

A close-up photograph of a beaver in a pond. The beaver is holding a large, orange-colored fish in its mouth and is in the process of eating it. The beaver's fur is wet and brown. The background shows more of the beaver's body and the water of the pond.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

January-June 2024



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January-July 2024

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Since 1940, Louisiana Wildlife Federation has been the voice for Louisiana’s wildlife and natural resources. Join us to protect Sportsman’s Paradise for future generations.

Principles:

- Conserve Louisiana’s natural resources with emphasis on wildlife and their habitat
- Advance sound, scientifically established resource management principles
- Engage outdoor enthusiasts through education and advocacy

This newsletter is printed biannually for members and supporters. Updates on LWF activities and events can be found on our website and social media pages:

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LWF is an affiliate organization of National Wildlife Federation and together we form a powerful network for wildlife conservation locally and nationally.

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American Sportsmen Against Poachers, Inc.
Baton Rouge Audubon Society
Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society
Bayou Vermilion Preservation Society
Caddo Lake Institute, Inc.
Climate Reality Project – New Orleans Chapter
East Ascension Sportsman League
Friends of Black Bayou
Friends of Grand Isle, Inc.
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Friends of the Atchafalaya
Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
Louisiana Native Plant Society
Louisiana Ornithological Society
Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association
New Orleans Power Squadron
Orleans Audubon Society
Pontchartrain Conservancy
Rapides Wildlife Association
Shreveport Society for Nature Study
Toledo Bend Lake Association
Woodlands Conservancy

NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On April 8, I watched the total solar eclipse at my brother-in-law's deer camp near Carbondale, Illinois in perfect, blue-sky, Spring weather. While other locations in the path of totality were overcast, our group that gathered to watch this spectacular natural occurrence had luckily made a better plan. We tailgated in a hilly pasture near some woods, donned our eclipse glasses, marked the changes in light leading up to totality, marveled at how weirdly wonderful the sky's color was and the changing sounds of insects in response. We managed to leave with only one tick each but a small price to pay for a serene viewing spot. My sister and I had watched the 2017 total solar eclipse together on the other side of Carbondale, Illinois. We went to the county fairground that drew hundreds of people who had driven for hours to this location that would experience maximum totality on a sunny hot day. I'm grateful for the public space to gather for the eclipse seven years ago and the fun festival atmosphere they created but I preferred the quiet rural experience this year. So many of my favorite memories are times spent outdoors with family and friends – camping, hiking, fishing, or just looking at the moon obscure the sun's light for a few minutes. Here's hoping your summer includes great outdoor adventures. ■ - Rebecca Triche



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Over 84 years, LWF and its affiliates large and small have celebrated the passion of man's connection to the natural world, have advocated fiercely for wild lands and precious waters, and have respected the conservation and cultural traditions that make Louisiana a Sportsman's Paradise. Seemingly every week, as we examine what appear to be wholly new issues, those issues often have some antecedent in the LWF archives. We are frequently reminded of the people who have been doing the important work and making courageous stands over the decades. We sometimes know them personally but mostly through their work. They all have had individual personal courage, and they have all been able to draw people to them to support their efforts. Doing my own digging I discovered that Mark Twain wrote, "History never repeats itself, but the Kaleidoscopic combinations of the pictured present often seem to be constructed out of the broken fragments of antique legends."

Recently, I walked under towering, long leaf pines on the Kisatchie National Forest. A group of about 50 people from throughout the southeastern US heard from National Forest Service (NFS) regional and local staff as part of the public outreach and public comment process on proposed amendments impacting forest management that incorporates considerations for old growth sections of the forest. There were deep questions about old trees and ecological systems and the niches that allow species like the Louisiana Pine Snake and the Red Cockaded Woodpecker to live and thrive. All the while we were able to see



the results of the work done by people long gone from the earth. We stood in a forest in part reborn from the “played out” lands of the late 19th and early 20th century industrial forestry boom. Many of the lands we walked were purchased under the Weeks Act of 1911 which gave the federal government the right to buy private lands in the Eastern United States to create national forests. Many of the old growth stands remaining were left because the tracts of forests were inaccessible or didn’t contain trees of sufficient value. Some of the stands were naturally regenerated in the 1920s and many more acres had been added to the forest and replanted and actively managed over the succeeding century.



The catalyst for much of that initial work was Caroline Dorman, one of those singular individuals who recognize the beauty and intrinsic value of the natural world, including the aesthetics and complex intricacy of the ecological systems around us, and the cultural knowledge of all the people who have lived in those places. The elements of her biography are a kaleidoscopic combination of the conservation movement of the first half of the 20th Century and the stories of the native peoples who once lived in Kisatchie and those who still do today. She grew up in an era when the culture of Manifest Destiny still prevailed. Lands were primarily to be cleared and commodified and the resources were limitless, and wildlife inexhaustible.

At each stop of the day, I thought of her victories and failures. I thought about her determined interactions with state and federal governments and academic and cultural institutions. Though her aim was to preserve the last 12,000 acres of virgin Longleaf pine forest, she failed. Nevertheless, she persevered in her efforts. She secured the state legislation that facilitated the federal purchase of the land that would become the Kisatchie national forest. She worked directly with the Choctaw people and advocated for the Tunica people who lived on that land.



She established relationships with the Smithsonian staff to conduct proper archaeological studies of the area. She worked with federal and state officials, private landowners, academics, scholars, artists, and writers to help her achieve her vision. For any of you lucky enough to have spent time in an old growth forest, the complexity of the ecological systems on display are such that they invoke awe and wonder. Mosses and fungi and towering trunks and wildlife in hollows. Trees old enough to host many species.

Conservation history is still being made today and the next Caroline Dorman may already be in our midst. In the meantime, LWF celebrates annually the many exceptional conservationists who are around us. Be sure to nominate those you know!

In late July, at the National Wildlife Federation annual meeting Louisiana's legendary importance to conservation efforts in the US was at the forefront. Representing the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Orleans Audubon members Andrew Wilson and Charlie Pfeiffer working with our delegate Marty Floyd successfully passed, with unanimous support, an NWF resolution on the McKittrick policy which impacts the fines levied for violations of the Endangered Species Act. What was an LWF resolution in 2021 is now influencing national dialogue about species protection. Ryan Lambert, who was LWF's 2019 Volunteer Conservationist of the Year, received NWF's annual Conservation Leadership Award for his work to restore the wetlands that protect our coast.

Marty Floyd, the 2024 LWF Lifetime Achievement Award winner was awarded the National Wildlife Federation's prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award. Like Caroline Dorman nearly a century before him, Marty has immersed himself in understanding ecological systems and navigated the equally complex federal and state agencies that help guard the public trust. He has opened a dialogue with the leaders of the Tunica-Biloxi tribe to help preserve and teach the Tunica and the Biloxi languages to a new generation by developing coloring books focused on native Louisiana animals. His work is drawing the attention of conservation leaders in surrounding states to create similar resources for the preservation of ancient cultures, languages, and legends.

Born out of the depths of the Great Depression and decades of "extractive" industry, LWF is the voice for wildlife. In 2024, LWF still cares about the knowledge and stories of the people who lived on the land hundreds and thousands of years ago and the people who still live here today. So, I flash forward over 100 years since most of the long leaf pines were felled and 50 years since Caroline Dorman last walked the earth, and I stand in the regenerated forest. With your help, LWF will continue to tackle the timeless and recurring challenges to wildlife and wildlife habitat and invest in future generations of conservation leaders. ■ - Zac Burson

REPORT ON THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION AT THE CAPITOL

The 2024 Louisiana legislative season featured two special sessions and the regular session. There were many new legislators and a new Governor's administration being put in place. LWF tracked and monitored more than 80 bills and engaged on the following issues during the regular session.

One of the most anticipated bills this session failed to make it through the process. HB 800 by Rep. Beau Beaulieu created the



framework for a Constitutional Convention. The main target of the convention would seem to be Article 7 of the Constitution, which is the revenue and tax portion and includes all the various “protected” funds such as Conservation Fund, Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, and Artificial Reef Fund. Over the past decades, LWF was very active in supporting constitutional protection of these funds that the voters approved so you can expect LWF to continue to watch this closely.

There were several bills introduced relative to carbon sequestration. Bills by Rep. Coates and Rep. Mack to curb carbon sequestration projects under Lake Maurepas failed to pass but Rep. Mack did pass a bill requiring operators to create and submit emergency response plans to local governments. Other bills related to carbon sequestration that passed included: a right to sue for damages related to such projects; protection for landowners from civil liability if a well operator using their property gets sued for damages; and creation of a new process requiring well operators to secure the written consent from the owners of at least 75% of the impacted acreage to move forward with a carbon sequestration project. That same “unitization” process already is used to guarantee mineral rights of landowners for oil and gas.

LWF has long called for more scrutiny on wastewater assimilation projects and voiced concerns about negative, long-term impacts on natural wetlands and the outcomes not meeting the benefits proposed. Rep. Coates’s HB474 (Act 473) requires signage for these wastewater assimilation projects in their discharge areas so the public knows they are entering a wetland area receiving wastewater with relaxed treatment protocols. Rep. Coates also passed a study resolution for the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee to learn more about the wastewater assimilation program.

Thanks to Governor Landry for declaring April as Native Plant Month this year while Rep. Freeman’s bill (now Act 219) to recognize the month of April as Native Plant Month in Louisiana was still moving through the legislative process. That’s strong support for native habitats.

Regarding lifetime hunting licenses, HB400 (now Act 653) by Rep Riser was passed to establish a lifetime combination hunting and fishing license for persons under the age of three and established fees for other lifetime combination licenses, which entitles the licensee to all of the privileges conferred by basic hunting, deer, waterfowl, and turkey hunting licenses; basic fishing, saltwater, crab, and recreational fishing gear licenses; and basic wildlife management area access.

Rep. Zeringue’s Bill (now Act 449) establishes reimbursement to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from the state general fund for any lost revenue resulting from the issuance of free and discounted recreational hunting and fishing licenses in an amount equal to the discounts issued.

Relative to the state budget, at the last minute \$20 million was appropriated to the Coastal Restoration and Protection Fund but only \$1 million was appropriated to the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund. LWF will continue to prioritize securing the funds needed to bring more conservation money to Louisiana because having non-federal dollars available for projects is crucial.

Two bills by Rep. Orgeron (HB300 and HB305) to allow funds derived from alternative energy production in Louisiana's coastal area to be dedicated to coastal restoration were passed. The final decision for a constitutional amendment to do this will be put before the voters on November 5.

The annual state integrated coastal protection plan for Fiscal Year 2025 (HCR25) was passed.

HB810 by Rep. Geymann provided for the reorganization of the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources. It consolidates more responsibilities and oversight under the department. LWF is providing comments to the administration as we learn more about the proposed changes for this department later in the year. We can expect many changes to be made here.

LWF was concerned about the changes to CPRA in HB806 by Rep. Geymann that reduced the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) board by removing six state officials from the board, including two elected officials – the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry and the Commissioner of Insurance – and the Secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, Secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development, Commissioner of Administration, and the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. It's difficult to understand why this change was needed and LWF opposed it.

HR256 by Rep. Zeringue was passed to urge and request CPRA to report on potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed. LWF is keenly interested in this diversion project moving forward. You can read more about that on LWF's website.

Like every year now, there's a bill related to feral hogs. LWF, along with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and Louisiana Landowners Association, opposed Rep. McCormick's bill to remove the need for a hunting license for the taking of outlaw quadrupeds, nutria or beavers. It did not pass out of committee.

Senator Cathey's SB127 to allow use of unmanned aircraft systems, such as drones, to observe feral hogs, observe deer, or track mortally wounded deer for recovery, did not pass. Due to the inclusion of so many uses, LWF was concerned that this would allow harassment of wildlife or increase poaching of game species.

Senator Edmonds's SB432 (now Act 494) changed rules for the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District and drew criticism or opposition from the groundwater conservation district board of directors and its executive director, and from civic and environmental groups. It was amended through the legislative process to its current version that increases monitoring of groundwater withdrawals but doesn't require industry and municipal users to utilize the district's meters as they intended. This matter was being litigated at the time of the bill's hearing. LWF is interested in how Louisiana's water is being managed to not only meet today's needs but insure the availability of clean, abundant, potable water for Louisiana's future. Water is a commodity and a natural resource—not just for economic development. Water is the source of life. ■



LWF HONORS 2023 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS *By Jimmy Frederick*

Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) has recognized seven individuals and one organization for their significant achievements in natural resources conservation and education. The recipients were recognized as part of the 58th Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet, held in Baton Rouge on Friday, April 12. These awards, represented by unique wildlife statuettes, were jointly presented by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation.

Conservationist of the Year: Alexander Kolker, PhD.

Our Conservationist of the Year is Dr. Alexander Kolker, a New Orleans native and an accomplished climate scientist. He is currently an associate professor at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) specializing in oceanography, geology, and climate science as well as a member of Louisiana's Climate Initiatives Task Force.

Dr. Kolker has been a leading researcher on Louisiana's coast since 2008 and his work has been instrumental in helping us understand the natural processes and the human causes of Louisiana's coastal land loss.

In 2023, he developed an interactive map showing the concentrations of various greenhouse gases and other pollutants in Louisiana and Mississippi to help make this type of data more accessible to the public and help communities and decision-makers better understand local air quality. Over the past year,



Dr. Kolker has also provided a scientific voice to the discussion and media surrounding carbon capture projects in the state.

As an astute researcher, Dr. Kolker recognized the importance of Neptune Pass and its ability to build land in Quarantine Bay. His research provided critical information that was used by Louisiana Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, and others to push back against the Army Corps of Engineers’ initial plans to build a water control structure across the pass to choke off the flow of water. Thanks, in large measure, to Dr. Kolker the Corps is now working to preserve the land-building flow of the pass, while still maintaining navigation.

**Conservation Professional of the Year:
Corey Miller**

Corey Miller has been a dedicated advocate for coastal communities in Louisiana, particularly in the fishing industry. While working for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, his involvement in co-chairing the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition’s Fisheries Committee and serving on the board of Coastal Communities Consulting showcased his commitment to monitoring, analyzing, and influencing issues related to fisheries and advancing coastal restoration goals.



Corey’s current role as the Community Engagement Director for Pontchartrain Conservancy, that includes overseeing the New Canal Lighthouse, education, policy, and outreach, continues his multifaceted approach to community engagement and environmental conservation.

His decade-long dedication to engaging coastal communities, along with his involvement through non-profit organizations, demonstrates a deep commitment to the resilience of our coastal communities and healthy estuaries they depend on.

**Conservation Communicator
of the Year: Don Shoopman**

For decades, Don Shoopman has been informing Louisiana’s hunters, anglers, and citizens about anything and everything concerning Louisiana’s wildlife. From feel-good stories about first hunts in his “Overtime Outdoors” column to informative pieces on wildlife legislation, Don’s time at the New Iberian has fostered community engagement in all things conservation. Without his work, Louisiana would be missing a critical link between policymakers, wildlife, and sportsmen.



To this day, he continues to highlight youth involvement in Louisiana hunting and fishing, which was a key aspect of why the judges chose to honor Don.

They recognize that without his commitment to showcasing young people and their achievements in hunting, fishing, and the outdoors we stand to lose an entire generation. In fact, he was once described by the former director of CCA as “the best Communicator Louisiana has ever known.”

**Conservation Educator of the Year:
Amanda Clark and Pam Pearce**

The Conservation Educator of the Year award goes to a pair of women who have brought the love of fishing to Natchitoches Parish. As advisors for the Natchitoches Parish 4-H club and founders of the Fishing “Fin”atics Club, they have given hundreds of children the chance to fish, some for the first time. Through bank fishing tournaments and monthly trips, these leaders have fostered a new generation of anglers.



However, these two have done much more than just take kids fishing. They strive to instill in each participant a sense of duty to help steward and protect Louisiana’s natural resources. Amanda Clark and Pam Pearce teach their students the importance of leaving our land and waterways better than they found them instituting service projects like Cane River Trash Bash, an event dedicated to cleaning the banks on Cane River.

This dynamic duo has given their students an unparalleled introduction to the worlds of both fishing and conservation.

**Elected Official Conservationist of
the Year: Rep. Joseph Orgeron, PhD.**

Dr. Joseph Orgeron, serving as the current Louisiana State Representative for District 54, has blazed a trail for conservation legislation. Working with coastal communities, stakeholders, and organizations, he has proposed legislation to protect and restore Louisiana’s wildlife and habitats.

From calling for a one-mile buffer for menhaden fishing to supporting legislation that would put revenue created from Offshore Wind into the state’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, his political career has made conservation a priority. When not representing his district at the state level, Joe can be found working his day job as Executive Director of Restore or Retreat, an organization focused on preservation of the coast, community, and culture within the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.



Both in the political sphere and out, Joe is undeterrable in his efforts to protect our natural resources and advance coastal and wildlife conservation at the local, state, and national levels.

**Volunteer Conservationist
of the Year: Jim Kolinski**

Passionate and hardworking volunteers are essential elements of conservation organizations and efforts. Described as “the face of the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge”, this star volunteer is a core member of the Refuge’s team. Clocking over 2,000 hours of service in 2023 alone – which is equivalent to a full-time position – Jim Kolinski has undoubtedly changed the refuge for the better.

Jim is the resident animal caretaker and handler, educator, carpenter, researcher, janitor, and smiling face. Along with updating the signage at the Refuge, and conducting independent animal research, he has educated countless guests on Black Bayou’s wildlife through interactive field trips and tours always with an eye for new and innovative ways to teach.

His work has truly made a difference in the lives of the animals, staff, and visitors of Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge.



**Conservation Organization
of the Year: AJ and Nona
Trigg Hodges Foundation**

Property owned in Sabine Parish by AJ and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation is a special place with a long legacy of reforestation even when it was not popular. After running the famous Hodges Gardens for decades, the AJ and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation began rekindling some of the conservation-centered thinking of its founders. Through the establishment of the Louisiana Ecological Forestry Center or LEAF Center, and countless partnerships with conservation organizations, they have transformed 2,400 acres of land into a research and learning center.



The LEAF Center strives to promote conservation of a diverse ecosystem dominated by longleaf pine through restoration, enhancement, and education. The LEAF Center celebrated 40 years as a certified Tree Farm in 2023, signifying commitment to sustainable practices in forestry and wildlife.



Lifetime Achievement Award: Martin D. “Marty” Floyd

Martin D. “Marty” Floyd has been, and continues to be, a tireless advocate for Louisiana’s wildlife and natural resources. He has dedicated his entire adult life, more than 50 years of service, to ensuring Louisiana’s wildlife and wild lands have a voice.

His long career includes work for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service,

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Ducks Unlimited, and he has given decades of volunteer leadership to numerous organizations, including Louisiana Ornithological Society, Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, Louisiana Master Naturalists Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and of course to LWF. Marty is that unique individual who embodies both a deep academic understanding of the issues facing Louisiana’s wildlife and the dedication to the practical implementation of scientific principles to correct those issues.

Marty has published dozens of works on the value of conservation here in Louisiana and beyond. Most recently, he was also instrumental in working with the Tunica-Biloxi tribe to help preserve and teach their native language to a new generation by developing a coloring book focused on native Louisiana animals. He is currently in the process of creating a similar coloring book in the Biloxi language.

Over the entirety of his adult life, Marty Floyd has given everything to the conservation of Louisiana’s wildlife and natural resources. And even after more than 50 years, he continues to do so.

We would also like to thank our generous sponsors for their help in making the 58th Conservation Achievement Awards Banquet special. They are:

Lamar; Land Trust for Louisiana; Southern Wild, LLC; Allyn and Cliff Dukes; Restore the Mississippi River Delta; Cenac Marine Services; Delacroix Corporation; Louisiana Lottery Corporation; Michel H. Claudet, LLC; Pontchartrain Conservancy; Rapides Wildlife Association; Robert and Norma Steward; and Toledo Bend Lake Association. ■



LWF HONORS FOUR YOUTH HUNTERS OF THE YEAR AT 58TH CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BANQUET

By Jimmy Frederick

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF), along with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), is proud to announce the winners of our 2023 Youth Hunter of the Year competition. This is the first time since 2019 that we are honoring Louisiana's Youth Hunters



of the Year and because of that five-year hiatus, our panel of judges decided to select two boys and two girls who best represented the joy, thrill, camaraderie, and beauty of hunting in the Sportsman's Paradise.

LWF recently honored the winners at the 58th Conservation Achievement Awards. Each recipient received a plaque in recognition of their achievement and a \$100 gift card from Bowie Outfitters.

Female Youth Hunters of the Year

Lizzy Frey, 10

Lizzy Frey is 10 years old and lives in St. Gabriel. She tells the story of a special tradition her dad started a few years ago. Every year her family goes to Eunice for a Thanksgiving morning duck hunt. Lizzy said that 2023 was special for several reasons. For one, it was the first year her little sister, Anna Jane, would get to hunt and secondly, Lizzy was able to kill her first duck. They harvested 12 ducks that morning. But she said the most important thing about that day was that she was able to do it with her family!



Paisleigh Stephenson, 10

Paisleigh Stephenson is 10 years old and she's from Rayville. Paisleigh had a memorable hunt last Thanksgiving. She spent the week with her family at their hunting camp. On November 21st, Paisleigh asked her dad if they could hunt a special stand they called Chicken Foot. It was a good thing they did because that evening she got a shot at the biggest buck she had ever seen. This 10-year-old hunter took down an 11 point from 220 yards away. She said she was so excited. And all she wanted to do was tell her paw paw about it. Needless to say, he was pretty excited too.



Male Youth Hunters of the Year

Blaize Coco, 14

Blaize Coco is 14 years old and lives in Prairieville. Blaize has often heard his father talk about Goose “tornados” where hundreds of geese sweep the fields on some hunts, but he never thought he would see one himself. But on one fateful hunt in 2023, with his father, Godfather, and family, it happened. He experienced not one but two goose Tornados. Blaize said that hundreds of geese took to the sky, allowing them to down nearly 25 birds. He describes this day as “the most exciting day of his life,” and he is very grateful to have been able to share it with his family.



Drew Dubuc, 13

Drew Dubuc is 13 and from Metairie. Drew’s winning essay told of his four-year endeavor to bag his first trophy turkey. He wasn’t too upset by the long wait for his first shot, though, saying he “enjoyed every second and learned so much” from his dad, Uncle Don, and cousins. Drew describes the excitement of his trophy hunt. He was accompanied by his Uncle Don that day and as three jakes approached their decoy, he was able to take the biggest one. He topped off the day with buttermilk-soaked turkey strips with homemade honey mustard sauce for the whole family.



Special thanks to our Contest sponsors: the Baton Rouge Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, Andrew J. Harrison, Jr. with Harrison Law, LLC, and Bowie Outfitters – Baton Rouge. ■

TAKE THE CONSERVATION PLEDGE

“I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of America. I promise to educate future generations so they may become caretakers of our water, air, land, and wildlife.”

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION ENCOURAGES LIGHTS OUT FOR SPRING BIRD MIGRATION

By Jimmy Frederick

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) is calling upon residents and businesses throughout the state to join others in turning off bright or excess lighting from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. each day between April 1 and May 31 to help protect the billions of migratory birds that fly through Louisiana at night during this period.



Louisiana sits within the Mississippi Flyway migratory path, with the state's vast wetlands, forests, and coastline serving as critical stops along the birds' migration routes. Twice a year, 325 bird species travel the Mississippi Flyway, including 40% of shorebirds. During the 2023 spring migration, an estimated 450 million birds migrated through the state of Louisiana. The majority of those birds migrate at night and typically start their nightly migration about 30 to 45 minutes post-sunset, with peak flights between 10 and 11 p.m.

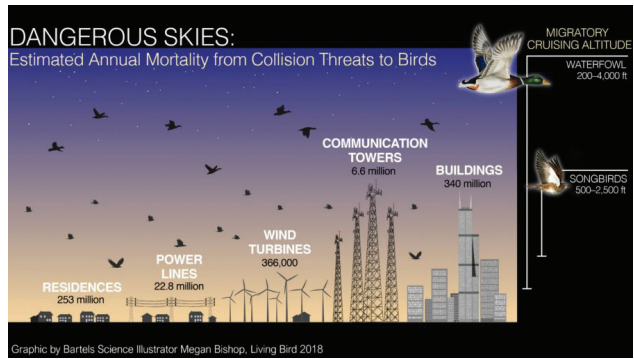
While the dark skies allow the migratory birds to avoid predators, take advantage of calmer air and utilize the moon and stars for navigation, it also brings with it other dangers such as bright artificial lights and the skyglow from larger cities that can confuse the birds, often causing them to fatally collide into buildings or windows.

"Our city lights can misguide birds, diverting them off course with often dire consequences. This initiative is an easy yet impactful step in helping these birds continue their incredible journey," said Rebecca Triche, executive director of LWF. "Louisiana is well-known for the populations of migratory birds we see here at different times of the year and people care about keeping wildlife sustainable. By supporting the Lights Out initiative, businesses and individuals can take a practical step to protect the birds that briefly call Louisiana home."

According to the National Audubon Society, which started the first Lights Out program in Chicago in 1999, just one building in a community with bright lights can cause major problems, citing a week in 2017 when nearly 400 birds were killed when they flew into windows of a 32-story Texas skyscraper because of its floodlights.

Dr. Dan Scheiman, Plants for Birds Program Manager for Audubon Delta, said, "Following that incident, the skyscraper in question joined many other buildings in Houston Audubon's Lights Out for Birds Program, saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of birds. Each year in the United States an estimated 1 billion birds die by colliding with windows. This number is not sustainable. Every building, every Lights Out program helps reduce this threat to ensure the long-term health of our bird populations."

Dr. Phil Stouffer, the Lee F. Mason Professor at the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, has been studying the problem on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge and leads the LSU Bird Window Collision Monitoring Project, which has been in place for five years. The group has recorded 569 dead birds of 75 species on the LSU campus.



“This is a problem that can be overcome,” Stouffer said. “Reducing illumination is one of the easiest approaches that we can all take. Dark skies also benefit other wildlife, and we humans might see a few more stars.”

At LWF’s February 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the organization passed a resolution requesting that “all public buildings observe ‘lights out’ as official policy of the State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge and other governmental entities.” The full resolution can be found at <https://lawildlifefed.org/resolution/lights-out-to-save-migrating-birds/>

Individuals and organizations wanting to join others in the Lights Out Initiative should follow these guidelines:

- Turn off non-essential lights nightly from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. during the migration period.
- Avoid using landscape lighting on trees or gardens where birds may be resting.

For essential security and safety lighting, use these dark skies-friendly lighting adjustments:

- Aim lights downwards.
- Use light shields to direct light downwards and prevent an upward glare.
- Use motion detectors and sensors so lights turn on when needed.
- Close blinds at night to limit the amount of light seen through windows.
- For building owners/managers:
 - Adjust custodial schedules to be completed by 11:00 p.m.
 - Ensure lights are turned off after custodial cleaning.

Additional Guidelines for Buildings Over 3 Stories:

Dim or turn off:

- Exterior/decorative lighting.
- Lobby/atrium lights.
- Perimeter room lights on all levels.
- Lighting on interior plants/fountains.
- Lights on vacant floors.
- Lights with blue-rich white light emissions (over 3000 K in color temperature.)

Instead use:

- Desk lamps or task lights instead of overhead lights.
- “Warm-white” or filtered LEDs outdoors (less than 3000 K in color temperature).

Migration routes, along with the timing of the flight, can vary from day to day due to a number of factors such as the weather conditions.

Individuals can monitor the bird migration in their area by using BirdCast, a migration dashboard provided by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Dashboards for Louisiana and selected cities are:

Louisiana – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA>
Alexandria – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-079>
Baton Rouge – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-033>
Houma – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-109>
Lake Charles – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-019>
Lafayette – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-055>
Monroe – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-073>
New Orleans – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-071>
Shreveport – <https://dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-LA-017>

EDGAR VEILLON CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS GET UNIQUE CONSERVATION EDUCATION

By Jimmy Frederick

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is excited to announce the 2024 Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps, composed of 21 undergraduate college students representing seven universities from across the state who are passionate about Louisiana wildlife conservation.



The program kicked off in January at Chicot State Park in Ville Platte, LA. The 2024 cohort interacted with natural resource professionals from around the state and experienced the beauty and power of Louisiana’s natural resources. Sessions II and III were held virtually with presentations on offshore wind energy in Louisiana waters, carbon sequestration, and how to use social media as advocacy tool.

The fourth and final session was held in Baton Rouge at the LSU Center for River Studies. That session was all about Louisiana’s coastal land loss

problem, and how to present technical information with the media and public.

Over the course of the semester long program, the students learned first-hand about the state’s most pressing conservation issues while receiving training from current and former natural resource professionals in the public, non-profit and private sectors. Through integrated case studies and collaborative activities, these students built knowledge in conservation policy while gaining skills in leadership and advocacy.



“I cannot overemphasize the value of this program to our state and to our efforts on behalf of conservation,” said Zac Burson, LWF president and board member. “For over 80 years, LWF has worked with diverse groups of stakeholders to protect the wildlife resources of Louisiana, and the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps trains the next generation to address the complex conservation issues we face today and will undoubtedly face more of in the future.

This year’s Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps students are:

- **Jason Arena** – *Louisiana Tech University*
- **Emilia Bertoli** – *Tulane University*
- **Elisabeth Blackburn** – *Tulane University*
- **Dinah Blount** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Joshua Breer** – *Tulane University*
- **Cooper Bruce** – *Tulane University*
- **Katie Buc** – *Loyola University*
- **Jenny Dwyer** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Hannah Gray** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Jericho Gremillion** – *Loyola University*
- **Zachary Haydel** – *Loyola University*
- **Taylor Kennedy** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Emma Klenke** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Ariel Mallory** – *University of Louisiana Lafayette*
- **Brooke Mason** – *Tulane University*
- **Fiona McClain** – *Louisiana State University*
- **James Ramsay** – *Tulane University*
- **Genesis Santiago** – *University of New Orleans*
- **Abbie Sicard** – *Loyola University*
- **Kaitlyn Thomas** – *Louisiana State University*
- **Kailynn Williams** – *Southern University*

The Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps program is made possible by funding from the Stuller Family Foundation. ■



LWF AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT: LOUISIANA TRAPPERS AND ALLIGATOR HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association (LTAHA) is a group of outdoor enthusiasts who organized in 1992 to help preserve our hunting and trapping heritage through the education of trappers and the general public. From the beginning, the group has sought the ethical and humane use of Louisiana's natural resources through the most modern tools, sound management practices, and partnerships with many other organizations. The association has been a witness to many changes over the years, but we have always put education at the forefront. In 2017, the LTAHA entered into a joint endeavor with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to develop a voluntary trappers education program. The association provides instructors, who teach from the Best Management Practices (BMP). The LTAHA combined efforts have fostered growth in the management of furbearers in the state and help ensure the most modern techniques and tools are being deployed. The LTAHA sponsors representations for the state Alligator Advisory Council (AAC) and the Fur Advisory Council (FAC).

Louisiana has been a leader in the fur industry for hundreds of years and as recently as 1981 Louisiana was the number one fur-producing state in the nation with large numbers of muskrats, nutria, beaver, and raccoons being harvested annually. The Louisiana trapping industry has worked diligently for years to help maintain and protect our coastline from overpopulation of muskrats and nutria while utilizing modern technology and tools to minimize the spread of disease and crop damage by raccoons and help lower flood damage caused by beavers. Louisiana trappers have also helped in restocking efforts of other states by providing healthy otters taken with live restraints traps and relocated unharmed to states such as Ohio, Arizona, New Mexico, and Missouri. Trapping in Louisiana is well-regulated with strict laws and trapping does not cause animals to become threatened or endangered.

The aims and purposes of the LTAHA are:

- To develop leadership for the advancement of the best interests of the trappers and the fur industry as a whole.
- To inspire in our membership a desire to practice the ethics of true sportsmanship toward others who wish to enjoy the recreational pleasures of the outdoors.
- To impart adequate knowledge concerning the necessity of conservation.
- To cooperate with the duly recognized conservation organizations in the furtherance of the objectives of the trapping community.
- To advocate a comprehensive research program regarding the conservation of native fur-bearing animals.
- To cultivate a feeling of goodwill and mutual understanding through a proper respect of the rights of landowners at all times.
- To eliminate unnecessary cruelty in the employment of traps.
- To discourage and eliminate unjust and fraudulent trade practices in the marketing of raw furs.
- To aid and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.
- To oppose, demand revision, or repeal of any law or regulation that is biased or discriminative toward the trapping community.
- To oppose any proposed legislation which would impose unreasonable restrictions on the taking of fur-bearing animals or the sale of the pelts thereof: to demand the revision or repeal of any existing law or regulation of the same nature.
- To oppose any individual or any organization or combination of organizations whose activities are motivated by avarice or whose interests or designs are detrimental to the interest of the trapping community.

Anyone may join the LTAHA and help us promote and educate about the ethical and humane use of renewable resources in our state. The management tool provided by the trapping industry has ripple effects that touch every aspect of wildlife in our state from the songbird to stocked fishing ponds. The LTAHA is a proud member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and hopes to develop understanding between other wildlife enthusiast groups and help support conservation efforts in our state. ■

HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS (JAN – JUNE 2024)

- In Memory of Frank John Ehret III
by Theresa Cottage
- In Memory of Tesha Bryant
by Connie Fink
- In Memory of Paul J. Schultz
by Beth & Brenda Vairin

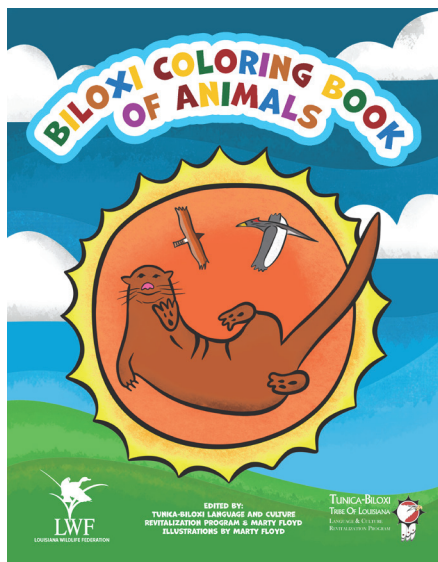
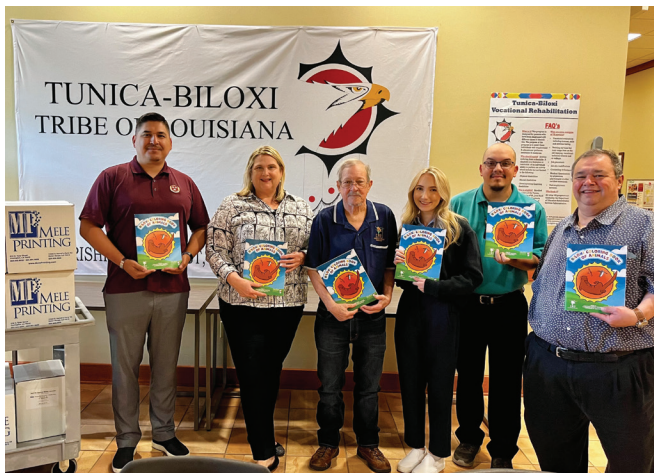


TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE AND LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION PUBLISH NEW ANIMAL COLORING BOOK IN BILOXI LANGUAGE

By Jimmy Frederick

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) are happy to announce an all-new coloring book has been published for educators and students to utilize while having fun learning traditional Biloxi language.

The 64-page educational coloring book depicts native Louisiana wildlife while helping reawaken the Biloxi language. This comes after a similar collaboration in 2022, when the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe's Language & Culture Revitalization Program (LCRP) and LWF released a coloring book primarily for the Tunica language.



“The Tunica-language coloring book was such a success with schools and students across Louisiana that we had to recreate it with the Biloxi language, as well,” said John Barbry, Director of Development & Programming for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe. “A longstanding mission for the Tribe has been to promote education of our history, culture and language that have been passed down by our elders—and I believe these coloring books do just that while allowing today’s students to have fun while learning.”

The coloring book includes a Biloxi-English translation index, a pronunciation guide and a “Note to Educators” page suggesting how the book connects with Louisiana education standards. Students will find terms within the book that appear in many Biloxi stories. Most prominently, the otter that appears on the cover of the coloring book plays a significant role in many Biloxi stories, especially in “The Otter and the Sun.” Each animal depicted in the book has been highlighted by the LWF as a native species of Louisiana.

“The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe shares our interest and passion for recognizing and preserving Louisiana’s wildlife,” said Rebecca Triche, Executive Director of LWF. “Our collaboration on a second coloring book allows us to educate students about Louisiana’s native wildlife and revive the Biloxi language.”

The book would not have been possible without the hard work of LWF Executive Committee member Marty Floyd and LWF Communications Director Jimmy Frederick. Back in 2021, Floyd got the idea for the initial Tunica-language coloring book and worked diligently to create 59 original illustrations featuring mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and other aquatic animals and insects. The same dedication was shown with the illustrations in the new Biloxi-language coloring book and its publication this year.

Each page has a simple drawing that can be colored, along with the name of the animal in the Biloxi language. A few examples of the many animals featured in the book include an atuki (raccoon), ithaa (deer), momoxka (hummingbird), naxo (alligator), thoxka (gray fox), and yanasa (buffalo).

The books are being distributed by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and can also be found in the gift shop at the Tunica-Biloxi Resort in Marksville. A digital PDF version of the book can be downloaded by clicking [here](#) or by visiting www.lawildlifefed.org.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation will distribute a copy to each public library in Louisiana and make a printable version available on their website at www.lawildlifefed.org.

A special thank you to the National Wildlife Federation and the Rapides Wildlife Association for helping to underwrite the production of the coloring book. ■

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Gifts by Beneficiary Designation: Many assets transfer by beneficiary designation form you completed when you established your account, rather than through your will or trust. To name LWF as a beneficiary, please use our legal name, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc. and our federal tax identification number (72-0445638).

Contact Rebecca Triche
225-344-6707
rebecca@lawildlifefed.org



Please let us know if you have already included LWF in your estate plans. We want to thank you for your gift.



LWF'S BUSINESS ALLIANCE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING AND PROTECTING LA WILDLIFE, HABITAT

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation invites you to join hands in preserving our state's precious natural resources, a cause that aligns seamlessly with the interests of businesses operating in Louisiana. Embracing the beauty and abundance of our outdoor opportunities enhances the appeal of Louisiana as a vibrant place to live and work, thereby bolstering our collective economic prosperity. By forging a partnership between the LWF and Louisiana's visionary business leaders, we can strengthen the vital link between our economy and the protection of our invaluable natural assets. Your organization can play a crucial role in shaping a brighter future for our beloved Sportsman's Paradise, ensuring its pristine allure for generations to come.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation 2024 Business Alliance Members

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Longleaf Pine



Sapling



If you own a business or know a business that might be interested in joining our Business Alliance, please contact Rebecca Triche at 225-344-6707 or rebecca@lawildlifefed.org. For more information visit www.lawildlifefed.org. ■

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**“We abuse land because we regard
it as a commodity belonging to us.
When we see land as a community
to which we belong, we may begin
to use it with love and respect.”**

~ Aldo Leopold

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