title is disputed or when restrictions are necessary to protect the public welfare; further provides that, except for mineral, oyster or alligator leases or state mineral board leases, the expiring leaseholder may have the right to match the highest bid in order to keep the lease if the LDWF determines there is a public need to maintain the current lessee.

SCR 10 by McPherson. **WMA PERMIT SUSPENSION/SQUIRREL SEASON.** Requests the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to consider waiving the WMA hunting permit for small game hunters during the first nine days of the regular squirrel season as an enticement to recruit and retain hunters.

SCR 24 by Dupre, et al. **COASTAL RESTORATION & PROTECTION.** Approves the annual Coastal Protection Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

SCR 25 by Dupre & Rep. Dove. **RED SNAPPER REGS.** Requests the states of Florida and Texas to implement state regulations identical to the federal regulations for the red snapper season like Louisiana and

Continued on page 26

the rest of the summer. Before you know it, the fall migration will be here. Until then, I remain

Yours in conservation,

Barney Callahan
President

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Mississippi have done in order to prevent over-fishing and restore the red snapper stocks.

SCR 36 by Morrish. **OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE.** Expresses the opposition of the Legislature to offshore aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico and memorializes congress to oppose the authorization of offshore aquaculture in the Gulf.

SCR 38 by Dupre. **LOUISIANA WATERS.** Memorializes to extend the current 3-mile territorial seaward boundary of Louisiana to marine leagues (approximately 9 geographic miles).

SCR 50 by McPherson. **KISATCHIE BAYOU.** Gives legislative approval for the portion of Bayou Kisatchie that is included in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System to be considered by Congress for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River.

SCR 63 by Adley. **CYPRESS-BLACK BAYOU FISHING/BOATING.** Urges the LWFC to follow the recommendations of the board of commissioners of the Cypress-Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District when promulgating rules and regulations pertaining to fishing and boating.

SCR 64 by Dupre. **SALTWATER ANGLING TASK FORCE.** Establishes the Louisiana Recreational Saltwater Fishing Task Force to advise the LDWF, LWFC and the Louisiana Legislature on matters pertaining to the management, development, and promotion of the saltwater recreational fishing industry in Louisiana including saltwater recreational fishing access and opportunities and improving communications between the users of the resource and the department. The voting members (9) shall be appointed by the LDWF Secretary from nominations submitted by: CCA of Louisiana, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, Louisiana Marine Trades Association, and in addition include a member from each of the following sectors – retail tackle industry, bait industry, marina owners, spearfishing/scuba, saltwater angling.

SCR 132 by Crowe. **LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN TWIN SPANS.** Urges the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to preserve a portion of the old Interstate 10 twin span bridge crossing Lake Pontchartrain to be used as a park and fishing pier.

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Approved Firearms for 2008-09 Primitive Weapons Deer Season

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has issued a list of approved primitive firearms for the 2008-09 Primitive Firearm Season. All of the approved primitive weapons meet the criteria set forth by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission as authorized primitive firearms. The criteria is a single shot, breech loading, metallic cartridge rifle with metallic cartridges loaded with either black powder or modern smokeless powder, .38 caliber or larger, of a kind or type manufactured prior to 1900 and replicas, and reproductions or reintroductions of that type rifle having an exposed hammer. The pre-1900 distinction applies only to the firearm and not the ammunition. All approved primitive firearms may be fitted with magnified scopes.

Approved primitive weapons are: Sharps rifles or replicas; Remington Rollingblock rifles or replicas; Ballard rifles; Maynard rifles or carbines; Burnside carbines; Frank Wesson rifles; Farrow rifles; Remington Hepburn rifles; M1873-1888 Springfield (Trapdoor) rifles and carbines and replicas; Snider (British) rifles and replicas; Wesson & Harrington 1871 rifles; New England Firearms or Harrington & Richardson Handi rifles in caliber larger than .38; Winchester M1885 Hi Wall or Lo Wall rifles or replicas (Also Browning B78 or 1885) .38 or larger; Knight KP-1 in caliber .38 or larger; CVA Optima Elite in caliber .38 or larger; Traditions Pursuit break-open single shot in .38 caliber or larger. Weapons not approved are Ruger Number 1 and Number 3 (Reason: No exposed hammer); Thompson Center Contender or Encore Carbines (Reason: Designed after 1900); Mossberg SSi Single Shot Rifle (Reason: No exposed hammer and designed after 1900).

A primitive firearm license, formerly sold as a muzzleloader license, is required for the taking of deer during the primitive firearm season in addition to the required basic and big game hunting licenses. During the still hunt and with-or-without dogs segments of the (conventional firearms) deer season, the primitive firearm license is not required. For more information on Louisiana hunting regulations, visit the LDWF Web site at

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>.

2009 Turkey Hunting Season Proposed

The following dates have been proposed for the 2009 turkey hunting season. Statewide opening date is Saturday, March 28. The season in Area A would extend to April 26, Area B to April 19, and Area C to April 12. The daily bag limit would be one gobbler, and the season limit would be two gobblers. Special private land youth hunts for those 17 years of age and younger and hunts for wheelchair confined hunters are proposed to take place on March 21 and March 22. The proposal also includes a requirement that all turkey hunters, regardless of age or license status, obtain tags prior to hunting turkeys. Successful hunters will be required to tag their harvested gobbler immediately and report their harvest within 72 hours. Harvest reporting can be done by telephone or on the internet at www.wlf.louisiana.gov. The recommendation also includes a new youth lottery hunt on Clear Creek WMA on March 21, the opening of a new area around Miller's Lake in Central Evangeline Parish bordered on the west by La. Hwy. 13, on the south by La. Hwy. 10, on the east by U.S. Hwy. 167 and on the north by La. Hwy. 106, an additional lottery hunt on the Dewey Wills WMA for a total of two lottery hunts to take place on April 18-19 and April 25-26. Public comment on the proposed season can be submitted to Kenny Ribbeck, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Sept. 4, 2008.

No Bass Length Limits for Youth Anglers Labor Day Weekend

In an effort to increase participation in freshwater fishing by the state's youth, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) will allow the take of undersized black bass by anglers 15 years of age and younger during the Labor Day weekend (Aug. 30-Sept. 1) in the Atchafalaya Basin, the Lake Verret-Palourde Area and the Lake Fausse Point-Dauterive Area. The normal 10 bass per day limit from these areas will still apply to all anglers during these weekends. Anglers 16-years-old and older will still be

required to observe the 14-inch minimum size limit during these special youth fishing weekends. For more information about the youth fishing weekend, contact Mike Wood at 318-343-4045 or <mailto:wood@wlf.louisiana.gov>.

Waterfowl Season Dates and Limits

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted proposed season dates, bag limits and shooting hours for the 2008-09 migratory waterfowl season at its Aug. 7 meeting. The final dates will be ratified by a declaration of emergency from the commission, after approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A 60-day season is recommended. In the West Zone, the first segment will open on Nov. 8 and close on Nov. 30. The second segment will open on Dec. 13 and run through Jan. 18. In the East Zone, the first segment will go from Nov. 15-30. The second segment will last from Dec. 13-Jan. 25. Youth waterfowl weekend in the West Zone is Nov. 1-2 and in the East Zone Nov. 8-9. The daily bag limit on ducks is six and may include no more than four mallards (no more than two of which may be females), one pintail, three mottled ducks, one black duck, three wood ducks and two redheads. The daily bag limit for scaup is one per day until Dec. 30 in the West Zone and one per day until Jan. 6 in the East Zone. Daily bag limit for scaup is two per day on those dates and thereafter in both zones. The daily bag limit on coots is 15. In addition to the daily bag limit for ducks, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five, only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

Light geese and white-fronted geese will have a 72-day season. The first segment in the West Zone will open on Nov. 8 and close on Nov. 30. The second segment in the West Zone will run from Dec. 13-Jan. 30. The first segment in the East Zone will open on Nov. 3 and run until Nov. 30. The second segment will run from Dec. 13-Jan. 25. The daily bag limit on light geese is 20, with no possession limit. The daily limit on white-fronted geese is two, with a possession limit of four. The special-permit-required Canada goose season will be from Jan. 10-25

statewide, except for a small area in southwest Louisiana. The daily limit for Canada geese is one and the possession limit is two. The special \$5 permit may be obtained from any license vendor. The Statewide Conservation Order for light geese will open in the West Zone on Dec. 1, and the first segment will close on Dec. 12. The second segment in the West Zone will run from Jan. 31-March 8. The first segment in the East Zone will run from Dec. 1-12, and the second segment will be from Jan. 26-March 8. During this time, only snow, blue and Ross' geese may be taken and daily bag and possession limits are eliminated. The use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns is permitted. Shooting hours during the Conservation Order begin one-half hour before sunrise and extend until one-half hour after sunset. Rails may be taken from Nov. 8-Dec. 31.

For King and Clapper rails, the daily limit is 15 in the aggregate, with a possession limit of 30. Sora and Virginia rails have a daily and possession limit of 25 in the aggregate. Gallinule season will open on Nov. 8 and close on Dec. 31. The daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is 30. Snipe may be taken in the first segment from Nov. 1-30 and from Dec. 13-Feb. 27 in the second segment, with a daily bag limit of eight and a possession limit of 16.

Shooting hours for migratory bird hunting, except for the Conservation Order, are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m. An extended falconry season for ducks, rails and gallinules will take place from Nov. 1-Jan. 30.

Red Snapper Overbag

LDWF enforcement officers wrote over 100 citations to 20 men on April 28 for harvesting under-sized red snapper and hundreds of fish over the bag limit. Officers stopped the charter boat, "The Captain Charlie", which was occupied by 18 paid fishermen, seventeen from Georgia and one from Florida, the captain, David Harrelson, 52 of Lockport, and one deck hand. Agents boarded the vessel to conduct a creel and license check of the fish and persons aboard working under a Joint Enforcement

Agreement between NOAA and the State of Louisiana. Upon receiving consent from the captain of the vessel, agents allegedly found 27 ice chests holding 909 red snapper.

Agents counted and measured every fish aboard the vessel and found that of the 909 red snapper aboard the vessel, 287 of them were under the minimum 16-inch size requirement. The recreational limit for red snapper is two per fisherman, and the captain and deckhands are not allowed to possess a limit. Officers also discovered that none of the 18 fishermen were Louisiana residents nor did they possess valid Louisiana non-resident basic and saltwater fishing licenses.

The 18 subjects that chartered the vessel, along with the captain and deckhand of the vessel were cited for 106 alleged violations. The citations included angling without a non-resident basic and saltwater fishing license, federal charges for possessing undersized and over the limit of red snapper, and taking red snapper during a closed season. The recreational red snapper season did not open until June 1. The 909 red snapper, which weighed 2459 pounds, were seized and sold for a total of \$9,221.25.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States Department of Commerce, General Council for Enforcement and Litigation, Southeast Region, handed down a Notice of Violation Assessment (NOVA) on the case. The NOVA issued was in the amount of \$80,000, and a 210-day Notice of Permit Sanction (NOPS) for the violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act regulations was issued to the owner and operator David T. Harrelson of Rebel Charter Services, LLC. Also, joint and several NOVAs in the amount of \$45,450 were given to all of the fishermen aboard the vessel Captain Charlie. In addition, the owner, operator and all fishermen were issued a Notice of Proposed Forfeiture for the red snapper.

The following is a list of the Captain, deckhand, and fishermen: David Harrelson, 52, Lockport, La., (Captain); Donald R. Humphrey, 45, Golden Meadow, La. (Deckhand); Artesza Portee, 35, Autell, Ga.; Glover Jefferson Jr., 69, Atlanta, Ga.; Walter Bailey Jr., 61, Atlanta, Ga.; Robert Kemp, 72, Atlanta, Ga.; James E. Williams, 65, Callaway, Fla.; Clyde E. Raiford,

68, Fayetteville, Ga.; Baxter R. Maddox, 67, Atlanta, Ga.; Leslie H. Durham, 45, Douglasville, Ga.; Cleveland B. Kemp Jr., 56, Conyers, Ga.; Harry Crosland, 67, Decatur, Ga.; Willie T. Epps, 72, College Park, Ga.; Lawrence Kendrick, 60, Atlanta, Ga.; Walter L. Gibson Jr., 38, Union City, Ga.; Warren R. Brownlee, 36, Palmetto, Ga.; Andrew R. Smith, 70, Decatur, Ga.; Kym D. Haywood, 44, Hapeville, Ga.; Charlie W. Patrick 68, Stone Mountain, Ga.; Earnest Sessoms, 79, Atlanta, Ga.

New Amberjack & Triggerfish Rules

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) published a final rule implementing the approved regulatory actions to end overfishing and rebuild greater amberjack and gray triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico. The rule becomes effective August 4, 2008. The most recent assessments for these species indicate reductions in harvest are needed to end overfishing and allow the stocks to recover within each species' respective rebuilding schedule. For 2008, the overall harvest of greater amberjack needs to be reduced by 32 percent, and for gray triggerfish, reduced by at least 49 percent. To ensure these targets are met, the rule includes annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for these species. These measures are outlined in Amendment 30A to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 30A) submitted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on July 3, 2008.

For greater amberjack, the rule: establishes ACLs and AMs that can use inseason adjustments for the recreational and commercial sectors; increases the recreational minimum size limit to 30 inches fork length (FL); sets the bag limit for captain(s) and crew of for-hire vessels at zero; establishes a greater amberjack commercial fishery quota of 0.503 million pounds (mp) and a recreational fishery quota of 1.368 mp.

For gray triggerfish, the rule: establishes ACLs and AMs that use average annual landings for the recreational sector and inseason adjustments for the commercial sector; increases the gray triggerfish rec-

reational and commercial size limit to 14 inches FL; establishes a gray triggerfish commercial quota of 80,000 pounds for 2008, 93,000 pounds for 2009, and 106,000 pounds for 2010.

The rule addresses the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requirements that ACLs and AMs be in place by 2010 for stocks undergoing overfishing. ACLs and AMs work together as a system to ensure that overfishing will not occur. The ACL must be set 'at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery.' AMs are management measures established with ACLs to end and prevent overfishing. Copies of the final rule are available by contacting NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office at 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701. The final rule can be obtained in electronic form from the Federal Register Web site: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> <<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>> (use advanced search for final rules using "AV34" as a keyword).

Reef Fish Gear Requirements

A reminder from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to reef fish anglers - new rules requiring anglers to use non-stainless steel circle hooks when using natural baits to fish for Gulf reef fish in federal waters went into effect June 1, 2008. Dehooking devices and venting tools are also required. Reef fish species include all snappers, groupers, sea bass, amberjacks, triggerfish, hogfish, red porgy and tilefish. Research shows that circle hooks are more likely to hook fish in the mouth instead of in the gut cavity or throat. The unique hook shape causes the hook to slide towards the point of resistance and embed itself in the jaw or in the corner of the fish's mouth. A de-hooking device is an instrument that allows the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging when the hook is removed. It must be blunt, have rounded edges and be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used for reef fish. De-hooking devices come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Use one that works best for the fish you are releasing. If a fish swallows the hook or the fish is too big to release from a boat, it may be better to

cut the line as close as possible to the hook instead of trying to remove it.

Reef fish that come from depths of 50 feet or more may undergo expansion of the gasses in the swim bladder as they are brought to the surface. Signs of this condition are protrusion of the stomach from its mouth, bulging eyes and a bloated belly. Proper use of a venting tool will help the fish survive by allowing it to safely return to the bottom. A venting tool can be any hollow, sharpened instrument that allows gases to escape. Ice picks and knives are not suitable because simply puncturing the fish is undesirable and can result in a mortal injury. It is best to vent the fish as quickly as possible with a minimum of handling. If the fish's stomach is everted out of the fish's mouth, do not puncture it or attempt to push it back into the fish's body. Expelling the swim bladder gases will allow the stomach to return to its normal position within a few hours. Hold the fish gently but firmly on its side and insert the venting tool at a 45-degree angle approximately one to two inches back from the base of the pectoral fin. Only insert the tool deep enough to release the gases — do not skewer the fish. The sound of the escaping gas is audible and deflation is noticeable. If a fish is extremely bloated, use the hand holding the fish to exert gentle pressure on its abdomen to aid deflation. Return the fish to the water as soon as possible. If necessary, revive it by holding the fish with the head pointed downward and moving the fish back and forth to pass water over the gills until the fish is able to swim unassisted.

LDWF Economic Impact Report Available

The latest report on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) economic impact on the state economy is available online via the agency's Web site and in print. The report reveals that hunting, fishing, boating, wildlife watching and other outdoor activities generated \$4.61 billion in 2006, the most recent data collection time frame. The total economic effect of those expenditures reached \$6.75 billion, supporting 76,700 jobs and generating an estimated \$446.2 million in state and local government tax revenues. Commercial fish-

eries produced retail sales of \$1.8 billion while providing nearly 27,000 jobs in 2006. Wildlife-based commercial activities, such as alligator trapping, fur harvesting, and reptile and amphibian collecting, generated \$62 million in retail sales and supported nearly 800 jobs. Recreational activity also had a considerable economic impact on Louisiana's economy. Hunting, recreational fishing, wildlife watching, feeding and photography combined to generate approximately \$2 billion in retail sales, supporting over 37,000 jobs. Retail sales for recreational boating, over \$980 million in 2006, supported nearly 15,000 jobs. The report, *The Economic Benefits of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources in the State of Louisiana, 2006*, was completed by Southwick and Associates, Inc. Copies may be obtained by calling the LDWF Socioeconomic Research and Development Section at 225-765-2864 or by visiting the LDWF Web site at http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/education/Southwick_2006_final_final_report_5-27-08.pdf.

Joyce WMA Grows

Louisiana outdoor enthusiasts now have more public land on which to pursue their interests. Randy Myers, land acquisition manager with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced the addition of more than 8,000 acres to Joyce Wildlife Management Area. Joyce WMA is now composed of 24,293 contiguous acres of mixed coastal forest and coastal wetland east of Interstate 55 between Ponchatoula and Manchac, thanks to the addition of 7,274 acres from Octavia Partners and 1,040 acres from The Conservation Fund. This area is part of the important Lake Pontchartrain basin, and features bald cypress/tupelo swamps inhabited by white-tailed deer, ibis, herons and egrets among myriad other wildlife and fish species. In addition to hunting and fishing opportunities, Joyce WMA features a swamp walk located near I-55 at the northwest corner of the property.

Men Cited For Intentional Littering

On May 26, Bryan L. Holman, 21, of Monroe was cited by LDWF enforcement officers for allegedly hitting tennis balls into

the Ouachita River at the Forsythe Boat Dock. While patrolling the Ouachita River, officers observed approximately 25 tennis balls floating in the river and questioned Holman. He admitted to hitting the tennis balls into the river. He had driven to the area by vehicle and had no means of retrieving the tennis balls. The penalty for intentional littering is a fine of \$250 upon a first conviction and eight hours of community service in a litter abatement work program as approved by the court. Officers involved in the case were Sgt. Duane Taylor and Senior Agent Scott Jeansonne. In another incident, the officers cited Matthew L. Champagne, 24, of Columbia for intentional littering, allegedly throwing a beer can from his boat into the Ouachita River, north of Monroe. The officers retrieved the can and upon questioning Champagne confessed to throwing the can into the river.

Nabbed for Gross Littering

A Lincoln Parish man was cited by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) enforcement officers on May 2 for gross littering. Casey W. Bearden, 26, Ruston was cited after a complaint was received from the Union Parish Sheriff's Office about roofing shingles being dumped on Pollands Crossing Road. During the investigation, LDWF officers located evidence from the dumpsite that led them to Bearden. Bearden was interviewed at the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office where he allegedly admitted to dumping the shingles a few days prior. He was cited and released.

The penalty for gross littering is a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1000 and sentenced to serve eight hours of community service in a litter abatement work program as approved by the court. LDWF officers participating in the case are: Lt. Mike Rockett, Sgts. Thomas Risser and Duane Taylor, Senior Agent David Harrell and Agent Joe Gouedy.

Lake Bistineau Drawdown

A drawdown of Lake Bistineau to assist with the control of giant salvinia, an invasive aquatic plant, began in July. This action follows two large-scale herbicide applications utilizing spray crews from around the state

where over 4,900 acres of aquatic vegetation was treated, expending a total of 3,656 gallons of herbicide. The large mats of vegetation should dry and desiccate during the drawdown. The lake will be drained 7 feet at a rate of 2-to-3 inches per day to minimize the potential of salvinia being transferred downstream and to maximize the amount of salvinia stranded on the bank to desiccate. LDWF Inland Fisheries Division biologists will assess the effects of the drying action on the giant salvinia throughout the drawdown period. The water level will be cycled as needed in order to allow the remaining live plants to drift into areas where they could be stranded on land as the lake level is lowered again. The gates will be closed and the lake allowed to be refilled with water on Jan. 30, 2009.

2009 State Duck Stamp to Feature Chesapeake Bay Retriever

The LDWF has announced that the Chesapeake Bay retriever will be featured in the "Retrievers Save Game" series for the 2009 Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp, or Louisiana Duck Stamp competition. The Chesapeake Bay retriever must be prominent in the design, and each entry must also include live waterfowl selected by the artist. Artists may also choose to include harvested waterfowl, duck decoys, hunting scenes and other backgrounds along with wetland habitats. The Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program in 1988. The program was created to generate revenues for conservation and enhancement of waterfowl populations and habitats in Louisiana. During the last 19 years, more than \$9 million has been generated for wetland conservation with approximately \$5 million spent on land acquisition. In addition, revenues have supported the Louisiana Waterfowl Project, a cooperative endeavor between LDWF, Ducks Unlimited and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wetland birds on private lands.

Entries for the competition will be accepted from Oct. 13 to Oct. 20. To enter, an artist must submit an original, unpublished work of art, along with a signed and

notarized artist's agreement and a \$50 entry fee. Entries should be addressed to Robert Helm, Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, or P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Judging for the art competition will be based on the following criteria: 1 - accuracy of form, size, proportion, color and posture; 2 - level and accuracy of detail in all aspects of the anatomy of both the retriever and waterfowl; 3 - appropriateness, accuracy and detail in depiction of the habitat; attractiveness and creativity in composition, subject, background and lighting; suitability for reproduction as stamps and prints. A panel of judges with experience in waterfowl biology and/or artistic method will select the winning design. Judging will take place on Oct. 22, at LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. The competition is open to all artists 18 years of age and older.

Grass Carp Protected in Spring Bayou Complex

The LDWF is reminding the public that the take and possession of grass carp and the use of gill and trammel nets in a restricted area of Avoyelles Parish where the department has stocked grass carp for aquatic weed control is prohibited. This rule went into effect on May 20. The grass carp restricted area in Avoyelles Parish includes the Spring Bayou Complex that includes the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Old River and Little River. The purpose of this new rule is to help protect the 11,000 grass carp purchased by the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury and recently stocked into the Spring Bayou Complex to help control hydrilla, which covers about 80 percent of the complex's waterways. Grass carp have shown to be an effective nuisance aquatic weed control method on certain types of water bodies.

Senator Joe McPherson 2008 SCI State Legislator of the Year

Safari Club International named Louisiana Senator Joe McPherson, Jr. its 2008 State Legislator of the Year. He has championed sportsmen's issues in

Louisiana's State Senate for more than 23 years. Senator McPherson was awarded the Governor's Award for Conservation by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in 2005 and named the Legislative Conservationist of the Year on 3 previous occasions. His work has been instrumental in passing significant legislation for the sportsmen and women of Louisiana. His dedicated work for Louisiana's hunters helped pass a state constitutional right to hunt, fish and trap. "Senator McPherson has personified the dedication to the hunting heritage of Louisiana and America for his entire career," said SCI President Dennis Anderson. "I am proud that SCI has recognized such a deserving individual for this prestigious award."

Donation to Youth/Physically-Challenged Hunting Programs

Joe Elder, owner of the Elder Wood Preserving Company of Mansura, received an appreciation award from the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission for donating wood valued at approximately \$20,000 to the LDWF to build duck blinds and deer stands for LDWF's Youth and Physically Challenged Hunting Programs. With the wood, LDWF had constructed 19 wheelchair-accessible deer stands on five WMAs throughout the state and a handful of wheelchair accessible duck blinds on four WMAs. Program Coordinator Mark Roy went to Elder Wood Preserving Company merely looking for a discount on the volume of lumber needed, but Elder decided to donate all of the wood for these hunting programs. Elder knows how hard it can be for physically challenged people to find places to hunt, since he is wheelchair-bound himself from an injury suffered a few years ago. "I still hunt, but I'm lucky in that I have my own land to use," Elder said. "A lot of handicapped people can't find a place to hunt. These stands open up hunting opportunities to handicapped people that wouldn't have the physical means to hunt otherwise. I hope this program continues and that next year we can do two or three more stands." Elder Wood Preserving Company treats southern yellow pine lumber for rot and decay and then sells it to retailers such as Lowes and Home Depot.

US Mint Issues Bald Eagle Commemorative Coins

The US Mint has issued three limited-edition commemorative coin sets honoring the recovery of the bald eagle and marking the 35th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. The bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in 2007. The collectible coins include a \$5 gold coin, a silver dollar and a half-dollar, which are available individually and in sets. The coins will be sold through Dec. 31, 2008 at <http://www.usmint.gov> or by calling 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). A surcharge from the sale of each commemorative coin will be earmarked to create a special American Eagle Fund (AEF) endowment. The coin program has the potential to generate over \$10 million for future bald eagle conservation efforts.

Bald eagles were once abundant throughout the nation. However, illegal shooting, habitat destruction, pesticides and food source contamination took their toll, reducing approximately 100,000 nesting pairs at the nation's founding to just over 400 nesting pairs in the early 1960s. Bald eagles began their road to recovery in the 1972 with the ban on the use of certain pesticides that caused the thinning of bird eggs in 1972 and passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973. Now there are over 10,000 nesting pairs of bald eagles found throughout the United States. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is charged with conducting annual bald eagle population monitoring in Louisiana. LDWF also works closely with federal and state agencies to assure that development projects do not negatively impact Louisiana's nesting bald eagles. During a 2006-07 survey, LDWF biologists counted 336 active Bald Eagle nests that produced 424 young birds. All nests are visited once per year to determine nest activity. A nest is considered active if one adult bald eagle is present at the nest when surveyed. However, LDWF visits many nests twice annually to determine nest productivity.

Coastal Rare Species and Natural Community Fact Sheets Now on LDWF Website

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has posted new facts sheets for Louisiana's Coastal Zone rare species and associated natural communities on the LDWF Web site. These fact sheets can be found at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage/coastalzone>. The fact sheets were developed in partnership with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and partially funded by the BTNEP Mini-Grants Program. These fact sheets provide basic information on animals, plants or natural communities that will aid in identifying sensitive species and their habitats, will serve as a useful tool for educators, and will help guide development of management plans and review of coastal zone projects. Each two-sided fact sheet contains general information on rare species and natural communities including: state & global rarity ranks, recognition characteristics, photos, range, habitat, LA river basins, threats, and beneficial management practices.

LNHP was founded in 1984 with the goal of developing and maintaining a database on rare, threatened and endangered (r/t/e) species of plants and animals and natural communities for Louisiana. In the process of working toward this goal, LNHP has accumulated over 6,000 occurrences of r/t/e species. Of the total natural elements tracked by LNHP, 30 percent are known to occur in Louisiana's coastal zone.

3,000-plus Deer Taken on WMA Managed Hunts Last Season

Deer hunters harvested over 3,000 deer on either-sex managed deer hunts on state Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) during the 2007-08 hunting season. The LDWF reports a total of 28,813 hunter efforts recorded on managed hunts. Those efforts resulted in 3,094 total deer taken for an average of about one deer for every 9.3 hunter efforts. The total number of harvested deer is on par with last year's total of over 3,000 deer taken during the managed hunts. LDWF collects harvest data on deer taken during managed hunts on about 800,000 acres. Collection of these data is the primary method used by LDWF deer managers to monitor herd health conditions on WMAs. LDWF Deer Study Leader

Scott Durham suggested that hunter turnout on the Sherburne WMA managed hunt this year may have been lower than usual due to the closure of Interstate 10, which created slow travel on Highway 190. "Deer hunting on WMAs is one of the ways for families to spend vacations and holidays together by hunting and putting up their annual venison supply. These managed hunts are a big tradition across the state," said Durham. "This low-cost hunting opportunity is important for many Louisianans."

Big Game Records Newsletter

An update to the Youth Hunter Registry, a new state muzzleloader non-typical deer record and highlights of the past deer-hunting season are all included in the latest Big Game Records Newsletter produced by retired LDWF Biologist David Moreland. The newsletter can be found on LDWF's Web site at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/biggamehunts>. Updates to the Youth Hunter Registry include Centerpoint Native Alyson Woodson's 222 pound 10 point deer in Avoyelles Parish, Mae Amanda Mitchell's 210 pound 8-pointer with a 17-inch inside spread, and Kyle Dartez's and Preston Robichaux's first deer. Chris "Green" Campbell, 14, of Shreveport, set a new non-typical muzzleloader state record when he harvested a 30-point buck that scored a 203 5/8 on the Boone and Crockett scoring system. The buck weighed 265 pounds with a typical 9-point rack and 21 abnormal points. The typical Boone and Crockett score after deductions was 133. The abnormal points that totaled 70 5/8 inches were then added to make the final 203 5/8 score.

The LDWF Deer and Big Game Records programs initiated a Youth Hunter Registry beginning with the 2007-08 season. Youth hunters, 15 years of age or younger, can register their deer, buck or doe, large or small, with LDWF. LDWF will then recognize these youth hunters, especially those who may have harvested their first deer on their web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/biggamehunts. The newsletter also documents some of the bigger bucks taken around the state during the 2007-08 deer season. LDWF plans to produce two to three Big Game Records Newsletters per year with one in the spring, one before the

fall hunting season and a final issue towards the end or after the hunting season.

LDWF Enforcement Patrols Loan PFDs to Noncompliant Boaters

The LDWF Enforcement Division has a new boating safety program designed to alert boat operators of a safety violation and keep them on the water at the same time. Last August, Enforcement Division patrol vessels began carrying extra personal flotation devices (PFDs) to be used as loaners when a vessel not in compliance with PFD requirements is encountered. A written warning citation may be issued to first offense boat operators violating PFD requirements. Officers can then loan a PFD to the operator, thus bringing the vessel into compliance so it can legally remain on the water. If the PFD is not returned to the Enforcement Division within 10 days as required, the warning citation will be voided and the operator will be issued a criminal citation for the PFD violation. Statistics show that nearly 70 percent of the boating fatalities in Louisiana are due to drowning and nearly 80 percent of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. For more information on safe boating practices, regulations, or boating education courses, please visit LDWF's Web site at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>.

Black Bass Vehicle Tag Available

Anglers and other admirers of the black bass can now adorn their vehicle and/or boat trailer with a new vanity license plate featuring this top-rated freshwater game fish. The plates are available through the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV). The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) promoted the authorization of the Bass Angler License Plate to help fund the LDWF black bass stocking program. The plate features a largemouth black bass jumping out of the water set against a half water and sky background. The words "Bass Angler" are centered at the bottom of the plate. Bass Angler License Plates can be purchased at your local Louisiana OMV or on their Web site at <http://omv.dps.state.la.us> by going to the "Special Plates" link.

The plates are available for \$26 each for vehicles and boat trailers in addition to the regular license fee.

LDWF Executive Staff

Janice Lansing, LDWF's Undersecretary since 2004, continues to serve in that position, overseeing the Office of Management and Finance which is responsible for fiscal and human resource management, information processing systems, licensing, procurement, and general administrative and public information services. Lansing began her state service in 1992 as a fiscal analyst in the Legislative Fiscal Office and served previously as Undersecretary at the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for five years. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southeastern Louisiana University and a master's degree in public administration from Louisiana State University.

Randy Pausina succeeds John Roussel as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fisheries. Pausina worked within LDWF's Marine Fisheries Division for 14 years, serving most recently as manager of the department's Marine Research Laboratory on Grand Isle. He began his state service as a field biologist with the Division's Coastal Ecology Section. Pausina oversees the department's Marine and Inland Fisheries Divisions which are charged with managing marine and freshwater fish populations and habitats for the conservation and improvement of recreational and commercial fishing. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Pausina earned a bachelor's degree in forestry, wildlife and fisheries, concentrating in aquaculture/fisheries management. He has served on the Jefferson Parish Marine Fisheries Advisory Board and the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, and worked with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. He is currently the department's representative on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council's Special Red Drum Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Jimmy Anthony is the LDWF's Assistant Secretary of the Office of Wildlife. Anthony has been working with LDWF for over 30 years and most recently became administrator of the Wildlife Division taking the

place of David Moreland, who retired last September. Anthony received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation in 1977 and his Masters of Science degree in Biology in 1979 from what was then called Northeast Louisiana University, now called the University of Louisiana Monroe. Anthony worked in the Monroe area for the first 24 years of his LDWF career. In 1976, he started as a student worker for the Enforcement Division as a radio dispatcher. He became a biological aide for the Inland Fisheries Division in 1978 and later that year he accepted his first position with the Wildlife Division as a wildlife specialist, working on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area (WMA). From 1981 to 1992, Anthony was Ouachita WMA supervisor where he planted food plots, trapped ducks and turkeys for research purposes and collected deer samples. From 1992 to 2000, he was the regional biologist for seven WMAs and his work included wildlife restoration projects, wood duck box and banding operations, turkey restocking, deer management and deer herd evaluations.

In 2000, Anthony made the move to LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge to take the position of biologist program manager overseeing all of Louisiana's WMAs. In February of 2007, Anthony became the Wildlife Division's assistant administrator. He is the president of the Louisiana Professional Biologists Association, the Region 4 Southeastern Coordinators representative for the Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group (FACWG) that is a sub-committee of the Wildlife Trust Funds Committee, and is the chairman of the FACWG with a full seat on the Wildlife Trust Funds Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Anthony also teaches as an adjunct biology professor at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

LDWF Continues Quail Restoration Efforts

Louisiana had 35,000 quail hunters in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but by the 2006-07 hunting season, quail hunters had declined to 1,300. The drop in participation coincides with an estimated 85 percent

decline in the Louisiana quail population since 1966. LDWF formed the Louisiana Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force to help create and implement a quail restoration plan. That plan is still in development, but will likely call for improvement of nearly two million acres of habitat in Louisiana. Quail habitat can be improved by native prairie restoration, establishment of field borders around cropland, thinning and increasing use of prescribed fire in pine forests, utilization of native grasses in grazing systems and increasing use of longleaf pine. In recent developments, LDWF started a native grass drill rental program that makes specialized no-till drills, which are capable of planting native grasses, available for rent by landowners. LDWF is also a participant in the Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council. This group was recently formed under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and will work to address the issues that have led to the decline in the use of prescribed burning. In addition, LDWF has developed a Private Lands Technical Assistance Program that will increase its ability to provide assistance to private landowners who desire to improve wildlife habitat on their property. "The effort to restore quail will not happen overnight and will require a coordinated effort among the department, other agencies or organizations, land managers, and conservationists who appreciate the abundant wildlife that Louisiana's grassland habitat supports," said LDWF Upland Game Biologist Fred Kimmel.

CWD Surveillance

The LDWF continued surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) by taking random samples from hunter-killed deer on certain Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and on private lands through a cooperative effort with landowners this past season. The disease has never been documented in Louisiana or any other Southeastern state to date. There is no indication that CWD of deer and elk can be transmitted between species other than cervids (deer family), and there is no indication that the disease can be transmitted to humans either by contact with or consumption of hunter-killed deer. However, this disease represents a very significant threat to North

America's deer and elk population. LDWF has conducted annual disease and parasite surveys on the state's deer herd since the mid-1960s. CWD testing was added to the disease surveillance program for the first time in 2002. Louisiana's CWD surveillance program was developed from guidelines and recommendations originating from the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

CWD belongs to a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Other more commonly known forms of TSEs include scrapie in sheep and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in cattle. CWD attacks the central nervous system of the deer or elk and presents symptoms including extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, increased drinking and urination, and poor coordination. The disease is infectious and always fatal to deer and elk. Chronic wasting disease has a prolonged incubation period and no practical test exists to detect the disease in live animals since examination requires brain tissue samples. Hunters can help fight the spread of CWD to Louisiana.

Hunters harvesting deer or elk in states where CWD has been confirmed should bring back only boned out meat, completely skinned out hides with tailbone removed, clean skulls or skull plates with antlers attached, antlers (detached from the skull plate); clean upper canine teeth, and finished taxidermy heads. States where CWD has been diagnosed include: Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Evidence exists that the CWD agent can remain viable in the soil for several years. This has been demonstrated at two research facilities where the disease was present in deer or elk. The diseased animals were removed, and the facilities underwent complete disinfecting and no animals were present for an extended period of time. Once animals were returned to the facility, they became infected with CWD. If hunters dispose of infected carcass parts in

Louisiana, the potential exists for the disease agent to infect deer in the local area.

Wildlife Disease Page on Website

The LDWF Wildlife Disease Program has created a page within the LDWF Web site designed to provide current and timely information on wildlife diseases, mortality events and other critical news updates related to wildlife diseases in Louisiana. The Web page is located at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/education/wildlifedisease>. Diseases originating in or carried by wild animals are having an increasingly serious impact on agricultural production, wildlife management and human health worldwide. Within many rural areas, wildlife, domestic livestock, pets and humans share a large and increasing number of infectious diseases. With continued urbanization into rural areas resulting in wildlife habitat loss, additional infectious diseases may emerge. The LDWF Wildlife Disease Program is working to minimize the harmful effects of wild animal diseases on our state's wildlife, livestock and human populations. They are currently participating in national surveillance programs for the detection of the avian influenza virus in migrating birds and chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer. Upcoming state programs include feral hog disease surveillance and population control. Knowledge gained from these research projects will help minimize the negative impact of diseases on our state's wildlife populations.

Wild Hog Control

The newly formed Feral Swine Control Committee (FSCC) has prepared a feral hog surveillance plan that will focus on collecting blood samples for the detection of diseases and researching ways to control the population of feral hogs in Louisiana. "The Feral Hog Disease Surveillance and Population Control Plan's" overall goals are to: 1) identify diseases carried by feral swine and their prevalence; 2) minimize the effects of the diseases on wildlife; and 3) control the population of feral hogs in Louisiana. This plan reflects a cooperative relationship between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and

Forestry (LDAF), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services. Blood samples for the detection of diseases will be taken from feral hogs on Jackson-Bienville and Sandy Hollow Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). The different geographical locations of the WMAs will provide a relatively unbiased estimate about the presence (or absence) of swine brucellosis, classical swine fever, and pseudorabies in the feral hog population in Louisiana. Jackson Bienville WMA is comprised of 32,185 acres in North Central Louisiana. Sandy Hollow WMA is comprised of 3,514 acres in Southeast Louisiana.

Wild hogs cause extensive damage to natural wildlife habitat, privately managed food plots for deer and turkey, farm ponds and watering holes for livestock. In Louisiana, the frequency of wild pigs around agricultural areas has caused damage to sugarcane, rice and cornfields. The wild omnivores also compete with native wildlife for food resources, prey on young domestic animals and wildlife, and carry diseases that can affect pets, livestock, wildlife and people. Recent research suggests that the increasing hog population of western Louisiana is not only causing detriment to terrestrial flora and fauna, but is negatively impacting native freshwater mussels and insects by contributing E. coli to water systems. The estimated feral hog population in the United States is over 4 million and growing.

Grant Program Supports Vessel Pump-out Stations

Louisiana waterways continue to benefit from the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program, established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 and administered in Louisiana by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for the last 13 years. Designed to help reduce the overboard discharge of sewage from recreational boats, CVA grant funding is used to cost-share the construction and installation of pumpout and portable toilet washdown facilities at marinas and other dockside facilities. CVA funds are also used for boater education regarding the effects of overboard discharge. Re-authorized in 1998 and 2002, the Louisiana CVA Grant Program reimburses

75 percent of the cost of installation or renovation of boat sewage disposal systems, using Sportfish Restoration Funds dedicated for that purpose through the federal Clean Vessel Act. There are currently 13 boat sewage disposal facilities around the state, 11 of which were funded in part by CVA funds.

Pumpout sites around the state include: Bowtie Marina, Contraband Bayou (Lake Charles), Latitude: 30.204 N, Longitude: 93.240 W, 337-478-0130, full service, fee \$5; Cypress Bend Park, Toledo Bend (Negreet), Latitude: 31.420 N, Longitude: 93.679 W, 318-256-4118, full service, no charge, call ahead to schedule; Downtown Marina, Houma, Latitude: 29.599 N, Longitude: 90.711 W, 985-873-6428, full service, \$5 fee; Forsythe Point, Ouachita River (Monroe), Latitude: 32.518 N, Longitude: 92.133 W, 318-329-4101, full service, no charge; Lake End Park, Lake Palourde (Morgan City), Latitude: 29.718 N, Longitude: 91.188 W, 985-380-4623, full service, \$3 fee; Marina Beau Chene, Tchefuncte River (Mandeville), Latitude: 30.417 N, Longitude: 90.125 W, 985-845-3454, self service, \$5 fee; Marina Del Ray, Tchefuncte River (Madisonville), Latitude: 30.399 N, Longitude: 90.153 W, 985-845-4474, self service, \$5 fee; Mariners Village Marina, Lake Pontchartrain (Mandeville), Latitude: 30.366 N, Longitude: 90.091 W, 985-626-1517, full service, \$5 fee; Moon Lake Resort, Ouachita River (Monroe), Latitude: 32.606 N, Longitude: 92.094 W, 318-322-2300, self service, no fee; Northshore Marine Sales & Service, Bayou Castine (Mandeville), Latitude: 30.350 N, Longitude: 90.057 W, 985-626-7847, self service, \$5 fee; Orleans Marina, Lake Pontchartrain (New Orleans), Latitude: 30.024 N, Longitude: 90.119, 504-288-2351, self service, no fee; Pleasure Point Landing, Lake Pontchartrain (Toro), Latitude: 31.242 N, Longitude: 93.581 W, 318-565-4810, full service, no fee; Plum Orchard Park, Lake Bistineau, (Doyline), Latitude: 32.412 N, Longitude: 93.382 W, 318-987-7275, full service, no fee.



Jon Hebert of Lafayette in third. Austin Hebert won the junior blue/snow division followed by G. Tyler Fontenot of Lake Charles in second and Kennon Menard in third place. Jason Campbell took first place in the senior specklebelly competition followed by Ian Woods of Jennings in second and Dusty Simon of Lake Charles who placed third. Taylor Veazey of Lafayette won the junior specklebelly competition with Austin Hebert taking second place and Ian Tauzin third.

The 40th Annual Louisiana State Duck and Goose Calling Contest is hosted and conducted by the Gueydan Duck Festival Association in cooperation with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Event chairman is Phil McDaniel. For more information about the contest, or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Mc Daniel at 337/536-9841; cell 337/230-2250 or <mailto:pmcdaz71@aol.com>, or the Louisiana Wildlife Federation at <mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org>.

Thanks to the following sponsors whose support help make this contest possible: Avery Outdoors, Budweiser, Dave Smith Decoys, Ducks Unlimited, Edward Jones Investments, Louisiana Farm Bureau, Louisiana Fish Fry Products, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Natural Gear, Paradise Louisiana.

2008 State Duck & Goose Calling Contest Rules

General For Both Duck & Goose Callers

All duck callers **MUST** be registered by 9:30 AM and goose callers by 12:30 PM. Prior to each division competition, the contestants in each category will draw for calling sequence numbers. During the competition, when not calling for competition, contestants must remain in the designated area (bullpen), isolated from the judges and the audience. Cell phones in possession of contestants in the bullpen must be turned off during the competition. Use of a cell phone by a contestant during the competition will be grounds for disqualification. Smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the bullpen is prohibited. The use of drugs or consumption of alcoholic beverages during or immediately prior to the contest, or any other conduct unbecoming of a sportsman and gentleman or woman may

subject the contestant to disqualification. The announcer will call each contestant up to compete by number only. Contestants must stand in the blind and face the audience when calling for competition. Each contestant will be allowed a few seconds to warm up before calling for competition. Judges must be isolated from the audience, contestants and each other. Judging will be on a 100-point scale. The high and low scores are discarded and the other three scores are added for the competition score. Contestants will be disqualified if the time limit is exceeded. Participants in callbacks will redraw numbers before calling. Callback scores are added to the initial score for a cumulative point total.

Duck Calling

The first competition will be the Junior Division starting at 10 AM followed by the Intermediate Division and then the Senior Division competition. Contestants are required to demonstrate 4 calls (hail call; lonesome hen call; feeding call; comeback call) within 90 seconds. Judges are instructed to allocate up to 20 points per call and 20 points for the overall routine of each contestant for a maximum total score of 100 points. The announcer will ask the caller if he/she would like to warm up. After the optional warm-up, the announcer will say "caller # ___ calling for competition." A red light, in plain view of the caller, will go off when the contestant begins his/her calling routine. The red light will come back on at 80 seconds, indicating 10 seconds remaining, and the contestant must complete calling before the light goes off at the end of the 10 seconds. Half of the contestants (those with the top scores) will be invited to "a callback," which is conducted the same as the initial round of competition. The 3 contestants (or more, depending on the point spread of the contestants after the initial callback) with the top scores are invited to compete in the second callback. A third and additional callbacks may be held to break ties for the first 3 places. Awards will be presented to the duck callers when the contest is complete and the final scores have been tallied. Winners may be asked to participate in a photo session and interviews after the presentations.

By the rules of the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest, the winner of the state contest (Senior Division) must com-

pete in the World's Championship Contest unless excused by the World Contest Rules Committee. If not excused, that person will be ineligible to compete in the state contest for the following 2 years. If not competing in the World's Championship Contest, a winner of the state contest must notify state contest officials so the state contest runner-up can be registered to compete in the World's Championship Contest. The winner of the state contest who participates in any other sanctioned state, regional or international contest during the same year, shall relinquish such winner's right to participate in the World's Championship Contest for that year. The registration fees for the World Championship Contest is \$50 for Senior callers and \$25 for Junior and Intermediate callers.

Goose Calling

The goose calling contests will begin at 1 PM. The first competition will be the Junior Division of the Blue/Snow Goose Category followed by the Senior Division Blue/Snow, the Junior Division Specklebelly and the Senior Division Specklebelly. Since no specific judging standards have been established by a sanctioning body for goose calling contests, there are no specific standards required by the judges. Contestants in both categories (blue/snow; specklebelly) will have 60 seconds to demonstrate their calls. The announcer will ask if the caller wants to warm up. After the optional warm-up, the announcer will say "caller # ___ calling for competition." A red light, in plain view of the caller, will go off when the contestant begins his/her calling routine. The red light will come back on at 50 seconds, indicating 10 seconds remaining, and the contestant must complete calling before the light goes off at the end of the 10 seconds. One or more "callbacks" may be necessary if there is a tie among the top 3 places. Awards will be presented to the winners when the contest is complete and the final scores have been tallied. Winners may be asked to participate in a photo session and interviews after the presentations.

* The Gueydan Civic Center is located a few blocks from the Duck Festival grounds at 901 Wilkinson Street, adjacent to the water tower in downtown Gueydan.

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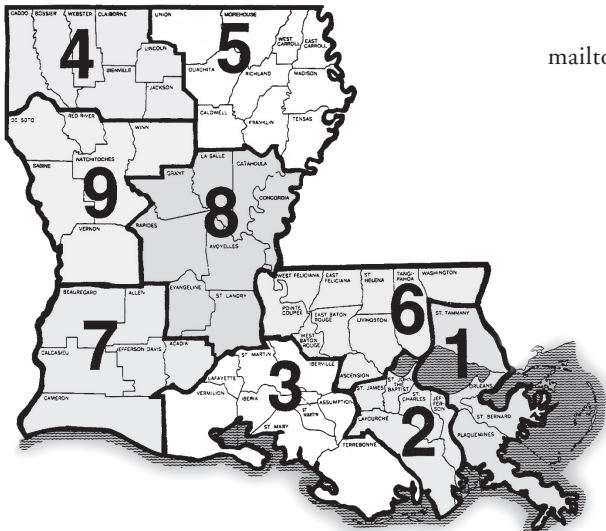
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Environmental Specialist Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners

Senior Environmental Specialist, **Chris M. Piehler** with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was honored last March with the Governor's Award for conservation achievement. The award is presented annually by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation to the person or organization deemed to have made the most outstanding contribution toward the protection and wise use of the state's natural resources – air, soil and minerals, forests, waters, fish and wildlife during the previous year from among nomi-



Chris Piehler, Senior Environmental Specialist with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality was recognized with the Governor's Award as Louisiana's top conservationist for 2007.

nations submitted by the public. The selection for this and 8 other awards was made by a panel of independent judges with expertise in a wide range of conservation fields.

The award, a handsome statuette of a bald eagle, was presented at the 44th Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Holiday Inn in New Iberia where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) convened for its 69th Annual Meeting. The awards were presented by Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Robert Barham representing Governor Bobby Jindal, and Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

Piehler of Baton Rouge was recognized

for his outstanding performance in managing DEQ's Mercury Program and developing the state's Mercury Risk Reduction Plan, including abatement measures that will help to reduce mercury contamination in the environment and citizen exposure to toxic levels and forms of this common earth element. Through his efforts, the public is much more aware of Louisiana's mercury problem and the state has taken significant steps to address it.

Six other individuals, an organization and a business were also recognized by the LWF for their outstanding conservation achievements in 2007. They are:

Dr. John A. Lopez of Springfield,



Dr. John A. Lopez receives the Professional Conservationist of the Year Award from Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham (L) and Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

coastal scientist and Director of the Coastal Sustainability Program of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, for pioneering the now widely accepted Coastal Lines of Defense strategy for restoring and protecting Louisiana's coast;

Mrs. Carrie Brown of Prairieville, Ascension 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor, for organizing and providing shotgun, rifle and pistol instruction to the youth of Ascension Parish;

Eagle Scout **John Hooper** of Prairieville for leading fellow Scouts in a project to build wood duck nesting boxes for placement on a state wildlife refuge;

Forest Capital Partners, LLC for making over 99,000 acres of forestland available for public hunting through the state's Wildlife

Management Area Program at no charge, and for donating services and materials to develop Physically Challenged Wheelchair Confined hunting areas on the 3 WMAs under its ownership – West Bay, Sabine and Clear Creak;

Harry Hurst Middle School science teacher **Barry J. Guillot** of Luling for his innovations in service-learning with the now famous LaBranche Wetland Watchers Program participated in by over 1200 5th thru 8th grade students each year;

Morgan City Mayor **Tim Matte** for shepherding the development and improvement of Lake End Park for public outdoor recreation and spearheading a cleanup and beatification campaign earning Morgan City a cleanest city designation;

The Advocate outdoor editor and co-host of Paradise Louisiana, **Joe Macaluso** of Baton Rouge, for maintaining the traditions of the "Sportsman's Paradise" with two full pages of outdoor reporting a week, and weekly television programming bringing the outdoors into the living rooms of families throughout the Capitol Region and the state, highlighting the critical conservation issues of the day;

The Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, for its promotion and development of the Louisiana Native Plant Initiative and habitat enhancement programs for bobwhite quail and grassland birds, and other community-based conservation initiatives.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide conservation education and advocacy organization with over 10,000 members and 25 affiliate groups. Established in 1940, it is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation and represents a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, fishers, campers, birders, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

John A. Lopez, Ph. D.

Professional Conservationist of the Year

It is now widely recognized that Louisiana's natural and manmade defenses against hurricane storm surges, and even routine tides, are in disrepair, and in some cases, non-existent. Although steps are being

taken to address these challenges, much more remains to be planned, designed and implemented. The magnitude and complexity of it all makes it a daunting task, one that has been embraced with urgency and insight by John Lopez.

Dr. Lopez directs the Coastal Sustainability Program for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. He is a coastal scientist, professional geologist, and a native Louisianan, having grown up hunting, fishing and exploring the outdoors. This experience nourished the vision which led him to conceive and develop the now widely excepted "Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy" for restoring and protecting Louisiana's coast, an idea magnificent in its intuitive simplicity. It's about geologic processes and how Native Americans and the first Europeans lived on this productive, but squishy, landscape. It's about barrier islands and oyster reefs and the slope of the shelf. It's about ridges deposited by sediment carried by bayous and rivers reaching out and along the coast, and the forests of willow, cypress and hackberry that followed them, and the once vast intertidal wetlands. It's about looking at the way it was and the way it is, and how to compromise with Nature so that we can still live and work in a place we love. John will tell you, it's not rocket science. It's really just common sense conservation... but far from common in our modern day society.

While many projects have been proposed and debated in developing a plan to protect and sustain Louisiana's coastal resources, Dr. Lopez has taken action. The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to Sustain Coastal Louisiana Report of which Lopez was the principle architect, was completed in 2007. The Report recommends integrated coastal projects and levee alignments for the entire coast of Louisiana with the overriding goal of improving hurricane flood protection and sustaining coastal estuaries. The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy has been adopted by the state of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the preferred strategy to select and manage projects designed to protect and improve Louisiana's coastal ecology.

Dr. Lopez's restoration strategy includes sediment source diversions, marsh creation, shoreline protection, barrier island restoration, and oyster reef restoration. A multiple regional levee approach is also proposed which would protect both communities and coastal resources from the damaging effects of hurricanes.

Dr. Lopez was instrumental in the Corps of Engineers' decision to close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet channel to better protect against hurricane storm surges. He worked tirelessly with the Corps and groups such as the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation to develop a plan for implementing the closure which is scheduled to be initiated this year.

Carrie Brown

Volunteer Conservationist of the Year

The future of conservation depends on our youth. Recognizing this, Carrie Brown has done much to develop our future conservationists and conservation leaders. Mrs. Brown is a certified shooting instructor for the Ascension Parish 4-H Club Shooting Team. The team's primary mission is to educate 4-H members 9 to 16 years of age in the safe and competent handling and use of firearms.

Under Mrs. Brown's guidance, the team has aimed for more than just targets. She has expanded the mission of the shooting team to include a broad spectrum of conservation



Mrs. Carrie Brown with the Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Award presented by LDWF Secretary Robert Barham (l) and Dr. Earl Matthew with the National Wildlife Federation.

activities. Under her leadership the team participated in the construction of wood duck boxes and were instructed in the ecology of the wood duck. They built over 45 bird feeders and worked with the CCA to learn about fish tagging and the biological information that can be obtained by tagging and tracking fish.

A field trip to LSU's deer research facility educated the group about antler growth, ageing deer, food preferences of deer and deer conservation. A licensed trapper gave the team an introduction in trapping and why it is important to both the fur industry and the trapped species. Coastal erosion issues and the roles of government and the public in working on this serious problem have also

been presented to the 4-H members.

As a certified shooting sports instructor, Carrie Brown is knowledgeable in all aspects of shooting sports. She uses her knowledge very effectively in the instruction and training of her students. Her patience and dedication insures that these students will grow into ardent conservationists.

John Hooper

Youth Conservationist of the Year

Earning the elite rank of Eagle, the highest a Boy Scout can achieve and attained by only 4% of all scouts, is no small feat. It takes dedication, determination, perseverance and hard work. A scout must master many skills and complete rigorous requirements for a variety of merit badges on his path to Eagle Scout. The importance of understanding nature is evident in merit badges such as camping, hiking and environmental science that are included in a scout's Eagle requirements. An Eagle Scout candidate must also provide leadership in an approved service project of his own choosing. And when John Hooper chose his service project, something fowl was in the air ... waterfowl, that is - specifically wood ducks.

As the public service part of his Eagle scout training, John chose the design and building of twelve wood duck boxes that will be placed in a state wildlife refuge to replace boxes and natural nesting cavities destroyed by recent hurricanes. His project was done by a team of scouts that he organized and led. John also participated in the Ascension Parish Trash Bash, an event sponsored by the Keep Ascension Beautiful Committee and



John Hooper was presented with the Youth Conservationist of the Year Award by Louisiana Wildlife Federation President Barney Callahan at a meeting of the East Ascension Sportsman's League. John was unable to attend the awards ceremony in New Iberia.

the Ascension Parish President's office. John played his part by picking up litter around the parish for proper disposal.

Forest Capital Partners, LLC
Conservation Corporation of the Year

Louisiana is blessed with one of the best wildlife management area systems in the country. Over 1.2 million acres are in the system. Privately owned land comprises 263 thousand acres and is under long term free leases to



Representing Forest Capital Partners, LLC, Bruce Colclasure, Zwolle Area Manager and Jimmy Hughes, Elizabeth Area Manager accept the Conservation Corporation of the Year Award from LDWF Secretary Robert Barham (L) and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew (R). Not pictured is company General Manager for the Eastern Region, Tina Meiners.

the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The rest of the WMA's are owned by the state. Approximately one third of the privately owned WMA land is under a lease agreement with Forest Capital Partners, LLC. The property makes up portions of the West Bay, Sabine and Clear Creek wildlife management areas. The terms of the 25 year free lease agreement grants the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the right to manage the wildlife resources on these lands while Forest Capital Partners manages the land for sustainable and renewable timber production. All Forest Capital resources operations are staffed by professional foresters. Management of the timber resources is under a rigorous set of standards subject to third party audits to insure that the guidelines for sustainable timber resource management are met.

Forest Capital Partners has gone far beyond their obligations under the terms of the lease. The company actively works in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on many projects to increase and improve public use of the lands under lease. Forest Capital Partners allows portions of its lands to be dedicated to provide accommodations for physically challenged wheelchair confined outdoorsmen and women. Forest Capital Partners cleared food plot openings, built roads and built stand locations at their cost. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries built special stands designed

to accommodate wheelchairs. In addition, Forest Capital Partners and the Department worked together to develop a system of low maintenance roads which also accommodates physically challenged ATV users.

While Forest Capital Partners primary mission is the production of timber products, they have given and continue to give freely of their time and equipment to make these projects happen. The company's genuine interest in enhancing public enjoyment of their lands creates high standards for other private land-owners in similar lease agreements.

Barry Guillot

Conservation Educator of the Year

Among the friends of LaBranche and other wetlands, this award-winning educator has risen to the top of the list. Barry Guillot is a seventh grade science teacher at the Hurst middle school in St. Charles Parish and the founder of the Hurst Middle LaBranche Wetland Watchers. The remarkable effort that the students and project partners put forth each year through their work in the community and the surrounding wetlands has provided positive benefits to the education of St. Charles Parish students,



Barry Guillot, Conservation Educator of the Year receives his award from LDWF Secretary Robert Barham (L) and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew.

improvements in the local environment and greater public awareness of wetland issues. The efforts of his students are nationally recognized including in publications such as the School Administrator Magazine, the Scholastic Administrator Magazine, area newspapers and a special recognition in the new 8th grade Louisiana History text book. A video documentary of the work of the Wetland Watchers was produced by the George Lucas Foundation and recognized by the Foundation as one of its top videos. Wetland Watcher participants have appeared on Radio Disney's Kids Concerns Talk Show

twice and worked with Disney specialists to produce a public service announcement about wetlands which ran for two months.

The many projects and accomplishments of the LaBranche Wetland Watchers are far too numerous to all be mentioned here, but some of them are:

Provided over 60,000 hours of volunteer service to the wetlands;

Planted over 2800 trees;

Involved over 6000 students in wetland awareness programs;

Over 150 students earned Presidential Volunteer Service Awards;

Spoke to over 165,000 adults and children through outreach events;

Collected over 1700 bags of trash and truckloads of junk from an area they adopted;

Spoke to 2500 people from all 50 states and 42 countries while accepting the National Youth Leadership Council's Excellence in Service Learning Award in Philadelphia;

Planted 180 cypress trees grown on the LSU campus with the assistance of Dow Chemical and LSU personnel;

Conducted a water quality clarity survey on the near shore waters of Lake Ponchartrain;

Participated in many outreach events such as Earth Day in Baton Rouge, the Storm Warning II event at City Park in New Orleans and the Storm Warning III event at the port of New Orleans;

Were instrumental in securing a \$40,000 grant from Dow Chemical to construct a boardwalk and other improvements on land adopted by the students 10 years ago.

Their awards and national recognitions are too numerous to list.

Barry Guillot was honored with the St. Charles Parish Citizen of the Year award by the Rotary club for his work in the community. He has been honored as one of eight Louisiana citizens to receive a 2007 Louisiana Angel award sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. The award came with a \$20,000 donation toward projects in progress. He was one of eight people honored with a 2007 New Orleans Saints Community Award of \$5,000. He also has earned many other recognitions – both local and national. The work of the Hurst Middle LaBranche Wetland Watchers has united their local community and has brought national attention to the issues concerning Louisiana wetlands.

Morgan City Mayor Tim Matte
Conservationist of the Year (Elected Official)

Morgan City Mayor Tim Matte is an avid advocate of outdoor recreation and has dedicated much of his time to improving his city's recreation facilities and environment during his three terms. Early in his first term, Mayor Matte recognized that Lake End Park, originally established in the 1920s, was in serious need of a major restoration. He made this one of the top priorities of his administration and under his leadership



Mayor Tim Matte accepts the Conservationist of the Year Award, Elected Official Category from LDWF Secretary Robert Barham (L) and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew.

the park has been transformed and is now one of the busiest parks in the state. The first phase was the replacement of the Park's outdated electrical and utilities infrastructure. The Mayor was successful in brokering an agreement with FEMA to contribute the infrastructure in exchange for temporary use of the site for FEMA trailers. RV sites were built and a maintenance building and equipment were provided. The Park has over 75 RV sites, pavilions, a tent camping area, large open spaces, a sand beach, a walking trail and a conference center.

The Lake End Parkway which runs along Lake Palourde was in danger from erosion from the lake side. Mayor Matte worked with the Corp of Engineers on a project to build up the threatened area with dredged material from the Atchafalaya River. Fifty-two acres with a rock dike retaining wall were created by this project. Again, the Mayor brokered an agreement with FEMA to improve the area in exchange for temporary use. After eighteen months, the park was ready to accommodate RV's. Over 200 cypress and live oak trees have been planted on the area. Plans for construction of cabins at Lake End Parkway were approved and construction will begin this year.

To improve recreational opportunities for children, the city constructed two play-

grounds under the elevated highway bridge. The playground is the beginning of a trail which loops around the city. A special needs playground was provided to serve the needs of handicapped children. A fifteen million dollar interpretative center to be located across the street from Lake End Park has been planned and funding has been secured in the Water Resources Development Act.

The Mayor has spearheaded numerous cleanups resulting in massive amounts of trash picked up from area waterways. These and other efforts resulted in Morgan City winning a clean city award. The Mayor worked with Cajun Coast Tourism to bring in 200 people for a seminar on Bald Eagles and observation of dozens of nesting pairs in the surrounding swamps and lakes.

The Mayor actively seeks public input and participation in his many projects. He serves on the board of directors of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and is an articulate spokesman for Louisiana and an advocate of coastal restoration. He has a vision for the betterment of the State and is passionate about it.

Joe Macaluso

Conservation Communicator of the Year

When it comes to the hunting and fishing beat, *The Advocate* reporter Joe Macaluso has it covered from top to bottom. His outdoor page on Thursdays and Sundays are eagerly read by the hunting and fishing public. His enthusiasm and commentary keeps all informed about the latest issues; where the deer are moving and the fish are biting around the state. Wherever outdoor issues are debated, Macaluso is there to report the outcome and keep his audiences informed. His grasp of technical issues and the ability to communicate them in understandable terms makes him a relied-on news source.

In addition to his work at *The Advocate*, Joe Macaluso has for six years been the co-host of the state and regional TV show, *Paradise Louisiana*. He also has a weekly segment on WBRZ Channel 2 News. Through these and other efforts, he makes a significant contribution to everyone's enjoyment of our State's great outdoors.

Some recent examples of Macaluso's work include his coverage of the campaign to acquire and reopen Elmer's Island for public use, a high priority of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. The closing of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet has gotten a lot of attention from Macaluso. He has kept us all focused on

the critical need for this project to go forward. His coverage of the issue of diminishing public access to state lands and waters has helped to focus public attention on this problem and keep the concern in front of government officials.

Macaluso has always devoted a lot of coverage to youth hunting and fishing, bringing the need to increase these opportunities to the forefront. His detailed calendar of outdoor events helps to keep us on schedule and increases public participation in these important meetings and activities.

Some examples of Joe Macaluso's recent coverage of outdoor and conservation issues are:

A three part series about the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on wildlife



Joe Macaluso with the Conservation Communicator of the Year Award presented by LDWF Secretary Robert Barham and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew.

and its habitat, seafood and its habitat, and the financial challenges in the wake of these storms;

Restocking of black bass in area water bodies by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries;

Grand Isle's recovery from the hurricanes and the rebuilding of its fishing economy;

The state's only native duck – the mottled duck and storm impact on invasive species.

Macaluso is always willing to publicize worthy conservation causes and events. His passion, work ethic, tenacity and his love for all outdoor recreation serve him well in his profession. Keeping the public informed about outdoor and conservation issues is something he brings to all of his efforts. He is a vital part of Louisiana's great outdoor scene and does much to preserve the State's recognition as the "Sportsman's Paradise."

Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council
Conservation Organization of the Year
Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council is a non-profit organi-

zation that addresses the social, environmental and economic concerns of south central Louisiana. The Council's primary mission is the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources in Acadia, Avoyelles, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermillion Parishes. The Council works with stakeholders, the



The Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council, represented by Rose Shuff and Angie Fogleman presented with the Conservation Organization of the Year Award by LDWF Secretary Robert Barham and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew.

public and government to accomplish many projects which benefit Louisiana's environment and natural resources.

The Council's Louisiana native plant initiative utilized a number of partnerships with other organizations and agencies to harvest native plant seeds, which are being released to commercial growers to produce Louisiana native plants for distribution throughout the state. This project has involved 17 organizational and agency partners to facilitate the success and acceptance of this initiative. A monthly newsletter is published and distributed to publicize this important initiative.

In another project, the Council purchased a no-till native grass drill to rent to land managers to help establish native grasses and forbs on 171 acres across the region.

The Council led a project to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of deriving energy from sustainable crops. This project reduces on-farm energy costs, promotes sustainable agricultural practices, opens markets for farmers and businesses, encourages rural development, displaces fossil fuel use, lowers the market price of renewable energy, provides a forum for education out reach and reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Workshops and conferences are used extensively by the Council to educate about its projects and to develop new initiatives. Other projects and initiatives that the Council is promoting are the Black Bear Conservation Initiative, the Coulee Baton Micro Watershed Home Septic System Demonstration and

numerous community development projects such as nature trails, little league baseball, numerous sporting initiatives and a fire training center in St. Landry Parish.

Chris M. Piehler - Governor's Award Conservationist of the Year

As an organization of conservationists, people who spend a lot of time outdoors enjoying fish and wildlife resources and the environment in which we find them, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has a special appreciation for the importance of maintaining clean air and water to support those resources, and us. The thought of having to refuse a meal of fresh-caught fish out of concern for the health risks posed by consumption is repugnant, and alarming. But along with the advances of modern society



Chris Piehler receives the Governor's Award-Conservationist of the Year from Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham and Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

seems to come pollution and associated risks of environmental contamination.

Mercury is one of those particularly troubling contaminants. It is ubiquitous in air and soil, the long-term consequence of coal-fired power generation. It also enters the environment from many other sources. When it gets in the water and reacts chemically, it can become available to organisms and a process of bioaccumulation, increasing in toxicity at each higher level of the food chain until it winds up on the dinner table. That's something to be concerned about, especially in the Sportsman's Paradise, and something to do something about.

Chris Piehler, Senior Environmental Specialist with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has headed DEQ's mercury Program for the past seven years, devoting a significant part of his career to assessing the extent of Louisiana's mercury contamination problem and informing the public of the risks and how best to minimize

them. To date, there are 41 waterbodies in the state with mercury-in-fish advisories targeting high risk segments of the population



Conservationists of the Year for 2007.

like pregnant and breast-feeding women, and children under 7 years of age. But only in the last few years has the state, primarily through Piehler's work, developed a mercury reduction strategy. In a state like Louisiana, not known for its aggressive pursuit of pollution or polluters, what Piehler has been able to do, working within the system, has been truly remarkable.

Four years ago, Piehler began to lead an effort to take the step from assessment and warning, to reduction. There was a consensus-building process among industry and environmentalists. Then there was legislation authorizing the development of a reduction plan...easier to say now than to do, then. Subsequent to the adoption of the legislation, the two most significant sources of mercury air emissions in Louisiana (chlorine plants in Lake Charles and St. Gabriel) implemented plans to eliminate a combined average of about 2,500 pounds of mercury per year. During 2007, Piehler completed coordination of the publication of the Louisiana Mercury Risk Reduction Plan. The plan is a broadly collaborative approach to addressing risks to Louisiana citizens from mercury. With the publication of the plan, Louisiana now is ranked within the top 10 states in the nation which have considered public health consequences of mercury and developed a published strategy to reduce mercury pollution in the environment.

Not resting on this accomplishment, as 2007 came to a close, Piehler kicked off a new Clean Waters Initiative for the state to reduce the number of waters on the impaired list by 25% by the year 2012.



Bill Boosts Atchafalaya Basin Program

House Bill 1135 by State Representative Karen St. Germain of Pierre Part and 27 coauthors restructures the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) within the Department of Natural Resources and refocuses it on improving water quality and related public recreational opportunities in America's largest



State Representative Karen St. Germain

and most productive river basin swamp. The bill was signed into law by Governor Jindal as Act 606 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

According to St. Germain, the value of the Atchafalaya Basin is well known by the thousands of Louisianans who fish, boat, paddle, bird, hunt, frog, crawfish and otherwise enjoy the natural wonder that lies between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, New Iberia and Napoleonville. Estimates of economic impact supported by the Basin run to nearly a half billion dollars annually in fisheries, recreation and tourism.

HB 1135 overhauls ABP operating procedures and decision-making processes, adjusts criteria for projects, and requires the development of an annual plan that must be approved by the Legislature, similar to the process for the state's plan for coastal protection and restoration. The bill gives specific executive authorities to the Atchafalaya Basin Promotion and Research Board (ABPRB), including the development of the annual plan, creates a technical advisory group chaired by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to advise the APPRB, and requires review of the plan by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to assure consistency with the state's master plan for coastal protection and restoration. In each step of the process, public review and input is prominent.

A major feature of the Act is the establish-

ment of the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund. As originally conceived, the Fund would receive 50% of the mineral revenues generated from state lands and water bottoms in the Atchafalaya Basin, capped at \$10 million per year, such funds to be used for projects in the Atchafalaya Basin annual plan, master plan or as a match for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project of the Corps of Engineers. It directs 75% of monies allocated from the fund in any one fiscal year to water management, water quality or (public) access projects with the remaining 25% available to complete ongoing projects and projects that are in accordance with the mission statement of the master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin adopted by the Legislature in 1999.

The mineral revenue dedication idea hit a bump when Governor Jindal announced that he was generally opposed to dedicating additional state revenues. The dedication was deleted by amendment on the House floor. The fund would still be available to receive money from other sources, including direct appropriations.



Sunrise on the Upper Grand River Flats in the Atchafalaya Basin

Randy Lancot, executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, one of the several organizations that supported the bill, said that the swamp faces significant challenges. Primary among them is siltation which encourages stagnation and low oxygen conditions, degrading water quality and fish habitat.

A major goal of the Atchafalaya Basin Program from its inception has been to support projects to improve water quality by re-plumbing and managing the flow of water through the swamp. "The stable funding envisioned by HB 1135 as originally introduced is critical to near and long-term planning and would accelerate design and

implementation of water management work," Lancot said.

Another consideration for the state is the potential loss of revenue from minerals as land accretes and waterbottoms fill, triggering a transfer of ownership of the subsurface minerals from the state to the



Advocates gather in 1999 to celebrate the completion of the state's Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin. (L-R) Edgar Veillon, Kathy Wascom, Sandra Thompson, Jack Caldwell and B. E. M. "Ben" Skerrett, III.

private riparian owner. One effect of water management would be to keep Basin waters open and state ownership of minerals below them. Currently, state lands and waterbottoms in the Atchafalaya Basin are generating over \$50 million annually in mineral revenue to the state.

"The concept of investing the wealth generated from the depletion of nonrenewable natural resources in the restoration, enhancement, conservation and management of renewable natural resources like the fish, wildlife, land and water resources of the Atchafalaya Basin is a fundamental concept of wise resource stewardship, and widely embraced by citizens across the Sportsman's Paradise," Lancot said. "We have to respectfully agree to disagree with the Governor on this one, and urge the Louisiana Senate to reconsider the funding question when the bill comes to the floor."

The Senate did just that by adopting an amendment, not to HB 1135 which passed the full Senate in the same posture as it was received from the House, but to HB 420 (Act 932), a veto-proof constitutional amendment proposing to increase the share of mineral revenue each parish receives from energy production from state lands and waterbottoms within the parish. It will be on the ballot of the November 4th general election for Louisiana voters to decide.

State Duck & Goose Calling Contest August 24 in Gueydan

The 40th Annual Louisiana State Duck and Goose Calling Contest will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at the Gueydan Civic Center* in conjunction with the 32nd Gueydan Duck Festival. The duck calling contest is sanctioned by the World Championship Duck Calling Contest Committee of Stuttgart, Arkansas. The winning duck callers will be eligible to represent Louisiana in the 73rd World Contest on November 28-29 in Stuttgart.

Onsite registration will be open at 7:30 AM and close at 9:30 AM for duck callers (12:30 PM for goose callers). Preregistrations are recommended. The registration fee is \$15 per contest entered, or \$35 to enter all three categories of competition. Only Louisiana residents are eligible to compete in the state contest.

Girls and boys and men and women will compete together.

The duck calling competition will begin at 10 AM with the Junior Division followed by the Intermediate Division and then the Senior Division. The goose calling competition will begin at 1 PM with the Junior Division in the blue/snow category followed by the Senior Division; then the Junior Division specklebelly callers followed by the Senior Division callers. All contestants will be entered in drawings for shotguns and dozens of other prizes donated by contest sponsors.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place plaques will be awarded in each division. The top finishers in each category will receive state champion jackets. The winner of each division in the duck calling category will be eligible

mailing the following information for each contestant: date, full name, date of birth and age, home address and phone #, contest category/categories entered (duck, blue/snow, specklebelly) to:

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



Winners of the 2007 State duck Calling Contest, Junior Division were (L-R) Austin Hebert, 1st place; Kennon Menard, 2nd place; and Nathan Boe, 3rd place.



(L-R) Jason Campbell, Slade Norfleet and Shannon Housand were the top 3 finishers, respectively in the Senior Division of the 2007 State Duck Calling Contest.

There are 3 divisions in the duck calling competition: Junior (under 14 years of age); Intermediate (14-16 years of age); Senior (17 years of age and older). There are 2 age divisions for the goose calling categories: Junior (16 years of age and younger) and Senior (17 years of age and older).

to receive an expense aid of up to \$300 to compete in the 2008 World Championship Duck Calling Contest. Reimbursement will be available upon verification of participation and submission of receipts to confirm expenses.

Contest preregistration is available by

A contest registration form is available on the Web at <http://www.duckfestival.org>. A check to cover the entry fee (\$15 for each contest entered or \$35 to enter all 3 contests) should be made out to Gueydan Duck Festival Association and included with the preregistration information. Fees are not refundable.

Last year's winner in the senior division of the duck calling competition for the second consecutive year was Jason Campbell of Iowa, followed by Slade Norfleet of Luling and Shannon Housand of Des Allemands. The intermediate duck division was won by Slade Norfleet of Luling, followed by Ian Tauzin of Lake Charles and Ben Sampognaro of West Monroe. The junior duck division was won by Austin Hebert of Lafayette. Kennon Menard of Lafayette was second followed by Nathan Boe of Baton Rouge. In the goose calling competitions, Tom Fulkerson of Kaplan won the senior blue/snow goose calling category followed by Bill Daniels of Hayes in second place and

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Brown Pelican Proposed for Delisting

Last March, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne joined Governor Bobby Jindal at the Governor's Mansion to announce the removal of the brown pelican from Endangered Species Act protection in those areas of the Gulf and Pacific coasts, the Caribbean and Central

Water Fish Commission jointly implemented a restoration project involving a total of 1,276 young pelicans that were captured at sites in Florida and released at three sites in southeastern Louisiana during the 13 years of the project. Over 350,000 brown pelicans have been pro-

consult with the USF&WS to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out will avoid or minimize harm to the species. Other federal laws, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act, would continue to protect the brown pelican, its nests and its eggs from harm. Further, the service is working with state natural resource agencies where the brown pelican occurs to develop cooperative management agreements to ensure that the species continues to be monitored and protected. The Endangered Species Act requires the service to work with the state natural resource agencies to monitor the population and threats to the species for a minimum of five years after it is delisted. Should the population numbers decrease or the threats to pelicans change, brown pelicans can be relisted under the Endangered Species Act.

The brown pelican was first declared endangered in 1970 under the Endangered Species Conservation Act, a precursor to the current Endangered Species Act. The brown pelican in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and northward along the Atlantic Coast states was removed from the list of endangered species in 1985. The proposed delisting applies to all remaining protected populations of brown pelicans.



Fish & Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall (seated, left), Governor Bobby Jindal, and LDWF Secretary Robert Barham witness the signing of the Notice of Intent by Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, to remove the brown pelican from the list of threatened and endangered species.

and South America where the birds have recovered. Kempthorne noted that the pelican's recovery is due in large measure to the federal ban on the general use of the pesticide DDT in 1972, after former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Rachel Carson published *Silent Spring* and alerted the nation to the dangers of unrestricted pesticide use.

There are now more than 620,000 brown pelicans found across Florida and the Gulf and Pacific Coasts and in the Caribbean and Latin America. Louisiana, long known as the "Pelican State," has been a key partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in efforts to recover the pelican in the Gulf Coast region. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Florida Game and Fresh

duced in Louisiana since 1971.

Efforts to protect the brown pelican led to the birth of the National Wildlife Refuge System more than a century ago in central Florida, where a German immigrant named Paul Kroegel became appalled by the indiscriminate slaughter of pelicans for their feathers. His impassioned pleas to President Theodore Roosevelt led Roosevelt to create the first National Wildlife Refuge at Pelican Island in 1903 and name Kroegel its first refuge manager. More than a century later, there are 548 national wildlife refuges, many of which have played key roles in the brown pelican's recovery.

If the proposed delisting of the brown pelican is finally approved, federal agencies would not be required to



Photo by Jon Barry

Jindal Announcement on Coastal Spending Commits State to Elmer's Island

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal held a mid-August press conference to announce plans to spend a billion dollars over the next several months on projects to help restore Louisiana's diminishing coast and protect coastal communities. The announcement was made on the heels of an agreement with the federal government giving the state 30 years to match federal funds anticipated for coastal protection and restoration work. According to the Governor's Assistant for Coastal Activities Garret Graves that freed up \$300 million in state dollars which can now be applied to implement projects in the near term.

Among the restoration projects described by the Governor and Graves is the Caminada Headlands/Barataria Basin Shoreline Restoration which will provide a buffer to storm surge in Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes. The \$70 million project will address beach and wetland erosion problems from Caminada Pass to Belle Pass and help protect Louisiana Highway 1 and other infrastructure, businesses and dwellings in Grand Isle, Caminada and Port Fourchon.

In describing the project, Graves stated, "This includes a commitment from the state to acquire and restore Elmer's Island and make it available to the public for fishing and other recreational uses."



Location map of Elmer's Island.

In reaction to the announcement, Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) Executive Director Randy Lancot said, "This is the first time since LWF initiated the Elmer's Island Campaign in early 2002 that we have heard such encouraging words



Callie Dunn kicks off the Elmer's Island campaign in 2002.

from the Governor's Office. We couldn't be more pleased and thank Governor Jindal for making this a priority for his administration and Mr. Graves for recognizing the importance of preserving Elmer's Island and opening it once again to the citizens of Louisiana."

Elmer's Island is a barrier beachfront with low dunes, mud and sand flats, marsh, lagoon and tidal channel comprising about 1700 acres on the west side of Caminada Pass from Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish. It traditionally has been open to the public for fishing and camping for a small fee. It was closed to the public in 2002 by the owner due primarily to liability issues and a lack of desire to continue operating the enterprise. It is one of the few land accessible beaches on the Louisiana coast and has been a popular destination for fishing, camping, birding and beachcombing for many years.

Other restoration projects to receive funding include \$37million for a sediment pipeline for restoration of Plaquemines, Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes creating a

dedicated, long-distance pipeline from the west bank of Plaquemines Parish to Jefferson and Lafourche Parishes. After completion of this sediment pipeline, the state will move forward on similar projects on the Calcasieu River, Atchafalaya River into Terrebonne Parish and other areas in Plaquemines Parish on the Mississippi River. The Bayou Lafourche Freshwater Diversion will receive \$24 million to complete the first phase of the project and allow for a diversion of 300 feet per second on the bayou. Beneficial Use of Dredged Material will receive \$26 million to restore coastal wetlands and \$45 million is allocated for the Cameron Parish Shoreline.

"If done properly, all these projects can benefit Louisiana's fish and wildlife sources," said Lancot, "while at the same time contributing to the protection of coastal communities. It is exciting to think that we are finally ready to implement coastal restoration on a larger scale."

Ole Tibby



Bon Jour, Mes Amis.

This month I turn 91 years old. Thank God for all I have been able to do. But life is very different nowadays for me as I am older – no hunting; no fishing; no going to sportsmen's meetings and events. It's gotten to be a very dull life. We (Erna and I) have



Erna

five children, 12 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren. Some of them do not visit very much, going to school and participating in all the extra activities (which is good for them).

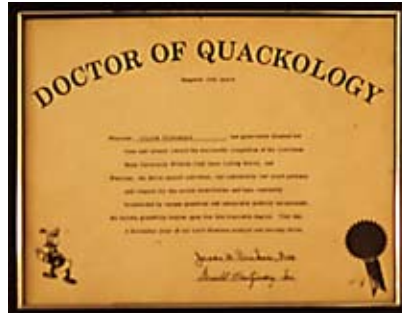
As busy as I used to be, it's too quiet now – few phone calls and visitors, meetings and social events.

Joe Herring, Randy Lanctot, Charlie Tollejon and Sonny Ourso stop by now and then. Some bring me fish. Randy brought fresh speckled trout and a bag of vegetables from his garden. A few brought ducks and geese (Erna still can make a great gumbo!) – Donald LaPort, Sonny Ourso, Richard Dugas and Darby Landaiche. Thanks a million, fellows.

Having visitors is like medicine for me; and phone calls, too. A few more would be wonderful.

I know that gas is high as one of my sons fills up the tank in Erna's car and

reports on the cost (We don't drive anymore, but the kids take us around in it and also sometimes use it themselves.) But even so, get into the outdoors as much as you can, while you can.



I do get to catch some fish and bag a few ducks while watching Gary Rispon, Joe Macaluso and sometimes Don Dubuc on the Paradise Louisiana cable TV show. Gary was one of my Scouts in Troop 29 when I was Scoutmaster many years ago. Watching is good, but there's nothing like doing for real yourself.

Geese remain in the lake near my home by Bellingrath Lake Subdivision. On Easter I walked in my driveway and a flock of



honking geese flew over in gun range – I was in heaven, acting like I was in a blind and ready to shoot. Years ago, Prof. Glasgow at LSU honored me with a "Doctor of Quackology" certificate. As I have reported before, my children and grandsons don't do much hunting or fishing. I've been told that I burned them out when they were kids.

So, please come by for a visit, or give me a call to share your hunting and fishing tales. My freezer would welcome a bag of filets or a couple of ducks, also.

Ole Tibby

AFFILIATE CLUBS

DISTRICT 1

Woodlands Trail and Park

DISTRICT 2

Bayou Gun Clubb

Jefferson Rod and Gun Club

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

DISTRICT 3

Iberia Rod and Gun Club

DISTRICT 4

Red River Refuge Alliance

DISTRICT 5

Friends of Black Bayou

DISTRICT 6

American Sportsmen Against Poachers

Citizens For A Clean Environment

East Ascension Sportsmen's League

Triangle "T" Sportsmen's League

DISTRICT 7

Acadiana Sportsmen's League

DISTRICT 8

Avoyelles Wildlife Federation

Rapides Wildlife Association

DISTRICT 9

Louisiana Toledo Bend Lake Association

South Toledo Bend Civic Association

STATEWIDE

Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs

Bayou State Bowhunters Association

Black Bear Conservation Committee

Louisiana Association of Professional

Biologists

La. Chapter, National Wild Turkey

Federation

La. Chapter, Safari Club International

Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters

Association

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"conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."

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

LWF Recommends Swamp Forest Conservation Strategies

Jul 15, 2005

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



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

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 - ☐ Sponsor – \$100 (sponsor plaque)
 - ☐ Business – \$50 (LWF logo T-shirt; M - L - XL)
 - ☐ Corporate – \$1,000 (framed, limited edition s/n wildlife print)
 - ☐ Basic/Student – \$15
 - ☐ Payment enclosed but don't send me anything but *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine.
- Please send information about your ☐ individual or ☐ corporate life membership.

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For more information, call 1.866.4WETLAND
or visit www.americaswetland.com