

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Winter 2022



Winter 2023

- 4 Conservation Leadership Corps
- 6 CLC Students Attend CYCL
- 8 Tunica-Biloxi, LWF Coloring Book
- 10 Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion
- 11 LWF Business Alliance
- 12 Certified Wildlife Habitat
- 13 MRGO Bill Passage
- 14 Coastal Master Plan
- 15 LWF New Headquarters
- 15 LWF Welcomes Nicole Falkenheiner
- 16 Anhingas, an Unusual Water Bird
- 18 Honorary & Memorial Gifts
- 19 83rd LWF Convention in Lafayette

Since 1940, Louisiana Wildlife Federation has been the voice for Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources.

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:

-  lawildlifefed.org
-  [LouisianaWildlifeFederation](https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaWildlifeFederation)
-  [@LaWildlifeFed](https://www.instagram.com/@LaWildlifeFed)
-  [@LaWildlifeFed](https://twitter.com/@LaWildlifeFed)
-  [Louisiana-Wildlife-Federation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Louisiana-Wildlife-Federation)

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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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Angela Hirstius, Office Manager
Stacy Ortego, Coastal Policy Manager
Nicole Falkenheiner, Development Director

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On an unseasonably balmy Saturday in January, a team of LWF staff and volunteers met indoors on the LSU campus with the 2023 cohort of the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps. The meeting space was filled with an energy that can only be generated by young people of diverse talents who share a common purpose.



Throughout this spring, these 22 students will experience an intensive examination of conservation policy and practice, particularly on issues impacting coastal Louisiana. The students all attend colleges and universities in Louisiana, and most grew up here, though six hail from other U.S. states and one is from Canada. They are all volunteers and leaders in their school communities and across Louisiana. Many in the corps have had outdoor adventures and conservation experiences in other states and countries. They will meet a collection of natural resource professionals who either grew up here or were drawn to make a life and a career in Louisiana. They will meet the experts who research, design and implement the state-of-the-art conservation work that will keep Louisiana a sportsman's paradise in the 21st Century and beyond.

These young people will collaborate with scientists and policymakers who approach great challenges with hope, creativity, intelligence, and courage. They will be the next generation of leaders to address the complex conservation issues we face today and will undoubtedly face more in the future. The members are a diverse, hopeful, and intelligent group of college students who are passionate about solving the same problems that LWF staff wrestles with each day, conservation issues important to Louisiana, the US, and the world. ■ - Zac Burson

NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Members and supporters frequently add notes with their renewals or email us a question. I'd like to share some of those with you here.



What can LWF propose to control coyote populations?

We are looking into that and asking questions of wildlife biologists.

Feral hogs are still a big problem.

LWF supported re-instating the Louisiana Feral Hog Management Task Force for continued and greater cooperation around control methods. There are toxicants being studied and the most promising is nitrite.

Why is LWF supporting offshore wind energy? It will kill birds!

LWF supports Louisiana's parity with states in sharing royalties that come from energy leases off the coast of Louisiana. This has been the position regarding support for expanding the percentage of GOMESA revenue sharing with Louisiana. If the Federal government opens offshore wind leasing in Gulf waters off of Louisiana's coast, LWF supports getting a "fair share" of those royalties. Internally, LWF leaders are learning more about offshore wind energy production to be more knowledgeable about any potential negative impact to habitat and wildlife. I was told domestic cats kill more birds than wind energy would and increased climate change will negatively impact bird habitats.

We welcome comments from our members about what's happening outdoors and hearing about the issues members prioritize. ■ - Rebecca Triche



LWF ANNOUNCES 2023 CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS STUDENTS

Twenty-two students from colleges and universities across Louisiana make up the fifth annual cohort of the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC).

Over a four-month period, the students will be presented with real-world 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 will build knowledge of 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 LWF president Zac Burson. “This program trains the next generation to address the complex conservation issues we face today and will undoubtedly face in the future. This is a diverse, hopeful, and intelligent group of college students who are passionate about the conservation issues important not only to Louisiana but also to the US and the world.”

Over the next four months, the group will have two virtual and two in-person meetings. The first meeting was held in Baton Rouge in January where the 2023 corps visited the LSU Center for River Studies in Baton Rouge.



This year's Conservation Leadership Corps students are:

Caroline Alleman (LSU, Wildlife Ecology)
Leila Avery (Loyola University, Environmental Science)
Ella Bollinger (Louisiana Tech, Forestry - Wildlife Habitat Management)
Libby Brennan (LSU, Natural Resource Ecology & Management)
Heather Brown (South Louisiana Community College, Environmental Science)
McKenna Chow (Tulane, Environmental Biology & Spanish)
Hugh Coffin (LSU, Coastal Environmental Science)
Elena Dilworth (UNO, Biological Sciences)
Jacques Gaspard (LSU, Chemical Engineering)
Jana Guercio (LSU, Marketing/Pre-Law)
Siarah Hall (LSU, Coastal Environmental Science)
Kaitlyn Johnson (ULL, Civil Engineering - Environmental Engineering & Water Resources)
Julia Jones (Nicholls, Marine Biology)
Peter Kelly (LSU, Geography & Philosophy)
Rowan Lambert (UNO, Studio Art)
Seija Meaux (LSU, Geology & Geography)
Sierra Moran (LSU, Applied Coastal Environmental Science)
Samantha Rios (ULL, Environmental Quality)
Caleb Theriot (ULL, Environmental Science)
Leor Weber (Tulane, Environmental Studies)
William Woody (Baton Rouge Community College, Computer Science)
Landon Zeringue (LSU, Political Communications)

“Year after year, this program equips our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to become the conservation advocates and leaders that Louisiana needs,” said LWF Executive Director Rebecca Triche. “LWF is proud to offer these students the opportunity to match their passion for conservation with hands-on experience and training, which empowers them to make a positive impact on our state and its wildlife.”

The Conservation Leadership Corps program is supported in part by donations as well as a grant from The Stuller Family Foundation. ■



CLC STUDENTS ATTEND THE 2022 CONFLUENCE OF YOUNG CONSERVATION LEADERS IN WISCONSIN

by Stacy Ortego

This fall, LWF sent four students from the 2022 Conservation Leadership Corps to the Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders (CYCL). Afia Boait, Aaliyah Hameed, Nautica Jones, and Madelyn Helm had the opportunity to learn about ecological restoration, endangered species, and learn what other conservation organizations across the country are doing in their communities.

CYCL took place October 20-23, 2022, in Poynette, Wisconsin. Groups from Wisconsin, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana participated in the program. The goal of the confluence is to provide students with the opportunity to learn from working professionals and experts in the conservation field, engage in networking opportunities and work on leadership development.

This year's confluence was led and organized by Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Field tours during the conference included prominent conservation sites across Southern Wisconsin: The Aldo Leopold Foundation, The International Crane Foundation, Devil's Lake State Park, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum and Three Waters Reserve.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, WI is home to the land that inspired Aldo Leopold's infamous *A Sand County Almanac*. It also inspired his vision for a "land ethic" – the moral responsibility man has to the natural world and the interconnectedness of the two.

Students got to tour the Leopold Center, which received its green certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, awarding the building 61 of 69 possible points in 2007 – more than any other building in the United States at the time.

The next stop on the road trip was the International Crane Foundation (ICF). ICF works to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds and flyways on which they depend. ICF was a critical partner in the reintroduction of the whooping crane to Louisiana.



One of the guest speakers during the weekend was Access Ability Wisconsin (AAW), an organization working to provide the means to access outdoor recreational opportunities for people with temporary or permanent mobility challenges. Students got a chance to try an outdoor wheelchair at Devil's Lake State Park. The equipment allows the user to access terrain that regular wheelchairs cannot navigate. You can learn more about AAW at AccessAbilityWI.org. ■





TUNICA-BILOXI, LWF PUBLISH EDUCATIONAL COLORING BOOK

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) have teamed up to publish a 64-page educational coloring book that depicts native Louisiana wildlife while helping reawaken the Tunica language.

“Recognizing our shared interest in native wildlife, this was a natural opportunity for LWF to work with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana,” Rebecca Triche, executive director of LWF said. “The book not only serves as a way to educate about Louisiana’s native wildlife but to also help reawaken the Tunica language for indigenous youth in the Language and Culture Revitalization Program (LCRP).”

The collaboration for the book between the Tunica-Biloxi and LWF began in early 2021 when Marty Floyd, a board member for LWF and its representative to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), got the idea during an NWF call.

“I heard affiliates in some Western states talking about ways they had worked with the indigenous people in their region to help bring Buffalo back to Yellowstone National Park,” Floyd said. “I knew we needed to do something here in Louisiana and knew the Tunica-Biloxi was working to bring their language back.”

Afterward, Floyd reached out to the Tunica-Biloxi to see how LWF could assist the tribe based in Marksville. The result: a book using drawings to help teach the name and pronunciation of native Louisiana animals in the Tunica language. Efforts to reawaken the Tunica language began in 2010 with Kuhpani Yoyani Luhchi Yoroni (KYLY), a working group comprised of Tunica-Biloxi community members and Tulane University linguists, also known as the Tunica Language Project. One of the most remarkable components of this department is the Tribe's LCRP which successfully revived the Tunica language from "dormant" to "awakened," a very rare occurrence in the linguistic community.

Due to the hard work and dedication of John Barbry, director of development and programming for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the LCRP team, there are now over 50 active speakers of the Tunica language and in-house linguists who teach the language and work to expand the program.

The cover of the educational book features a red and blue alligator, which represents a part of the original Tunica creation story. Overall, Floyd provided 59 original illustrations inside the book featuring mammals, then birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, and insects in that order. Each page has a simple drawing that can be colored, along with the name of the animal in the Tunica language.

The book was made possible with support from the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation and the Rapides Wildlife Association.

A digital version of the book can be downloaded at lawildlifefed.org/resources. ■

The Target Circle results are in!

Thanks to everyone who voted.



NONPROFIT PARTNER



Thank you so much for voting for us in the Target Circle Giving Program. LWF received \$4,584 to help us further our mission to be the voice of Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources. This donation came from a larger pool of funds donated from Target to nonprofits tied to the local community. LWF appreciates Target's support to include us in their program and to all of our members who participated. Your 99,057 votes really helped! ■

STATE'S LARGEST PLANNED RESTORATION PROJECT GETS FEDERAL GREEN LIGHT

by Stacy Ortego

The state's largest planned coastal restoration project – and the keystone to its Coastal Master Plan – got the go ahead from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). On Monday, December 19, 2022, the Corps issued its Record of Decision to issue the permitting required for advancement of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

Leveeing of the Mississippi River resulted in a saltier Barataria Basin, causing saltwater species to make a northward shift; without restoration, these changes will continue, resulting in a loss of species that rely on productive freshwater and intermediate wetland habitats. Reconnecting the river to the basin will maintain vital wetlands and restore the health and vitality of the entire ecosystem.

The \$2.5 billion diversion is projected to build up to 21 square miles of wetlands by 2070 by restoring deltaic processes between the Mississippi River and the Mid-Barataria Basin. The permit includes several conditions for monitoring effects of the operation of the diversion.

“The greenlight on this project moves us closer to finally implementing a critical component of the solution to our land loss crisis that science has pointed us to for decades – using the land-building power of the Mississippi River to sustainably build and maintain land”, said CPRA Chairman Chip Kline in a press release following the decision. “It unlocks our ability to use every tool in the toolbox, making our approach to coastal restoration and protection efforts stronger, more effective, and more innovative than ever before.”

The single biggest thing that can be done to help mitigate some of this loss – and address this crisis – is to allow the river to do what it's done for thousands of years: build land with its sediment and nutrient-rich water. LWF applauds this milestone in making our coast more sustainable for future generations.

For updates on the project, visit www.midbasin.coastal.la.gov. ■



LWF IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS FOR 2022

Essential Federal Credit Union - Bald Cypress (\$2,500)

Drax Biomass - Pecan (\$1,000)

JOIN THE LWF BUSINESS ALLIANCE TODAY!

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation believes that conserving our state's natural resources is in the best interest of any organization that does business in Louisiana. Quality outdoor opportunities make Louisiana a desirable place to live and work and adds to our economic well-being. Together, LWF and Louisiana Business leaders can strengthen the connection between our economy and our natural resources by giving leaders the opportunity to be stewards of these resources. Business Alliance members can join the more than 8,000 members who believe in constructive conservation and protection of our state's natural resources, preserving the quality of our Sportsmen's Paradise for generations to come.



Photo credit: Thomas J. Graner

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

YOUR BANK FOR ALL SEASONS

As a member of Louisiana Wildlife Federation, you can become a member of Essential.





CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

In partnership with the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program, LWF is working to increase habitat for backyard wildlife species and protect pollinator populations. You can help by creating a wildlife habitat and inviting wildlife back to your own yard or neighborhood, school, community, place of worship or business.

At the end of 2022, LWF welcomed new Development Director Nicole Falkenheiner to the team, and she will be our Certified Wildlife Habitat representative. You can schedule Nicole for group presentations (Garden Clubs, Botany Guilds, social clubs, businesses, etc) to learn more about having a garden certified. For questions, or to schedule her for a presentation contact nicole@lawildlifefed.org.

As we look ahead to 2023, we will celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd followed by National Arbor Day on April 28th. Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. This year's theme is "Invest in our Planet". Arbor Day is a nationally celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. In addition to being celebrated nationally, some states, like Louisiana, observe the day during that area's tree planting season. For this reason, Louisiana Arbor Day is always the third Saturday of January.

We hope that you celebrate these special holidays by planting native plants and decreasing the use of chemicals. For more information and resources visit www.lawildlifefed.org and check out the Certified Wildlife Habitat tab under the "What We Do" section. ■

LONG AWAITED FEDERAL FUNDING FINALLY ACHIEVED FOR MRGO WITH PASSAGE OF WRDA BILL IN CONGRESS

by Stacy Ortego

The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) was a shipping channel constructed in the 1960s that provided large vessels a shorter route from the Gulf of Mexico to the Industrial Canal in New Orleans. The 72-mile-long, 36-foot-deep federal navigation channel was originally 500 feet wide. Over time, however, it eroded to a massive 2,500 feet in some areas. Nearby wetlands, which serve as critical protection for coastal communities, were significantly degraded or completely destroyed.



Dubbed a “hurricane super-highway” by locals, residents had long been concerned about the channel’s ability to drive storm surge straight into their communities. Those fears came to fruition in 2005 with Hurricane Katrina.

LWF has supported closure of the MRGO long before the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2006, LWF joined other local and national environmental, social justice and community organizations to form the MRGO Must Go Coalition. The Coalition’s mission is to ensure that the ecosystem impacted by MRGO is restored. The MRGO was finally closed after the storm and work began to restore the ecosystem.

While the road to recovery has indeed been long, some good news has come out of Washington, D.C. Congress has provided the long-awaited federal dollars for MRGO through the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 (NDAA), which included the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA).

The bill settles years of cost-share disputes between the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for restoration of the MRGO. Ecosystem restoration will be funded at 100% federal expense. (The bill also includes other levee and flood protection projects.)

“This WRDA marks a crucial milestone for addressing the disastrous legacy of the MRGO. More than 17 years after Hurricane Katrina, Congress has clarified its original intent – to fully and federally fund implementation of the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan,” said Amanda Moore, Gulf Program Director at National Wildlife Federation and coordinator of the MRGO Must Go Coalition. ■

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.”



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS HELD ACROSS COASTAL LOUISIANA TO DISCUSS STATE'S COASTAL MASTER PLAN

by Stacy Ortego

Louisiana Wildlife Federation participated in a recent series of community conversations co-hosted by the Restore the Mississippi Delta Coalition, CPRA, and various community partners. These informational meetings were set up to discuss the upcoming 2023 Coastal Master Plan (Master Plan) – which is currently being updated. The Master Plan will lay out goals for restoration and priority projects along the Louisiana coast.

Meetings were held in Abbeville, Belle Chasse, Gonzales, Grand Lake, Gretna, Lacombe, Larose, New Orleans, and Violet. The meetings were offered as an opportunity for communities across the coast to engage directly with the Master Plan team to discuss what the plan means for their communities and the coast.

Communities were presented with updated land loss maps and given a breakdown of the project selection process, which uses updated modeling with the best available science to choose projects with the greatest potential for building and maintaining land across coastal Louisiana.

Following this overview, CPRA presented a demo of its data viewer (mpdv.coastal.la.gov), a visualization tool displaying the results from the plan and providing resources to reduce risk. Information includes future land change, storm surge flood risk, coastal vegetation, and social vulnerability. Also included are the state's proposed restoration, structural protection, and nonstructural risk reduction projects to help make communities safer.

Following presentations were table discussions. Each table engaged in robust conversation between residents and a member of the CPRA team, creating the unique opportunity for CPRA and citizens to dive deep on questions about the plan such as impacts of projects in communities, details on the project selection process, and how projects are implemented and maintained in the future.

Several resources are available online including a Master Plan 101 webinar, which gives an overview like those given at the meetings. Other topics include modeling updates as well as the details on the planning tool. Learn more at coastal.la.gov/our-plan/2023-coastal-master-plan/outreach/. ■

LWF - NEW HEADQUARTERS

LWF recently moved its headquarters from S. Acadian Thruway to a new location at 8480 Bluebonnet Blvd., Suite F in Baton Rouge.

The new location is conveniently located just two miles south of the I-10/Bluebonnet exit and provides easy access for LWF's members and partners. The new office has a large conference room that will be used for board meetings, as well as for workshops and training sessions for members and the public.



A lake outside the new office is home to a variety of waterfowl, including ducks and geese, and provides a tranquil setting for staff and visitors. “The pond is a great reminder of why we do the work we do,” Triche said. “It’s a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural resources for future generations.”

The mailing address for LWF remains the same – PO Box 65239, Baton Rouge, LA 70896. ■

LWF WELCOMES NICOLE FALKENHEINER

Nicole Falkenheiner, a Louisiana native with more than 10 years of experience in nonprofit development and fundraising, has joined Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) as the organization's new development director.

“Nicole is a great addition to the LWF team as we expand our education and advocacy work for wildlife conservation in Louisiana,” said Rebecca Triche, Executive Director of LWF. “Nicole’s unique diversity of experience offers a fresh look at how we serve LWF’s growing membership and engage new supporters in our mission.”



After graduating from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts and Science, Nicole earned a certificate in Nonprofit Management from UCLA. Nicole’s career has included work at Dream Day Foundation, Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, Manship Theatre and SocialWorx Institute.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to advocate for our wildlife and the preservation of Louisiana’s natural beauty,” said Falkenheiner. “Being born in St. Landry Parish and raised in Concordia Parish, I feel that this work is part of my family’s legacy. From the first time I went hunting with my Paw at the age of five, to present-day visits to our family hunting camp with my nephews, I have always had a special love for nature.” ■



Photo credits: Jon Hebert / Burg Ransom

ANHINGAS, A TRULY UNUSUAL WATER BIRD

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

I simply cannot think of a better way to introduce the Anhinga to someone than the words of Professor George H. Lowery, Jr. in his “Louisiana Birds” [1974 3rd ed., LSU Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana]. It goes as follows:

“The American Anhinga, also known as the ‘water turkey’ or ‘snake-bird,’ is one of our most bizarre birds. It swims with the entire body submerged and only the long, black, snaky head and neck exposed—thus its name ‘snake-bird.’ Although somewhat similar to a cormorant, it differs in having a slimmer neck, a much longer tail (as long as the body rather than decidedly shorter than the body), and a pointed instead of a hooked bill....”

Most of you will see Anhingas striking a regal pose on perches at the edge of a shallow lake, pond, or slow flowing bayou or river. The wings – silvery in the case of adults – outstretched and head held high to dry their waterlogged feathers. In fact, their feathers are not “oiled” to repel water as is the case of most waterbirds. In addition, unlike most birds, the bones are quite dense. As a result, Anhingas are not buoyant making them especially well adapted to swimming under water to catch fish, their most common prey.

Anhingas are very gangling in appearance and don’t strike a very aeronautic pose. When they take off from water, they have to struggle to become airborne. However, once they take to the air, they fly very well indeed. They will soar very high into the sky riding thermal air currents upward, sometimes so high they are hard to see.

Adult male Anhingas are black with silvery to white streaks on the back and wings. Adult females do have silvery and white streaks on their backs and wings but have pale tan heads, necks and breasts. Immatures are similar to females without the silvery highlights. The bills, legs, and feet are yellowish orange. The webbed feet are especially conspicuous when the birds are perched and well suited for diving to catch their prey.

When perched and drying, Anhingas spread out their broad tails and they do, somewhat, resemble a turkey's tail with a white terminal band. That is how they have come to be called "water turkeys" by some.

The great bird ornithologist John James Audubon was enamored by Anhingas. He sometimes called to them as Black-bellied Darters, a reference to the black bellies of mature males. He also referred to Anhingas as Grecian Ladies a term he used based on how elegant he found them when perched and dry. He mentioned a local Louisiana name "bec a lancette" as well – lance beak.

The Anhinga is a form of darter. The term darter refers to the morphological arrangement of the neck muscles to form a hinge-like mechanism that can project the neck, head and bill forward like "throwing a spear" – dagger-shaped bill darting forward into its prey!

It is quite interesting to take the time to watch Anhingas fishing as they move stealthily through shallow water. Most common prey is fish but they will take crawfish. When the birds emerge from the water with a fish (or crawfish) skewered to the ends of their bills, they will toss the prey into the air and catch it by the head swallowing it head first. Their necks are quite narrow but will stretch to accommodate wide prey. Audubon noted that he watched Anhingas swallow, with difficulty, small, wide flounders. Interestingly, he mentioned "pet" Anhingas in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana that would eat kernels of corn, in the occasional absence of fish, catching them when their owner tossed kernels to the birds.

Anhingas have a range well into the tropics. The name Anhinga comes from the Tupi Indians in Brazil, meaning "devil bird" or "evil spirit of the woods"! Anhingas have a coastal distribution in the Gulf and lower Atlantic regions of North America. When winter comes, many migrate to warm climates in the subtropics/tropics. However, in my lifetime - late 1940s-early 2020s, more and more can be found during our winters which have become decidedly milder.

Anhingas often nest in small numbers in wading bird heronries. The nest is built of sticks, usually on the low limb of a cypress tree over water. The 3-5 bluish white eggs are laid in the period from April through June. The young upon hatching are naked and quite reptilian in appearance.

These are not very noisy birds. Anhingas are generally silent except when they are near their nests. Males and females make loud clicking sounds during nest exchange. These are like a treadle-operated sewing machine or a croaking frog with a sore throat.

It's rare to see more than half a dozen Anhingas at a time and they tend to be spread out wherever they're found. Carencro naturalist Bill Fontenot once found over a hundred Anhingas congregated in the Miller's Lake area of Evangeline Parish, Louisiana while participating on a Christmas Bird Count some years ago. However, that was likely a one-of-a-kind event.

In conclusion, Anhingas are very interesting birds. If you are unfamiliar with them, keep your eyes open when fishing or hunting around lakes or slow-moving water systems, especially bayous. You're sure to find one sooner than later. ■

Planning For The Future?

Leave a Legacy Gift for Louisiana's Wildlife and Natural Resources.

Ways You Can Leave a Legacy Gift:

Gifts in your will: You can leave a gift to LWF by bequest in your will or trust. Bequests are one of the most popular options for creating a legacy because they are so flexible.

Gifts by IRA Distribution: If you qualify for mandatory IRA distributions, donations to a nonprofit organization can be beneficial. Name LWF as your recipient for tax-free distribution option.

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 Nicole Falkenhainer
225-344-6707
nicole@lawildlifefed.org



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

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS (JULY - DECEMBER 2022)

In Memory of Nathan Michael Parker by Glenda Craft

In Memory of William Herke by Everett Knudsen

In Memory of William Herke by Richard Herke

In Memory of William Herke by Eric Knudsen

In Memory of William Herke by R. Eugene Turner

In Memory of William Herke by Western Social Science Association

In Memory of William Herke by Drew Boatner

In Honor of Brittany & Aaron Svoboda by Alex Kufeldt

In Honor of Becky & Jeff Moss by Norma & Bob Stewart

In Honor of Diane & Max Hoyt by Norma & Bob Stewart

In Honor of Amy & Bryan Hester by Susan Dunbar

In Honor of Grover Rees by Albert Rees ■

83RD LWF CONVENTION HELD IN LAFAYETTE

LWF held its 83rd annual convention in Lafayette on August 12-13, 2022. LWF President Zac Burson presented the 2022 President's Cup to board member Charles "Charlie" Pfeiffer for his leadership as chair of LWF's Avian Conservation Committee. In the past year, Charlie also brought forward discussion and collaboration for LWF's consideration about the proposed One Lake project on the Pearl River and further recovery of Whooping Cranes, including regulatory issues, among several key discussions on endangered or threatened birds and their habitat. He represents Orleans Audubon Society on LWF's board of directors. Thanks Charlie! LWF relies on its members to get active in leadership and help us stay engaged.



Aaliyah Hameed and Madelyn Helm spoke to LWF leaders about their experiences with the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps and answered questions about continuing to engage young people in conservation work. These amazing college students are among the growing group of young adults LWF is gathering to mentor and encourage lifelong commitment to conservation leadership wherever their paths may lead. The program will be recruiting another cohort group for 2023.

John Hanks with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided an engaging update on the recovery of Louisiana Black Bears and attendees learned how research and data is collected in the field.

LWF passed two resolutions that can be found on our website or below.

Resolution 1: SUBJECT: Opposition to Siting of Commonwealth LNG Export Terminal at the Mouth of Calcasieu Pass to Protect Threatened Eastern Black Rail.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation is opposed to the approval of the proposed project siting of Commonwealth LNG at the mouth of Calcasieu Pass due to compelling concerns about damage to the threatened Eastern Black Rail, wildlife habitat, and the coastal environment.

Resolution 3: SUBJECT: Commendation for the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation commends the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and R. King Milling for their unyielding commitment to develop a better Louisiana through restoration of our coast. ■

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Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.”

~ Rachel Carson

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