



LOUISIANA

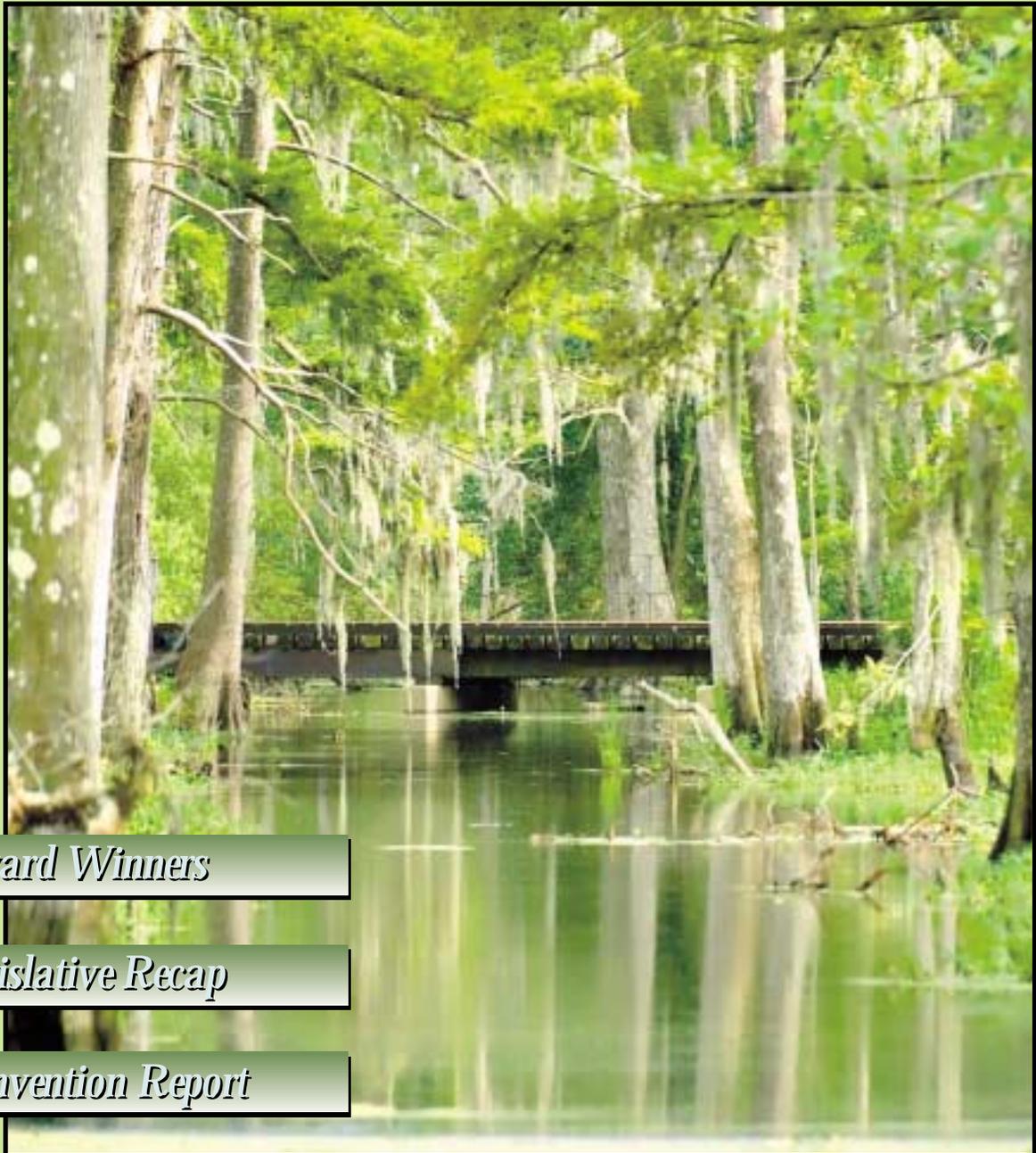
# Wildlife

FEDERATION

Number 2

Volume 35

Summer, 2007



□ *Award Winners*

□ *Legislative Recap*

□ *Convention Report*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
PAID  
Permit #1393  
Baton Rouge, LA



## CONTENTS

### DEPARTMENTS

- 3 From The President and Executive Director
- 35 Conservation Line
- 38 Tibby Sez

### FEATURES

- 4 Watching Out at Lake Martin
- 5 Conservation Award Winners
- 11 Legislative Session Recap
- 15 68th Convention Report
- 27 Bears Den in WRP Lands
- 28 LSU Plans New Wildlife Hospital
- 32 NWF Habitat Restoration Project
- 33 State Wildlife Grants
- 37 Bear Cub Back Home

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

*Swamp Train! Illinois Central tracks course through the swamp in St. Charles Parish. Frequent rains throughout most of the state are welcomed by the trees and have kept the landscape green and growing all summer - a plus for wildlife, and lawn care services. Photo by Jon Barry.*



*Official Publication of  
the Louisiana Wildlife Federation*

VOL. 35 Summer 2007 NO.2

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

Magazine Staff  
Randy P. Lanctot: Editor

*Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine (ISSN 0738-8098) is the official publication of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Inc. The Federation office is located at 337 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806. All editorial and subscription correspondence should be mailed to P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239 (Phone/Fax 225-344-6707;mailto:[lwf@lawildlifefed.org](mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org)).

Postmaster: Send change of address to: Louisiana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239.

Membership: For information, see page 39 or <mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org>.

Visit Our Website

<http://www.lawildlifefed.org>



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Terry L.  
Melancon**



Although it's been a few months since the LWF convention when they were elected, I want to introduce to you two new members of the LWF executive committee, Gina Stanton and Gary Kinsland. Both have been serving a little more than a year on the LWF Board of Directors representing District 3. Gina is from Lafayette where she is employed as a bookkeeper and Gary is a geology Professor at ULL. The LWF directors elected Gary to serve as secretary and elected Gina to an at-large spot on the Executive Committee. Since I was reelected LWF president at the convention I have already put them to work

and they are graciously and eagerly carrying out their duties for LWF. I want to congratulate and thank the other LWF leaders who were elected or reelected to positions of responsibility in our organization and thank them for their willingness to serve.

While at convention the LWF Board of Directors approved a change in LWF bylaws which created the LWF Executive Advisory Committee. The purposes of the Committee are to provide support and guidance to the LWF President and Executive Committee and to apply its collective knowledge, wisdom and experience to advance the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. This allows LWF to retain those loyal, dedicated and wise Past Presidents and Executive Committee members who wish to remain active in LWF and it also provides opportunities to recruit and mentor new LWF leaders.

There were many good resolutions that were debated at convention and ultimately adopted as LWF policy. Other resolutions did not fare well and were not adopted. I'd like to

talk about a few of those that successfully made it through our process.

State Coastal Land Trust - One resolution that I am excited about is LWF's proposal to establish a State Coastal Land Trust which provides a mechanism for coastal landowners to sell or donate the surface rights of land to the state for tax and other benefits such as fixed mineral boundaries while maintaining subsurface ownership of minerals and the capability to continue to produce those minerals. If the state could accept such donations it would reduce the complexity of negotiating for the rights necessary to implement coastal restoration projects and help to resolve the conflicts that have arisen over public access to these coastal areas. Back in the day Louisiana had many players in the oil business that owned land in coastal areas, they profited not only from oil & gas production but from hunting & trapping leases when furs were worth much more than they are now.

*Continued on page 29*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the Executive Director



**Randy  
Lanctot**



I just came from the skeet range where I spent the morning taking shooting instruction from LWF supporter Carl Gremillion. Carl offered his services as an auction item at the LWF's convention and I was the lucky bidder. He covered all expenses and even sprung for lunch. I got to shoot a lot, bust a few - even a couple of doubles - and take orders from a retired mechanical contractor and expert shot-gunner on proper technique. Carl was relentless, but finally conceded that I was too set in my ways for him to transform me into a crack shot in just one morning. Besides being great fun and a chance to get away from the office for a few hours, the best part was enjoying Carl's good company. He grew up in the Louisiana outdoors and has spent a lifetime sharing his

experience with others, especially his many grand and great grand children.

It's been a while since the publication of the last issue of *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine, and I apologize for that. LWF's staff resources are not sufficient to guarantee that well-intended deadlines are always met. Sometimes other priorities intervene, the window of opportunity closes and things get bumped back. That's not all bad because it means that other important matters are being addressed to further the mission of the LWF.

This edition is short on photos and features and long on coverage of our conservation award winners, convention activities and resolutions, and the legislative session. That's a lot, but personally not having any noteworthy wildlife/outdoor experiences in the past few months to highlight, and with other LWF initiatives not yet ripe for reporting, I fret that the dearth of creative flourishes herein will disappoint. One remedy for that is your participation. If you have a crisp, interesting image of wildlife, habitat or people enjoying/learning about the outdoors that you'd like to share with other LWF members through this magazine, please a submit it for publication along with a

description that will put the photo in context. Electronic images are preferred, but we can scan a good quality print, too. Likewise, stories about your outdoor experiences are welcome, and even commentary about current conservation issues. Submissions are subject to editing and publication is not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to assist in presenting interesting and informative material to LWF members.

LWF routinely receives phone calls and emails requesting information about wildlife and help to solve wildlife problems like controlling the growth of "scum" on private ponds, snakes in the yard and house, chicks tumbling from nests before they're ready to fledge, and more. A recent call came from the regional maintenance superintendent for Sears department stores about a tern nesting colony on the roof of one of the company's coastal Louisiana stores. Apparently the colony has been growing over the past 7 or 8 years and has gotten to the point where the store's management is concerned for its patrons, not only from the occasional "splat" of falling fecal matter, but from

*Continued on page 30*

# Watching Out at Lake Martin

Lake Martin, near the community of Breaux Bridge in St. Martin Parish has hosted a thriving population of colonial nesting waders (birds, that is) providing spectacular



*A black crowned night heron seeks cover in a cypress bough at Lake Martin. Photo by Charles Frank.*

viewing each spring and summer for a growing number of eco-tourists as well as local birders. That all changed early last year when large numbers of the birds abandoned the area, potentially losing an entire year-class of young birds. Some speculated that the abandonment was a response to decline in forage like crawfish and other favored invertebrates due to the salt water pushed inland by Hurricane Rita. Others suspected intrusion by sightseers, night time froggers and even poachers. Although the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has adopted rules against disturbing the birds, it is not able to maintain a constant enforcement presence in the area.

On March 6, 2007, at the Butte LaRose Visitors Center a meeting was chaired by photographer Charlie Bush, for the purpose of discussing ways to safeguard the rookery at Lake Martin. The meeting was well-attended by local concerned citizens, the LDW&F enforcement agents assigned to the area, the Nature Conservancy representatives, Richard Martin and Katherine "Kacy" Kobrin, Louisiana Ornithological Society members and others.

According to Mr. Martin, although there has not been a consensus of opinion on the reason for last year's abandonment, many reasons were mentioned, including human interference/boats, low water levels, disruption of nesting pattern caused somehow by hurricane activity the previous fall and, last

but not least, just a normal change in nesting pattern/cycle initiated by the birds themselves.

However, in a round robin discussion, everyone agreed that certain human activity has reached an unacceptable level, with trash littering the water and grounds of the lake, obvious signs of boats encroaching into the rookery, trespassing on private property by visitors, misuse of the road, and hunting or at least gun discharge in the area (signs with holes shot in them and shot, dead birds!).

The meeting participants left the session inspired to become more proactive in following up at court on the resolution of citations issued by our LDWF agents for illegal activities to be sure the courts are aware of our concern and appropriate penalties are handed down, being vigilant in trying to pick up

and police the litter problem to discourage dumping and reporting same to the Lit-R-Bug hotline (1-888-LIT-R-BUG) for issuance of citations, and observing and reporting illegal boating activities by reporting to the Operation Game Thief operator at (1-800-442-2511 ext. 0) for LDW&F enforcement assistance. There will be more activity by this group as soon as contact information is shared among the parties and plans gradually take shape. This effort is open to anyone who wants to help, so please contact point person Charlie Bush at mailto:[bushfoto@bellsouth.net](mailto:bushfoto@bellsouth.net) to be included in future meeting notices.

Reported by LWF District 3 At-Large Director, Gina Stanton.



# Refuge Naturalist Heads Cast of Top Conservation Award Winners

Public Use Specialist for the North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Gay Gannaway Brantley was honored earlier this year with the Governor's Award for conservation achievement. The award is presented annually 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 min-



*Conservationist of the Year Gay Brantley receives the Governor's Award from National Wildlife Federation Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew (L) and Louisiana Wildlife Federation President Terry Melancon.*

erals, forests, waters, fish and wildlife during the previous year from among nominations 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 43rd Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet held at the Holiday Inn in Gonzales where the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) convened for its 68th Annual Meeting. The awards were presented by Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation and LWF President Terry L. Melancon.

Brantley was cited for her professional and volunteer contributions to wildlife and conservation education through outstanding programming and outreach involving all five units in the North Louisiana Refuges Complex. She has educated thousands of citizens through her efforts.

Five other individuals, an organization and a business were also recognized for

their outstanding conservation achievements in 2006. They are:

(Professional Category) William K. "Kirk" Rhinehart of Baton Rouge, Coastal Restoration Administrator in the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, for his leadership and guidance in developing DNR's Oyster Lease Acquisition and Compensation Program to break the stalemate between the needs of coastal restoration and the state's oyster growers;

(Volunteer Category) Charles and Susan Allen of Pitkin for promoting knowledge, appreciation and conservation of Louisiana's native plants and their habitats;

(Youth) Anna Kathryn Whittington of Benton for her devotion to learning about conservation and sharing her knowledge with others by volunteering her skills and service to other youth and adults in the community;

(Business) Kleinpeter Farms Dairy of Pine Grove for developing a model of cooperation between the business of agriculture and the conservation the environment on its 1500-acre dairy farm in St. Helena Parish;

(Educator) Mark Schexnayder of Metairie, Southeast Louisiana Hurricane Programming Coordinator for the LSU AgCenter for his tireless work in coordinating outreach and community efforts to restore the environment and livelihoods in the Katrina-impacted region of the state;

(Elected Official) Mayor Tony Gulotta, City of Plaquemine for his successful campaign to improve the water quality of Bayou Plaquemine and for guiding Plaquemine Park, at the historic locks on the Mississippi River, to completion, including enhancing fishing and other public uses at the park;

(Communicator) Todd Masson of Boutte, Editor of the Louisiana Sportsman magazine for keeping the fishing and hunting public abreast of the threats to public use of public waters and the need to take aggressive action to stem the encroachment of private claims to traditional public fishing grounds;

(Organization) Westbank New

Orleans-based Woodlands Trail and Park for uniting the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes in celebration of the natural beauty and cultural treasures of the 10,000-acre peninsula of forests and wetlands connecting the parishes and on which it has established, thus far, 600 acres of protected public park.

William K. "Kirk" Rhinehart  
Professional Conservationist of the Year

Like the saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" or maybe it's "The third time is the charm" or "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." There are probably other hallowed words of wisdom that describe the path taken to resolve one of the most bizarre and intractable circumstances dogging Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts for so many years. The stalemate between the state and oyster growers over damages to their leases from coastal restoration projects has delayed needed projects, contributed to the jeopardy of communities, cost the state millions of dollars in litigation fees, inflated project costs, and brought uncertainty to a traditional



*Professional Conservationist of the Year "Kirk" Rhinehart with his award presented by NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew (L) and LWF President Terry Melancon.*

and important industry. Like other Louisiana things, it's impossible for sane people from other parts of the country to understand. But thanks to Kirk Rhinehart with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the impasse has been broken.

As the Administrator of the Coastal Restoration Division at DNR, Rhinehart recognized the oyster lease question as the lynchpin issue in coastal restoration. If it

couldn't be resolved fairly, and soon, there was little chance of building the projects necessary to combat coastal land loss. Others had tried, but with limited success, further antagonizing one of the state's oldest industries. This time Rhinehart's leadership would make the difference.

Rhinehart worked with legislators, oyster growers and restoration advocates on legislation that revised state authority to better address oyster lease issues in the context of coastal restoration and protection. Leading up to the introduction of the legislation, Rhinehart organized and executed a process of problem assessment and stakeholder involvement that identified provisions acceptable to all parties that could be included in the legislation. Act 425 of the 2006 Regular Legislative Session, authored by Rep. Odinet of St. Bernard Parish and others, set the framework within which Rhinehart and his colleagues at DNR later developed the Oyster Lease Acquisition and Compensation Program (OLACP). Rules for the program were finally adopted last November. The result is that 5 major projects representing over \$142 million dollars, some of which have been on hold since 2001, are slated for construction this year.

Largely through Kirk Rhinehart's guidance and persistence, the OLACP achieved an amicable and effective solution to a decades-long problem, one that is fair and beneficial to the state's oystermen, and that will help further the state's fisheries economy while advancing critically needed coastal restoration projects.

#### Charles and Susan Allen

##### Volunteer Conservationists of the Year

A husband and wife team, Charles and Susan Allen are the "plant people." They are volunteers who spend their time promoting the understanding, use and conservation of Louisiana's rich array of native



Charles and Susan Allen receive the Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Award from NWF's Dr. Earl Matthew (L) and LWF President Terry Melancon.

plant species. As testament to their interest in conservation, their land, "Allen Acres" in Vernon Parish is enrolled in the Natural Area Registry administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Charles is a Ph D botanist, retired from teaching at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. His interest in and expertise about native plants is well known by the books and articles he has published. So his is the name you see on all the programs this couple leads and supports. But Susan Allen is the coordinator, logistician and cook (as called for), and makes it all happen.

Last year the Allens hosted four nature events at Allen Acres beginning with the annual BBBB (Bogs, Birds, Bivalves, Butterflies, Baygalls, etc.) in April and concluding with the Butterfly Blast in September. During these events the Allens open their home and property for all to come and enjoy the great outdoors. Field trips branch out from their homestead to take in the varied forest plant communities of Vernon Parish. Having published a book on "Edible Plants of the Gulf South" Dr. Allen is frequently asked to present on the subject. He gave three training sessions last year for the Louisiana Master Gardeners and presented at several other functions and venues, including a segment for Chef John Folse to use in his broadcast on Louisiana cooking.

The Allens are synonymous with efforts to conserve native wildflowers, and particularly, the last remnants of Louisiana's native prairie. Charles is newsletter editor for the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and the Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum. In that role he prepares and distributes the newsletters four times a year while contributing articles and photos. He was able to secure two grants for the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, one from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to facilitate the construction of a parking area and trails for the Society's 10-acre tract near Eunice. This will allow the general public to have much easier access to a restored and protected Cajun Prairie. The other grant was made by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to increase the diversity of the Duralde Prairie, a 340 acre federal refuge in Evangeline Parish.

#### Anna Kathryn Whittington

##### Youth Conservationist of the Year

Anna Kathryn Whittington has been fortunate to be raised in a family with strong ties to the land, and an interest in hunting, fishing and managing for wildlife. With that foundation she has broadened her activities to include a variety of service learning and volunteer leadership roles.

Along with her dad, Ms. Whittington began the process of restoring her family's 350 acre farm in Sabine Parish to wildlife habitat. The property is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. That has involved spending weekends marking areas to be prepared for tree planting, trapping beavers, and planting seedlings on about 50 acres. In 2007 and subsequent years, the remaining plots will be prepared and treated according to the CRP management



Anna Kathryn Whittington with the Youth Conservationist of the Year Award presenter by LWF President Terry Melancon (L) and Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation

plan. At the local nature center (Cypress Nature Study Center) she has volunteered over 1500 hours of service since 1999. Some of the activities she has coordinated at the Center and elsewhere in her community have been Greenwing Day, National Hunting and Fishing Day, 4H Wildlife Day, Agfest Wildlife Conservation Stations, State Fair "Kid's Day," and the National Wild Turkey Federation JAKES Conservation Education Day. During each of these activities, she conducted mini-workshops on macro-invertebrates, animal tracks, furbearers and alligators, water quality testing and construction of wood duck nest boxes to be placed in wetland habitat. In all, over 3,500 youths and adults have participated in these activities.

For her senior volunteer project for the Cypress Nature Study Center last year, Ms. Whittington created a birding brochure and station to complement the Center's designation as a stop in the Red River Birding Tour Guide. The brochure con-

tains a bird checklist and birding tips to go with other information about local birding opportunities, group activities, photos, stories, nesting boxes and actual bird nests that are displayed at the station.

As an active participant in the 4H Outdoor Skills Program, Ms. Whittington was selected to be 2005-2006 Louisiana 4H Shooting Sports Ambassador to represent the shooting sports program at civic events and to assist at state competitions. Within the Outdoor Skills Program she also co-organized 4H W.I.L.D. Conservation Ambassadors which stands for "Working in Leadership Development through Conservation." One of the group's projects was the collection, loading and transport of 176 Christmas trees to Lafourche Parish for use in coastal restoration efforts. In another 4H activity, Ms. Whittington participated in the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP) during 4H University in Baton Rouge. She was chosen among the top 4 out of 34 participants in this competitive program designed to teach youth the fundamentals of wildlife management. She and her 3 top-scoring colleagues won an all expense paid trip to Madison, Wisconsin where her team placed 5th out of the 20 teams entered in the national WHEP competition. Through her participation in the 4H Wildlife/Nature Club, Ms. Whittington has been conducting water quality tests on local waterways. Results of the testing have been presented at the Benton High School science fair where she has been the first place winner in the Environmental Division for the past 4 years. In addition to her science fair wins, she has received several other recognitions for outstanding water quality work including the Intel Corporation Excellence in Environmental Science Award. Because of her interest in water quality she plans to attend LSU - Shreveport and major in Environmental Science and Communication.

#### Kleinpeter Farms Dairy

##### Conservation Corporation of the Year

Kleinpeter Farms Dairy is recognized by one of its advertising slogans, "We love our cows." But a slogan for the company could just as fittingly be "We give you milk...and bluebirds." Kleinpeter Farms Dairy was incorporated in 1913 and has grown from a Baton Rouge neighborhood milk supplier to one of the few remaining

independently-operated, locally-owned dairy products producers and distributors in the country. Originally located at Highland and Perkins Roads in Baton Rouge, the dairy moved to a 1500 site in St. Helena Parish near Pine Grove that was formerly the site of a pig farm and cow operation. Kleinpeter remediated the site and groomed it for its own production so that it could be managed with minimum impact to the environment. It built a state of the art milking facility with attention given to conserving groundwater, one of Louisiana's abundant and most important natural resources. The system Kleinpeter installed stores water in a six million gallon lagoon that is used to flush the floor of the cow barn. After a separating and treatment process, the wash water is spread on the crop and pasture fields with irrigation systems to enhance production, thus reducing the total amount of acreage needed to grow food for the cows. One portion of the farm that had previously been logged has been



*Ben Kleinpeter, with members of the Kleinpeter family, accept the Conservation Corporation of the Year Award on behalf of Kleinpeter Farms Dairy.*

replanted and also receives the benefit of the sweet irrigation water. Using this system minimizes use of ground water and point source discharges that can impair surface water quality. For its diligence, Kleinpeter Farms has been certified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a "zero effluent farm." As a further commitment to conservation, Kleinpeter reuses hulls from Crowley rice mills for cow bedding and protein-rich cottonseed, a byproduct of cotton production, as a feed mix.

Kleinpeter Farms also practices wildlife conservation on its land. The family has established a major cavity-nesting bird trail of over 200 bluebird and 20 wood duck nest boxes that are monitored weekly, with the data entered into a national data base through Cornell University's Lab of

Ornithology. The trail passes through a wide diversity of habitat including pastures, woods and swamps and attracts a variety of birds including eastern bluebirds, Carolina wrens, Carolina chickadees, prothonotary warblers and wood ducks.

"We love our cows." It must be true because the American Humane Association recently certified Kleinpeter Farm as a Free Farmed operation, making it the first in Louisiana to obtain this highly valued and strict certification.

#### Mark Schexnayder

##### Conservation Educator of the Year

Those who know the New Orleans Area fishing scene know the name Mark Schexnayder. It's synonymous with the restoration, at least before the storms, of the extensive lagoon system of New Orleans' City Park where, through Shexnayder's efforts, the quality of the water and the recreational fishery was dramatically improving.

Schexnayder is employed by the LSU AgCenter. Pre Katrina and Rita, he was primarily serving as Area Fisheries Agent doing outreach, research and education work that made his face familiar at local fishing events. But after the storms, he was designated by the AgCenter as Southeast Louisiana Hurricane Program Coordinator to put his fast thinking and people skills, not to mention scheming talent to work helping members of the fisheries community get back in their homes and on the water. Having been successful in directing volun-



*Conservation Educator of the Year Mark Schexnayder with his award presented by LWF's Terry Melancon (L) and NWF's Earl Matthew.*

teers in the City Park Lagoon restoration effort previously, he also became the go-to guy for effectively deploying the thousands of volunteers who flocked to New Orleans to help in the wake of the storm.

Schexnayder focused considerable post storm effort on recovering City Park with tree and wetland vegetation planting, water

quality monitoring, invasive species removal and management plan development that addressed waterways in and around New Orleans. A lot of the work was done by volunteers under Schexnayder's planning and direction. He worked with the local commercial fishermen to reestablish a vitally needed harbor for a small commercial fleet at Bucktown and helped coordinate the donation and location of ice houses direly needed to support the recovery of the coastal fishery. He is now working with the Louisiana National Guard to establish a program for retrieving vessels sunk or stranded by the storms.

All these efforts may seem ill-fitted to recognition as an educator, and that may be true in the traditional sense of the word. But the education Schexnayder purveys is not classroom, but experiential; bringing people together, directing volunteers in meaningful conservation work. The dividends of his outreach will continue to accrue as volunteers return and bring their friends to help.

**Plaquemine Mayor Tony Gulotta  
Conservationist of the Year  
(Elected Official Category)**

If you think that Plaquemine is a sleepy little town across the big river from Baton Rouge, known mostly as a boarding community for employees of the area's major chemical plants, you haven't made a visit lately. Things are booming along a newly vibrant water front at the city's heart where Bayou Plaquemine joins the historic Mississippi River Lock. It's all about water, its quality and management, and Mayor Tony Gulotta's vision for his community.

Years ago Mayor Gulotta dreamed about ways to restore vitality to his home. Plaquemine was once a booming river town

as tows laden with timber and other crops of the countryside were locked to the river from Bayou Plaquemine. The lock was built by the Corps of Engineers in 1909. But the lock was abandoned as more efficient routes and methods of transport prevailed. The bayou stagnated with only rainwater and polluted runoff making it flow, serving more as a dumping ground than a fishery, despite the persistence of local bank anglers. Things had to change, and Gulotta was going to make it happen.

Mayor of the City of Plaquemine since 1993, Gulotta began the process - public meetings to get citizen input, grant applications for studies, arm-twisting to scrape up the funds to get to the next step in his vision. The studies recommended two 500-horsepower electric pumps to restore Mississippi River water to the Bayou. It took a while, but persistence led to success with state and federal partners, notably among them the State's Atchafalaya Basin Program which provided \$250,000, and the Corps' 1135(b) program for environmental restoration projects. The City covered the rest.

The pumps providing fresh water to the Bayou were the most critical need, but Gulotta's dream included the creation of a bayou front setting that citizens could use and enjoy, and that would attract visitors and commerce to the community. So he set out to accomplish the next phase of designing and building a board walk and pavilion. The work was completed last year and won "Best of Show" from the Louisiana Municipal Association in competition with much larger cities. Also last year, the Bayou was stocked with game fish by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, as water quality had improved sufficiently to support a recreational fishery right in the middle of town.

**Todd Masson -**

**Conservation Communicator of the Year**

We've all heard the saying, "You can't go home anymore." And most of us understand what that's all about. But when you can't go back anymore to your favorite fishing hole because it's posted, gated, or the Sheriff's deputy runs you off, that's another story, and a story that Todd Masson, editor of the "Louisiana Sportsman Magazine" has covered extensively during the past year. Some may not think this is a conservation issue, but think again. Conservation does

not happen without a broad base of resource users providing the financial and political support to make conservation happen.

Private claims to public waters have encroached on the right to fish in the state of Louisiana, and Masson has passionately



*Conservation Communicator of the Year, Todd Masson, editor of the Louisiana Sportsman, receives his award from LWF President Melancon (L) and NWF director Dr. Earl Matthew.*

challenged that trend. In his own words:

"In every other state in the Union, the public's right to access all tidal waters is undeniable and indisputable. Occasionally a stretch of tidal water will be gated or blocked by a greedy landowner, but the state will quickly step in to issue fines or to forcibly remove the gate. In Louisiana, quite the opposite occurs. Ambiguous laws have been interpreted nearly universally in favor of landowners, whose gating and posting of tidal waters has reached epidemic proportions."

"Louisiana Sportsman Magazine" has been the lone media outlet covering the issue since it first became hot in 1984. In the past seven years, editor Masson has made it one of the hallmarks of the magazine's coverage, with extensive reporting about this very serious problem last year covering the Gassoway Lake case in Northeast Louisiana and the gating of access to Catfish Lake near Golden Meadow along the coast. Neither of these situations has been resolved.

Testament to the serious threat the access issue poses to Louisiana sportsmen, the delegates to the 68th annual convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation adopted four separate resolutions proposing solutions and strategies to address various aspects of the problem. The "Louisiana Sportsman" is not alone in its advocacy of restringing the right to fish in Louisiana, but it will take the voices of many to make the necessary changes.



*Plaquemine Mayor Tony Gulotta (C) flanked by city council selectmen (L-R) Jimmie Randle, Mickey Rivet, Lin Rivet and Oscar Mellion was named Conservationist of the Year in the Elected Official Category by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.*

## Woodlands Trail and Park

### Conservation Organization of the Year

There's a not so little nook of forests and wetlands on the Westbank of Orleans and the top end of Plaquemines that holds the soil, houses the birds, including an extended family of bald eagles, breaks the wind and gathers the citizens in celebration of Nature. Although it took a blow from the storms of 2005, it's getting the tender loving care to recover from a group of citizens devoted to its future. That group of advocates is Woodlands Trail and Park, a local nonprofit that began as an ambitious grassroots regional effort in 1997 to plan for smart growth while preserving and protecting the natural beauty and cultural treasures within a 10,000 acre peninsula in the metro New Orleans area.

Currently recognized as one of three



Woodlands Trail & Park was named Conservation Organization of the Year. Receiving the award from LWF President Terry Melancon (L) and NWF Region 8 Director Dr. Earl Matthew is WT&P President Katie Brasted along with Park members and supporters (L-R) Paul Richard, Clayton White, Hank Willie, Carol Osborne Cowley and Benny Rousselle.

American Heritage Rivers Initiative "Keystone" projects for Louisiana, Woodlands Trail and Park has worked over the past eight years to unite the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes with a series of educational, recreational and historical greenways in one of the regions last stands of bottomland hardwoods.

The Woodlands group has formed 15 local, regional and national partnerships and worked with organizations, private citizens, interest groups, corporations and governmental entities as a coalition to discover and celebrate the natural beauty of the area. The efforts in "Creating a Legacy" began in 2000 with dedication by ordinance of over 8 miles of forested greenway corridor to Woodlands Trail and Park for the establishment of educational, recreational and historical trails and greenways.

In 2005, the Park collaborated with Rep. Earnest Wooten to garner an additional 110 acres to put under its protection.

Last year, Woodlands Trail and Park engaged in numerous efforts to promote the park and the conservation of wetlands, including fundraising events that also raised awareness of the mission of the Park and the important ecosystem functions and values it protects. It collaborated in volunteer efforts to clear trails of fallen trees and branches left by the hurricanes, and set about to suppress invasive species that got a toehold after the storms. It formed a partnership with the Land Trust Alliance to formulate a land trust for the Woodlands Trail and Park that will be able to hold conservation easements and property to further the greenway corridor mission. The group received significant grants of state and federal funds to further the Park's mission of preserving habitat for wildlife and increasing community awareness and access to wetland environments. And its president and founder, Katie Brasted was honored for her work with the park as one of 50 Women of the Year by New Orleans City Business Magazine.

### Gay Brantley - Governor's Award Conservationist of the Year

Gay Gannaway Brantley, staff naturalist for the Northeast Louisiana Refuges Complex headquartered in Monroe has spent an entire career dedicated to bringing the wonders of the natural world and the stories they tell to young and old alike. The complex includes Black Bayou Lake, D'Arbonne, Upper Ouachita, Handy



Conservationists of the year for 2006 (presented in 2007), L-R: Todd Masson, Communicator; Gay Brantley, Governor's Award; Kirk Rhinehart, Professional; Susan and Charles Allen, Volunteers; Katie Brasted, Organization (Woodlands Trail & n Park); Ben Kleinpeter, Corporation (Kleinpeter Farms Dairy); Anna Kathryn Whittington, Youth; Plaquemine Mayor Tony Gulotta, Elected Official; Mark Schexnader, Educator.

Brake, and Red River National Wildlife

Refuges. Brantley is the responsible for all land based Fish and Wildlife Service environmental education and interpretation activities in the north half of the state. Even with these challenging work responsibilities, Brantley volunteers her time as conservation educator with the Girl Scouts and other groups and spends many evenings and weekends at the refuge and other venues with her programs about wildlife and conservation.

Brantley has been a crucial component to the success of the young Black Bayou Lake Urban National Wildlife Refuge and its award-winning support group, Friends of Black Bayou. Because of Brantley's tireless efforts, the refuge now has an association with the Monroe City School System technology team, coordinating a website, educating teachers of all subjects, connecting curricula and extending field trips to before and after experiences for students, and even sharing these activities with school systems as far away as Georgia. As one leader of the Friends of Black Bayou put it, "I am happy that Gay is often the human face of the refuge that people will remember."

The list of Gay Brantley's activities and accomplishments over the past year is impressive, and exhausting. They include: presenting 89 onsite environmental education programs on various topics to 4,352 participants; organizing and executing 2 special refuge events attended by 1,900; 14 off refuge programs reaching 321 participants; numerous presentations at off refuge special events like National Hunting and Fishing Day, Jake's and Greenwing events, etc., participated in by over 2,000; coordination and design of all educational exhibits at Black Bayou Lake's Conservation Learning Center; writing 22 educational media releases on conservation as well as developing brochures and educational materials for the refuge.

High praise comes from Brantley's boss: "Gay is a natural leader. She has a Master's degree in biology but much of her meaningful experience comes from hunting, fishing, camping and enjoying Louisiana's outdoors with an inquisitive eye. Students flock to her, and during her life she has impacted thousands. You can see from this sample of her work, Gay is a conservation professional par excellence."

# Louisiana Wildlife Federation

## Officers:

**President** Terry L. Melancon, 14062 Ridge Rd., Prairieville, LA 70769; 225 (res.) 673-8453  
mailto:twotap@eatel.net

**1st-V.P.** Barney Callahan, 314 W. Manfred St., Gonzales, LA 70737; 225 (res) 445-6870  
mailto:barney.callahan@shell.com

**2nd-VP** Ken Dancak, Ph.D, 224 Shady Crest Lane, Pineville, LA 71360; 318 (res) 487-8879 (fax) 473-7117  
mailto:kdancak@fs.fed.us

**Secretary** Gary L. Kinsland, Ph.D 151 Kernis Huval Ln. Sunset, LA 70584 337 (res) 662-3680  
mailto:glkinsland@louisiana.edu

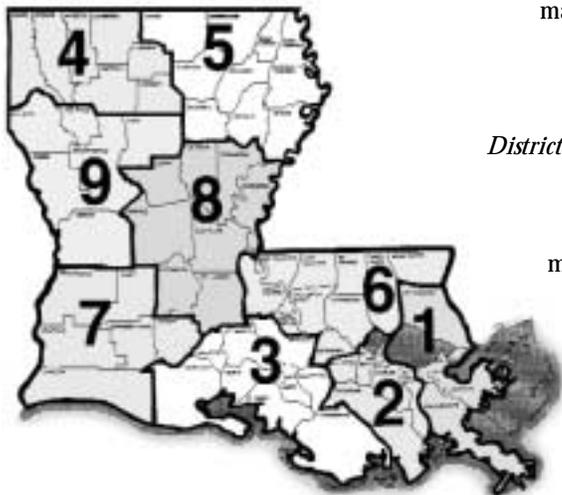
**Treasurer** Clinton Mouser, 4428 Toby Lane, Metairie, LA 70003; 504 (res.) 887-8475  
mailto:cmou5@aol.com

## Executive Committee:

Above 5 Officers and 4 Persons Listed Below:

Joe L. Herring, 1021 Rodney Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808; 225 (res.) 766-0519  
mailto:jhrnature@cox.net

Keith R. Saucier, 13086 She Lee Place Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737; 225 (res.) 647-6653 (wk.) 242-5561 (fax) 677-7416  
mailto:krsaucier@eatel.net



Gina L. Stanton  
306 Pointe Aux Chenes  
Lafayette, LA 70507  
337 501-6123  
mailto:gstan311@bellsouth.net

Edgar F. Veillon,  
Rep. to NWF,  
905 Harrison Ave.,  
Metairie, LA 70005; 504 (res)  
833-9298 (wk) 846-3500 (fax)  
833-9010  
mailto:edgarv1@bellsouth.net

## Executive Director

Randy P. Lanctot, P.O. Box  
65239 Audubon Station,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239  
Office: 337 South Acadian  
Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA  
70806; 225 (ph./fax) 344-  
6707(res.) 346-0752  
mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org

## District Vice-Presidents:

**District 1** Jimmy B. Johnston, Ph. D  
100 Moray Dr.  
Slidell, LA 70461  
985 707-3779 or  
504 906-5100  
mailto:jimmy.johnston@hdrinc.com  
(St. Tammany, Orleans, St.  
Bernard, Plaquemines  
Parishes)

**District 2** Clinton Mouser, 4428 Toby Lane, Metairie, LA 70003; 504 (res.) 887-8475  
mailto:cmou5@aol.com  
(Jefferson, Lafourche, St.  
Charles, St. James, St. John  
the Baptist Parishes)

**District 3** Chad LeBlanc,  
407 Candleglow Dr.  
New Iberia, LA 70563  
337 (res.) 367-9873  
mailto:clbuilders@cox.net  
(Lafayette, Vermilion, St.  
Martin, Terrebonne, Iberia, St.  
Mary, Iberville, Assumption  
Parishes)

**District 4** David Jananivich  
279 Amy Ln.  
Mansfield, LA 71052  
318 (res) 872-4701  
mailto:djalanivich@bellsouth.net  
(Caddo, Bossier, Webster,  
Claiborne, Lincoln, Bienville,  
Jackson Parishes)

**District 5** Ann B. Smith, 306 K St.,  
Monroe, LA 71201  
318 (res.) 387-9365, (fax)  
342-1149 (wk.) 342-1144  
mailto:asmith@ulm.edu  
(Union, Morehouse, East  
Carroll, West Carroll,  
Ouachita, Richland,  
Madison, Caldwell, Franklin,  
Tensas Parishes)

**District 6** Sandra Thompson  
3027 Lac D'or Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
225 (res) 767-6384  
(wk) 342-0560  
mailto:sandrat@dnr.state.la.us  
(Washington, Tangipahoa, St.  
Helena, Livingston, Ascension,  
East Feliciana, West Feliciana,  
East Baton Rouge, West Baton  
Rouge, Pointe Coupee  
Parishes)

**District 7** Jerome C. Haas, Jr., 52  
Horseshoe Lane, Sulphur, LA  
70663; 337(res.) 625-4232  
mailto:jhaasjr@bellsouth.net  
(Beauregard, Allen, Calcasieu,  
Cameron, Jefferson Davis,  
Acadia Parishes)

**District 8** Rick Bryan, 2405 Evergreen  
Ln., Pineville, LA 71360; 318  
(res.) 640-0198;  
mailto:rckbryn@hotmail.com  
(Grant, LaSalle, Catahoula,  
Concordia, Rapides, Avoyelles,  
Evangeline, St. Landry  
Parishes)

**District 9** J.C. Ashford  
85 Howard Ln.  
Florien, LA 71429  
318 (res) 586-4826  
mailto:ashfordgayle@aol.com  
(DeSoto, Red River, Sabine,  
Natchitoches, Winn, Vernon  
Parishes)

# Legislative Session Recap

As expected, the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature was relatively light on conservation and sportsmen's issues. The session focused on fiscal matters as required by the Louisiana constitution for regular sessions held in odd-numbered years. Legislators were allowed to introduce only 5 bills each on subject matter not fiscal in nature, and being an election year, most were reluctant to introduce anything outside the fiscal agenda that might "rock the boat" for their sporting constituency. That said, there were a few major bills passed and some resolutions that will be important if followed through on.

By far the most significant legislation of the session for conservationists was the proposed state sales tax dedication to the Conservation Fund. HB 919 started out to allocate one-twentieth of a penny of the 4-cent state sales tax to the Conservation Fund, the operating fund of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The fiscal note on the bill estimated that it would bring in up to \$43 million annually. That amount represents nearly half of the LDWF budget. Observers were amazed that legislators did not balk at this significant allocation of state general funds. The bill sailed through the House of Representatives without opposition like a lot of other bills committing millions of dollars for projects and programs as legislators sought to find uses for the \$3 billion surplus in state revenues that had accumulated in the wake of the storms of 2005.

Apparently the Governor and Division of Administration had not signed off on the concept of dedicating state sales tax which is typically used to fund purposes like higher education and public health and social services that do not have sources of dedicated funds to operate from. That fact hit home in the Senate Finance Committee when senators agreed to pass the bill out of the committee with the understanding that it would be amended to reduce the impact on the state general fund before final adoption by the full Senate. Passing the committee was dicey as a reluctant member or two had to be called back into the room to make a quorum for the vote.

Ultimately, the bill was amended to delete the sales tax dedication and substitute the dedication of mineral revenues from the Attakapas Wildlife Management Area in the Atchafalaya Basin to the Conservation Fund, but not without being placed back on the Senate calendar in the final hour before the deadline for passing House bills off the Senate floor. Apparently the Division of Administration objected to making the mineral dedication permanent. After notifying the Commissioner of Administration that only a statutory dedication of the Attakapas mineral revenue would be acceptable to supporters of the legislation, Senator Joe McPherson of Woodworth was able to get his colleagues to agree take the bill off the calendar and finally adopt it. The amended bill's fiscal note estimates \$19.2 million annually to the CF over the next 5 years from mineral production on the area. Although this essentially is general fund money, state mineral revenues go through a series of trust funds and the state's "rainy day" fund and only the excess becomes available in the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature in the normal state agency budget process, so mineral revenue dedications have a less direct impact on the state general fund than a dedication of sales taxes which are mainlined to the fund.

It is worth noting that the two other states which have harnessed a percentage of state sales tax revenue to fund their fish and wildlife (and parks) conservation agencies (Missouri and Arkansas) mounted multi-year campaigns to have the proposition placed on the ballot and voted on by the people of their states. The dedication is not revocable by simple act of their legislatures. It is possible that any statutory dedication of state sales tax by a simple majority vote of the Louisiana Legislature could be repealed in future years if the state found itself in dire financial straits. Some predict that will happen sooner than later.

Unknown to most legislators and constituents of LDWF, the Attakapas mineral revenues have been allocated to the Conservation Fund for the immediate past and current fiscal years by proclamation of

the Governor in an agreement secured by former agency head, Dwight Landreneau. That is the reason that predicted shortfalls to the Conservation Fund have not occurred the past and new fiscal years and the Legislature was able to approve a record FY 07 appropriation to the agency with funds to spare in the Conservation Fund. Assuming steady income from the Attakapas minerals for the next several years, the LDWF should be able to meet its existing obligations and provide services at current levels.

Before leaving this subject a few more observations are in order. The original proposal of HB 919 to dedicate a portion of the state sales tax to the Conservation Fund was supported by most conservation organizations and many legislators based on the premise that the outdoor activities of boating, fishing, hunting, birding, etc. that are enhanced and regulated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries stimulate the purchase of gear, fuel, groceries and other goods and services that generate millions of dollars in state and local sales taxes and support many jobs and associated state income taxes, and that some reasonable amount of those revenues should be made available to fund the work of the agency in addition to the traditional self-generated revenue of license and permit fees. Such general fund support is warranted further by the expanding responsibilities given to the agency by the Legislature and Governor that are not related to its core fish and wildlife conservation mission, such as the regulation of big cats, big snakes and non-human primates, emergency preparedness, search and rescue, to name a few. Those points were not very well articulated by the LDWF in the process of seeking the dedication of \$40 million in state sales tax revenue to the CF, a substantial sum by any gauge. Neither was the agency forthcoming about how it intended to use an infusion of dollars representing 40-50% of its current budget at a level of detail necessary to inspire confidence that the new dollars would put to the highest and best use. Perhaps the hope was that, considering the state's flush fiscal situation, the idea would pass under the radar. That

strategy should be rethought for the next time around. It would also be a good idea for the LDWF to follow the statutory requirement for a biannual review of its funding needs and fee structure by the Natural Resources Committees of the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives to garner legislative and public support for future efforts to raise funds for the agency.

The list appended to this column describes in pertinent part the conservation-related legislation that was finally adopted by the Legislature. In addition to HB 919 already covered, the appropriations and capital outlay bills are of interest with regard to funding for the LDWF and other agencies and projects. One thing that continues to be troublesome is the commitment of state funds to the construction of reservoirs without a preliminary process for assessing impacts to forestland, streams and riparian habitat and evaluating the proposals within the context of local and regional water supply needs. Some of the proposed reservoir projects are primarily real estate development plans, having little to do with producing water for agricultural, industrial or domestic uses.

The boat trailer fee allocated to aquatic vegetation research and control was extended (HB 159) thus continuing to support efforts to manage hydrilla, water hyacinth and other noxious aquatic plants that plague Louisiana waterways. HB 524 establishes a program for titling vessels which will be mandatory for new vessels valued \$2500 and over and transferred for the first time on or after July 1, 2008. Titling will be optional for used vessels. HCR 265 sets up a Recreational Freshwater Fishing Task Force emphasizing habitat development and restoration, access and promotion of the recreational fishing industry in the state.

The state's coastal restoration plan received \$147.3 million of the state surplus (HB 765) in addition to ongoing funding to the Department of Natural Resources for coastal restoration work and SB 53 will allow securitization of the anticipated offshore mineral revenue dollars that will be coming to Louisiana in future years so that rights to those anticipated revenues can be sold now for upfront cash to apply to coastal restoration. This is patterned after the way the

state handled the tobacco settlement money and based on the premise that it will be too late to "save the coast" if Louisiana has to wait 10 years for the anticipated large sums of offshore mineral revenue to fund major restoration projects.

SCR 49 puts the state on record in support of reestablishment of the whooping crane to areas of the state that historically supported this impressive bird and urges support from the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to make it happen. SCR 95 cites the rationale for the establishment of a state coastal land trust to acquire and manage coastal habitats consistent with the state's coastal restoration plan and requests the Department of Natural Resources to study the concept and report back to the Legislature. Similarly, SCR 96 requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop habitat acquisition priorities and make recommendations for funding strategies and report its findings to the Legislature prior to the next session.

#### House Bills & Resolutions

HB 1 (Act 18) by Alario. APPROPRIATIONS. Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry - \$102,337,147 (\$37,710,352 general fund [GF]), 829 positions; Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism: Office of State Parks - \$31,578,181 (\$29,636,663GF), 421 positions; Dept. of Natural Resources: Atchafalaya Basin Program - \$544,375, 4 positions; Office of Coastal Restoration & Management - \$101,939,673, 150 positions; Dept. of Environmental Quality - \$148,246,372 (\$12,949,058 GF), 986 positions; Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - \$99,521,763 [positions /9 Office of Secretary (\$959,882), 79 Office of Management & Finance (\$10,742,704), 4 Seafood Promotion and Marketing (877,150), 261 Enforcement Division (\$24,668,410), 217 Office of Wildlife (\$36,894,205), 230 Office of Fisheries (\$25,379,412 plus \$14,950,250 federal hurricane relief funds not included in total)].

HB 2 (Act 28) by Townsend, et al. CAPITAL OUTLAY. Provides for the capital spending of state government; includes \$25,515,000 in Priority 1 (P1),

\$18,392,000 in Priority 2 (P2), \$10,000,000 in Priority 3 (P3), \$22,230,000 in Priority 4 (P4) and \$37,038,000 in Priority 5 (P5) bond funding, \$5,700,000 in State Parks Improvement and Repair Fund, and \$200,000 direct from the state general fund for various acquisition, planning and construction projects (AP&C) and maintenance and repairs for state parks and preservation areas administered by the Office of State Parks; \$2,625,000 in P1, \$1,200,000 in P2 and \$2,150,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Washington Parish Reservoir; \$100,000 in P1 bond funding for AP&C for the Castor Creek-Little River Reservoir in LaSalle Parish; \$1,000,000 P1, \$500,000 P2, bond funding and \$500,000 in general funds for AP&C for the Poverty Point Reservoir in Richland Parish; \$400,000 in P1 bond funding for AP&C for the Ouachita Water Supply Reservoir; \$800,000 in P1, \$1,000,000 in P2 and \$1,000,000 in P5 bond funding for AP&C for the Allen Parish Reservoir; \$1,415,000 in P1, \$500,000 P2, and \$1,000,000 P3 bond funding for AP&C for the Bayou Duchene Reservoir in Caldwell Parish; \$9,000,000 in P1, \$4,000,000 in P5 bond funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Protection and Enhancement Program; \$2,000,000 in P2, \$3,000,000 P3, \$3,000,000 P4 and \$10,104,250 P5 for Wildlife & Fisheries Enforcement Training Academy; \$500,000 in state duck stamp funding, \$500,000 in Rockefeller Funds and \$1,000,000 in Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Trust funds for wildlife habitat acquisition by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; \$4,213,603 from Rockefeller Funds for interpretive center at Rockefeller Refuge; \$500,000 from Alligator Resource Fund and \$460,000 from Rockefeller Fund for alligator grow out facility at Rockefeller Refuge; \$2,500,000 in P1 for LDWF Minden District; \$500,000 in P2, \$2,380,000 in P3 and \$2,000,000 in P5 for LDWF Lake Charles District Office.

HB 159 (Act 183) by Morrish. BOAT TRAILER FEE/AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL. Extends without sunset the \$3.25 additional annual fee on boat trailer registration (assessed on a 4-year registration renewal basis) that is dedicated to the Aquatic Plant Control Fund.

HB 298 (Act 79) by Pitre. GRAND ISLE PORT COMMISSION / SEAFOOD RESEARCH. Authorizes the Grand Isle Port Commission to utilize a designated 5-acre portion of Caminada Pass for seafood production research.

HB 302 (Act 33) by Quezaire. COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION. Abolishes the Hurricane Flood Protection Advisory Commission within the Department of Transportation & Development and adds the chairmen (or designees) of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and Public Works of the Louisiana Legislature to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection and Restoration.

HB 326 (Act 83) by Jack Smith, et al. MOTORBOAT REGISTRATION FEE. Makes housekeeping changes to the law regarding motorboat registration fees.

HB 327 (84) by Lambert, et al. OBSTRUCTION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS. Prohibits the concealment, destruction or deposit of fish/wildlife taken illegally when such would affect a criminal proceeding; makes such a Class Six violation.

HB 328 (85) by Pierre, et al. LDWF ELECTRONIC LICENSING. Authorizes the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries to enter into multi-year contracts up to 10 years in duration for issuing licenses electronically and provides for RFPs for such services.

HB 329 (Act 296) by St. Germain, et al. SHRIMPING GEAR/BUTTERFLY & SKIMMER NETS. Includes butterfly and skimmer nets along with trawls with respect to various restrictions and allowances for use for taking shrimp and other species in certain coastal waters.

HB 331 (Act 81) by St. Germain, et al. REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS. Provides for a 3-consecutive-day nonresident reptile/amphibian wholesale-retail dealer's license for a \$75 fee.

HB 356 (Act 92) by Frith. OYSTERS/VERMILION BAY. Extends the time for transplanting oysters and oyster cultch in a portion of Vermilion Bay from the opening date in September through Dec. 1, until 2010.

HB 378 (Act 149) by Baldone. LITTER PICK-UP/ADOPT A BAYOU. Establishes an "Adopt A Bayou" litter

abatement program and requirements for participation.

HB 407 (Act 190) by K. Carter, et al. LITTER/DRIVER'S LICENSE FEE. Extends thru Aug. 15, 2011 the \$1 additional fee for Louisiana driver's licenses allocated to litter control.

HB 428 (Act 306) by John Smith, et al. MILITARY HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE TAX CREDIT. Provides for, in lieu of reduced license fees, a refundable state income tax credit to active military personnel and their immediate families representing the amount paid for noncommercial Louisiana hunting and fishing licenses purchased; further provides details of the information required on the tax credit application form.

HB 430 (Act 233) by Burns. LITTERING/GARBAGE TRUCKS. Modifies the exception for commercial vehicles collecting and transporting refuse from the prohibition against simple littering.

HB 453 (Act 310) by Odinet. OYSTER VIOLATIONS/VMS. Applies the requirement of fishing only from a vessel equipped with a vessel monitoring device to penalties for all violations of law and regulation pertaining to oyster harvest, the duration of such requirement depending on the frequency of violation by the offender.

HB 514 (Act 316) by Kenney. GAMEFISH IMPORTATION. Allows the importation of certain gamefish fingerlings and all sizes of largemouth bass for stocking in private and approved public waters.

HB 524 (Act 319) by Jack Smith. VESSEL TITLING ACT. Authorizes the establishment of a vessel titling program for new vessels transferred for the first time on or after July 1, 2008 vessels with a minimum value of \$2,500; requires the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the program and provides for a fee of \$8 for a certificate of title and an additional \$8 handling fee.

HB 765 (Act 203) by Alario and Thompson. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS/COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION. Among other appropriations, appropriates \$147,300,000 to the Coastal Protection & Restoration Fund in the Office of Coastal Restoration & Management in DNR for

coastal protection and restoration plan projects.

HB 919 (Act 455) by Alario, et al. CONSERVATION FUND/ATTAKAPAS WMA MINERAL REVENUE. Dedicates the mineral revenues from the Attakapas Wildlife Management Area to the Conservation Fund which is projected to yield \$19.2 Million annually for the next 5 years.

HCR 56 by Badon. C & D LANDFILL AT MRGO. Urges the Governor and state and federal permitting agencies not to allow the siting and operation of a construction and demolition debris landfill at the intersection of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and Bayou Bienvenue in New Orleans, and in particular a 347-acre tract at that location for which a permit for a C & D landfill has been requested.

HCR 67 by Odinet. MRGO CLOSURE/FLOOD CONTROL AID FOR ST. BERNARD PARISH. Memorialized Congress to take action needed to expedite the repair of the St. Bernard levee system and to immediately close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet.

HCR 72 by Hutter. MRGO CLOSURE. Directs the U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers to begin the process of closing the Mississippi River gulf Outlet.

HCR 80 by Pitre. GULF HYPOXIA. Memorializes Congress, the President and the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Reduction Task Force to fulfill the commitment to address the problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico by timely and effective actions within the cooperative framework established by the Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

HCR 192 by Fannin. WILD HOG CONTROL. Requests the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study methods to reduce feral hog populations in areas adjacent to wildlife management areas.

HCR 265 by Townsend. FRESHWATER ANGLING. Establishes the 12-member Louisiana Recreational Freshwater Fishing Task Force to advise the LDWF, LWFC and Legislature on matters pertaining to the management, development, and promotion of the freshwater recreational fishing industry in Louisiana including recreational fishing access and opportunities, improving com-

munications between the users of the resource and the department, addressing the need for water body restoration, and providing advice on new water body development to improve fisheries.

HR 97 by Barrow. GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS. Urges the House Committee on Commerce to study and make recommendations regarding the establishment of green building standards for the construction and renovation of public buildings; further identifies organizations the committee should request input from in developing its recommendations.

#### Senate Bills & Resolutions

SB 19 (Act 7) by McPherson. WMA PERMIT FEE/USERS WITH DISABILITIES. Waives the fee (but not the permit requirement) for users of Wildlife Management Areas with qualifying disabilities.

SB 53 (Act 53) by Dupre, et al. COASTAL PROTECTION & RESTORATION FINANCING/OCS REVENUE SHARING. Creates the Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Financing Authority to generate revenue by selling bonds based on the potential future revenues due to the state from leasing and production of minerals on the outer continental shelf offshore Louisiana.

SB 90 (Act 371) by N. Gautreaux. RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX CREDIT. Provides for a refundable state tax credit for the purchase and residential installation of solar or wind energy systems, up to 50% of the cost of purchase and installation.

SCR 4 by Duplessis. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/NEW ORLEANS. Urges federal and state government assistance in addressing the disposal of hurricane-related demolition debris disposal in New Orleans and prohibiting the illegal dumping of such debris.

SCR 11 by Dupre and Rep. Pitre. COASTAL RESTORATION & PROTECTION. Approves the Comprehensive Master Coastal Protection Plan proposed by the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority and urges that the entities implementing the plan extend protection to the greatest number of coastal communities as practicable.

SCR 12 by Dupre. COASTAL PROTECTION PLAN APPROVAL. Approves the FY '07-'08 Coastal Protection Plan adopted by the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority.

SCR 34 by Dupre & B. Gautreaux. COASTAL PROTECTION / PIPELINE SEDIMENT SLURRY. Expresses the intent of the legislature that the Comprehensive Master Plan for Coastal Protection include a secondary level of hurricane protection and extend coastal protection to include and protect the greatest number of coastal communities as practicable; and urges the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to consider the feasibility of using the transport of sediment slurry dredged from the Lower Atchafalaya River to the Terrebonne Basin to restore wetlands and protect infrastructure and the "third delta" conveyance channel.

SCR 49 by Nick Gautreaux. WHOOPING CRANE RECOVERY. Urges and requests the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the coastal landowners of Southwest Louisiana, to investigate the feasibility of reestablishing both migratory and nonmigratory flocks of whooping cranes in Louisiana.

SCR 94 by McPherson. BLACK CREEK/SCENIC STREAM. Nominates Black Creek in Grant Parish for inclusion in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Streams system.

SCR 95 by McPherson. STATE COASTAL LAND TRUST. Requests the Department of Natural Resources to study the establishment of a state coastal land trust to acquire, accept and manage coastal lands consistent with the state's coastal protection and restoration plan and to report its findings to the Legislature by February 1, 2008.

SCR 96 by McPherson. HABITAT ACQUISITION. Requests the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, in consultation with other state agencies and private organizations, to develop a master list of priority unprotected wildlife habitats and to recommend strategies for funding the acquisition and protection of such habitats, and to report its recommendations to the Legislature by February 1, 2008.

## Sponsor Members

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



- Andrea's Restaurant, Metairie
  - Chef Andrea Apuzzo
- Elizabeth D. Baldrige, Prairieville
- Alton C. Beard, Slidell
- Manning F. Billeaud, Lafayette
- Walter J. Boasso, Chalmette
- Roland J. Bourgeois, MD, Metairie
  - Cardiovascular Specialists, Inc.
- Barney J. Callahan, Gonzales
- Rene L. deBoisblanc, MD, Metairie
- Reg Dunbar, Denham Springs
  - Urethane Technologies, Inc.
- Kirk Ebarb, Keithville
- Anna Jane Gaiennie, Lafayette
- Myles K. Gaupp, Jr., MD, Baton Rouge
- Dee Geoghegan, Metairie
- Andrew A. Grezaffi, III, Saint Francisville
- James Kambur, Metairie
- Rhett M. Majoria, Gretna
- Dr. Javier Nevarez, Baton Rouge
  - Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana
- Noel F. Pilié, D.D.S., Covington
- Robert J. "Rock" Reid, Lacombe
- Pat Rieth, Gretna
  - Rieth Corporation
- B. N. Roth, III, Thibodaux
- Harry A. Trosclair, Metairie
- C. Cabell Tutwiler, New Iberia
- University Animal Clinic, Lake Charles
- John Van Vrancken, Metairie
  - The Balcony
- Tyson Vandlandingham, Metairie
- Sandra G. Wilson, Baton Rouge

# 68th 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 Gonzales and hosted by the East Ascension Sportsman's League over the weekend of March 2-4. A large crowd was on hand for the kickoff social event on Friday evening where over \$8,000 was raised, thanks to meeting benefactors who supported the convention with their generous gifts, and enthusiastic bidders willing to let some cash go for a good cause. 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 almost 200 guests who came to honor the 9 conservation award winners chosen in the 43rd 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 5. Once again, award-winning outdoor writer, broadcaster and media personality, Don Dubuc, served as banquet Master of Ceremonies. Don Dubuc's friendship and continuing loyalty and dedication to the Federation and its conservation mission is greatly cherished by LWF's leaders and members.

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 30 conservation policy resolutions submitted by LWF affiliates and directors for their consideration. Similar to the legislative process, 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 often enthusiastic if not heat-

ed discussions of the proposals. Only the designated representatives to each committee can vote on the outcome of each resolution, but anyone attending the meeting may comment if recognized by the chair at the request of a committee representative. Normally, just 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 is 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 the state and a big reason why LWF is effective and why members maintain interest in and support of the



*LDWF Office Manager Jodie Singer and District 6 At-Large director Sandra Thompson at the convention registration desk.*

organization. Newcomers to the process are always welcome. The resolutions as finally adopted are included 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, Gary Kinsland, Secretary; Environmental Quality Committee - Kathy Wascom, Chairwoman, Sandra Thompson, Secretary; Habitat Conservation & Management Committee - Barney Callahan, Chairman, Gina Stanton, Secretary; Boating & Fresh/Saltwater Fisheries Committee - Smitty Smith, Chairman, Clint Mouser, Secretary; Conservation Policy, Laws & Enforcement Committee - Keith Saucier,

Chairman, Vance Gordon, Secretary.

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 10 of this magazine for the names and contact information for LWF's 2007 leaders.

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. Dr. Javier G. Nevarez with the Veterinary Clinical Science Program at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine led off the session describing the School's role in treating injured wildlife. The School is frequently called upon to nurse injured wildlife back to health, but not having a dedicated program, funding and facilities to meet the demand, it has to turn away or find alternative assistance to care for these animals when its limited capacity is reached. Dr. Javier said that a concept for a wildlife rehabilitation center at the School has been developed and LWF's support for advancing that concept was welcome. LWF District 6 At-Large Director Vance Gordon has more on the subject in his report on Page 28, along with a resolution of support adopted by the LWF Board of Directors.

For the second segment of the session, Dr. Keith Ouchley, Director of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy and Larry Schmidt, Director of the Louisiana Office of the Trust for Public Lands teamed up to talk about the need and means for preserving habitat for wildlife



*LWF supporter Carl Gremillion (L) with auctioneer and President of the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation Ray Bordelon getting ready for the Friday evening auction.*

and people in Louisiana. Although hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat in Louisiana is conserved in public refuges, parks,



District 3 At-Large Director Gina Stanton and 1st Vice President Barney Callahan conduct the Habitat Conservation and Management Committee proceedings.

forests and management areas, they said that the state has no systematic process, program or dedicated funding for identifying and conserving, through acquisition or easement, key habitats that remain unprotected. Nor does the state have a program in place to encourage rapidly-developing communities like Ascension, Livingston, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and East Feliciana Parishes, to name a few, to assess greenspace needs and secure the land necessary for parks and buffers before a hodgepodge of strip malls, subdivisions and industrial parks make it too complicated and costly. They offered the opportunity for communities and conservation groups to collaborate in addressing these pressing land conservation needs.

The final subject of the session was programming to recruit and deploy volunteers to participate in coastal restoration work. Dr. Carrie Mendoza with the LSU AgCenter

explained how the newly launched America's WETLAND Conservation Corps (AWCC) intends to help save the coast of Louisiana through responsible stewardship and citizen action. AWCC is a project of the America's WETLAND Campaign and LSU AgCenter in conjunction with AmeriCorps. It will build community pride and environmental awareness through volunteerism, education and collaboration, with an emphasis on program activ-



District 6 At-Large Director Vance Gordon and Past president Keith Saucier conducted the Conservation Policy, Laws and Enforcement Committee.

ities such as community-wide clean-ups, beautification and restoration projects.

Another pre-hurricanes idea thrust to the forefront after the storms is a project that will recruit volunteers from throughout the nation to help restore hurricane-damaged wildlife habitat on state and federal parks, refuges and wildlife management areas along the Louisiana

Orleans. Ms. Fowler said that the program will recruit, train and deliver crews of volunteers to perform restoration work under the guidance



Keith Saucier receives the LWF President's Cup from Terry Melancon.

of the managers of 12 state and federal properties. More information on this program is on Page 32 of this magazine.

Special thanks for a successful convention go to the members of the local host affiliate the East Ascension Sportsman's League and its convention planning committee, especially Chairpersons Sharon and Robert Taylor. The LWF's 2008 convention is tentatively scheduled for 29 Feb.-Mar. 2 at the Ramada Inn in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The following resolutions were adopted by the delegates to the 68th Annual Convention of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation held March 2-4, 2007 in Gonzales, Louisiana.

#### GENERAL MINING LAW OF 1872

WHEREAS, mining of hard rock minerals in the United States is governed under antiquated 19th century rules that were signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant, and

WHEREAS, the "General Mining Law of 1872" allows private mining companies to take valuable minerals like gold, copper, silver, and uranium from public lands without paying royalties on any of the minerals they extract, and

WHEREAS, since this law was passed, the U.S. government has given away hundreds of billions of dollars of mineral reserves by means of this royalty-free mining program, and

WHEREAS, many of the companies who have benefited from this law are foreign owned, and

WHEREAS, this law mandates government agencies to offer public land for sale at \$5 an acre, the same fee charged in 1872, and

WHEREAS, the General Mining Law of 1872 authorizes the patenting of public lands



Past President Kathy Wascom chats with LDWF enforcement officers Sgt. Mark Benton (L) and Senior Agent Robert Larson outside the committee meeting rooms at the convention.



(L-R) Directors Andrew Mayer, Jimmy Johnston, Carlton Dufrechou and Gary Kinsland at the Board of Directors Luncheon.

coast. National Wildlife Federation Regional Representative, Marya Fowler explained that the idea was originally conceived as "Sportsmen Helping Sportsmen," a response to Louisiana's coastal restoration imperative by conservationists from other NWF affiliates, and further inspired by the enthusiasm of hundreds of volunteers who participated in a restoration work day in conjunction with the NWF's annual meeting held last year in New

for mining with no regard for other potential values or uses of public lands or consideration for the impact to clean water and wildlife, and WHEREAS, each year since 1994 Congress has inserted a temporary moratorium on patenting of public lands in the annual Interior Appropriations bill stating that none of funds appropriated or otherwise made available shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws, and

WHEREAS, literally hundreds of thousands of hard rock mines have been abandoned across the U.S., leaving the American taxpayer liable for the cost of cleaning up the environmental mess left behind, and

WHEREAS, unlike the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund financed by the coal industry, no designated fund exists to finance the clean up of abandoned hard rock mines and the federal government has not appropriated adequate funds for reclamation, and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mines have polluted more than 40 percent of the headwaters of watersheds in the western United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the United States Congress to replace the "General Mining Law of 1872" with more modern legislation which: assesses royalties and severance taxes that reflect the current fair market value of the minerals extracted to provide a fair return to taxpayers for extraction of publicly owned minerals; updates and makes retroactive the fee mining companies pay to maintain their unpatented claims on public lands; eliminates mineral patenting, which amounts to the giveaway of public lands; gives consideration to other values of public lands and the impact mining will have upon local citizens, air, water, and wildlife; establishes a reclamation fund to reclaim abandoned hard rock mines on public lands; requires reclamation bonds sufficient to cover all required short and long term reclamation activities; allows additional public participation in mine siting and permitting decisions; and gives government agencies the authority to set environmental performance and reclamation standards for mining companies.

#### ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE & OIL-FIELD CLEANUP PROGRAM/FUND

WHEREAS, in addition to the economic benefits to Louisiana and her citizens from the development, transportation and processing of

oil and natural gas within and gulfward of the state, there have been significant damages to land, water, and wildlife habitat associated with those activities, and

WHEREAS, many parts of Louisiana are strewn with the artifacts of the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas including but not limited to spoil banks, production pits, rusted tank batteries, and flowlines (pipes), many of which are no longer in use but continue to present disruptions to the ecosystem where they occur including altered hydrology and the threat of contamination, and safety hazards and eyesores, many occurring in some of the otherwise most scenic landscapes in the state, and

WHEREAS, it would be reasonable and progressive to establish a program and funding mechanism to clean up and restore landscapes and hydrology damaged by the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas in Louisiana, that would not place blame but encourage a cooperative effort between the state, affected landowners and the energy development and transportation industry locally and nationally/internationally, and

WHEREAS, the Oilfield Site Restoration Program within the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources which applies to orphaned oil and gas wells and associated pits and production facilities and is funded by a small assessment on oil and gas produced in the state is an excellent example of a cooperative and effective oilfield clean-up and restoration program that has been in place for several years but that is confined to only a subset of all sites in need of remediation, those that have been declared orphaned with no owner of record, and

WHEREAS, the current favorable economic climate associated with the production and marketing of oil and natural gas makes it reasonable to request the cooperation of that industry in establishing and funding a program to clean up and restore landscapes, habitat and hydrology damaged by the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas in Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the establishment of a no-fault program funded in part by an assessment on oil/gas pipelines and production and governed by a commission of stakeholders under the general administration of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to oversee the implementation of a proactive program to clean up and restore landscapes, habitat and hydrology dam-

aged by the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges all oil/gas development, processing and transportation companies and corporations who are currently active in Louisiana, or have been in the past, including successors to those companies and corporations, to work cooperatively with the Louisiana Legislature to establish a no-fault Energy Infrastructure and Oilfield Cleanup Program and Fund within the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to restore landscapes, habitat and hydrology damaged by the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas in Louisiana.

#### WILDLIFE HABITAT & GREENSPACE ACQUISITION TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, Louisiana's ecosystems are diverse and productive components of the natural and cultural heritage of the state, and are important economic assets supporting outdoor recreation activities including hunting, fishing, birding, boating and ecotourism that generate billions of dollars annually in expenditures, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's natural ecosystems have been dramatically altered by industrial development including agriculture, forestry, mineral exploitation, navigation, manufacturing complexes, waste "disposal," urban sprawl, and uninformed land use practices that have resulted in degradation and loss of hundreds of thousands of acres of some of the most productive wildlife habitat on the continent, and

WHEREAS, due to the wisdom and vision of past leaders in conservation, nearly 2 million acres of important wildlife habitat in Louisiana have been secured through acquisition and management as wildlife management areas, refuges, forests and parks but there remain thousands of acres of habitat that are of critical importance to species conservation and recovery efforts that are unprotected and at risk to degradation and conversion to other uses, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's State Wildlife Action Plan developed under the federal State Wildlife Grants Program and released in 2005, generally identifies habitat conservation needs statewide, and

WHEREAS, due to the astonishing rate of new residential development in communities around the state converting rural landscapes to subdivisions, strip malls and urban sprawl, and the planning imperative for rede-

velopment of community housing and infrastructure damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there is a critical need for local greenspace assessment, and the strategic establishment of greenspaces within communities to preserve community integrity, culture, heritage and quality of life that can reasonably be considered an emergency, and

WHEREAS, many states including South Carolina (28,000 acres [\$29 million]), Georgia (53,000 acres [\$130 million]), Alabama (59,000 acres [\$33 million]), and Arkansas (11,000 acres [\$4 million])\* have established wildlife habitat and greenspace acquisition programs and trust funds to conserve wildlife habitat, water quality, public outdoor recreation, and to preserve and enhance the quality of life that is important not only to the well-being of their citizens but to the recruitment of business and industry into their states, and

WHEREAS, despite wide recognition that there are significant unprotected tracts of wildlife habitat in Louisiana and that opportunities to acquire these areas from willing sellers routinely become available, Louisiana has no strategic plan, process or funding in place to convert these opportunities into conservation action that will provide longterm benefits to the state's fish and wildlife resources and the industries and public enjoyment they support, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's current fiscal situation, the prospect of a steady stream of funding from sharing revenue generated by leasing and production of minerals off the Louisiana coast with the federal government and the appropriateness of investing such funds for the longterm benefits of land conservation, makes now an opportune time for the State of Louisiana to establish a wildlife habitat and greenspace conservation program and trust fund, and

WHEREAS, believe it or not, most of Louisiana is located above I-10, as are many of its citizens and important, unprotected wildlife habitat, and it is appropriate that sources of state revenue like OCS revenue sharing with the federal government be made available, either directly or via alternative state revenue sources that are eligible to be used for the purpose of land conservation, to fund a statewide habitat and greenspace acquisition program, and

WHEREAS, based on the premise of the federal Land and Water Conservation Act that revenue from the depletion of nonrenewable public resources like oil and gas should be invested in the conservation of renewable nat-

ural resources like fish and wildlife habitat and water conservation and quality that a state wildlife habitat acquisition would accomplish, it is appropriate to dedicate a portion of state mineral revenues to land conservation, in addition to other sources that may be established via Act of the Louisiana Legislature.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports the establishment of a state wildlife habitat and greenspace acquisition trust fund to acquire and preserve important unprotected habitats and greenspace on a prioritized basis, and the establishment of a commission to oversee the administration of the fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Office of State Parks and other appropriate land conservation and management organizations and agencies to develop a master list of priority unprotected habitats and a process for prioritizing greenspace needs statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF supports the use of state mineral revenues derived from energy production on state lands and waterbottoms to support the aforementioned wildlife habitat and greenspace acquisition trust fund as well as other appropriate sources of revenue.

#### STATE COASTAL LAND TRUST

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal wetlands, barrier beachfronts and chenier ridges are extraordinarily productive fish and wildlife habitats that provide essential habitat for many species and support abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing, birding and boating that support industries vital to the economies of coastal communities as well as the state, and

WHEREAS, much of Louisiana's coastal wetlands are considered "tidelands" and have traditionally been available for fishing and other waterborne forms of recreation and commerce, and

WHEREAS, due to the dynamic and ever-changing environment of coastlands, their value for subsurface mineral development, the liability associated with their ownership, their rapid erosion rate, their vulnerability to storms, the compelling need to arrest coastal land loss and restore some of what has already been lost, and the great expense of sustaining and reclaiming coastlands that exceeds the financial capacity of private owners, it can be advantageous for coastal landowners to sell or donate

the surface rights of land to the state or other qualified entity for tax and other benefits, such as fixed mineral boundaries and conservation tax credit, while maintaining subsurface ownership of minerals and the capability to continue producing those minerals, and it can be advantageous to the state to accept such donations to reduce the complexity of negotiating for and rights necessary to implement coastal restoration projects, and

WHEREAS, as coastal restoration efforts accelerate and land is created anew through sediment diversions and other land-building projects, the state will be negotiating with the private claimants of the subsurface to allow restoration projects to proceed in exchange for agreement to cede ownership of the reclaimed surface to the state in exchange for private ownership of the subsurface minerals beneath the reclaimed land, and

WHEREAS, through both of these processes, i.e., coastal landowners donating surface rights and the state receiving surface rights to land reclaimed through coastal restoration projects, there is a potential for tens of thousands of acres of productive fish and wildlife habitat to change hands, and

WHEREAS, as the steward of the public trust, it is appropriate for the state to establish an administrative structure within state government to accept and manage such coastal lands for the benefit of the people of the state and the natural resources dependent thereon, and to secure the longterm benefits of coastal restoration and consistency with the need for coastal protection and restoration, and

WHEREAS, because of the public resources and interest involved with managing coastal lands and the fact that a preponderance of such lands are tidelands and subject to certain public uses not always honored by private owners, the state rather than a private entity is the appropriate steward, manager and owner of such properties conveyed for coastal restoration projects and/or for consideration of fixing mineral boundaries, and

WHEREAS, an additional benefit to the public in establishing an administrative structure within state government to accept and manage coastlands is the opportunity for public participation and legislative oversight in determining management objectives and rules for such property, and

WHEREAS, the state currently does not have an administrative structure for accepting and managing large acreages of coastlands and neither are its existing land management agencies adequately staffed and financed to take on

the challenge of managing additional coastal lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Governor of Louisiana and the Louisiana Legislature to establish a State Coastal Land Trust, incorporating the collaboration of existing state land management agencies, to acquire, accept and manage coastal lands obtained through purchase, donation, exchange or expropriation, for the purposes of conservation, restoration or protection of coastal lands and waters to be funded with OCS mineral revenue dedicated to coastal protection and restoration, private donations and other sources of funds that may be available from time to time.

#### DESIGNATION OF FISHING AS A USE INCIDENTAL TO NAVIGATION ON NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE STATE

WHEREAS, the beds and waters of Louisiana's natural, navigable waters are owned by the state and have historically been available for navigation and public uses attendant thereto, and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes public uses of natural, navigable waterways to include boating and recreational and commercial fishing, and

WHEREAS, it has long been the tradition and heritage in Louisiana for the public to have free access upon natural navigable waterways to the ordinary high water mark of the banks while covered with water of the navigable waterway for navigation and purposes incidental to navigation, including fishing, and

WHEREAS, in a recent federal court ruling involving public access on the banks of the Mississippi River to the ordinary high water mark at Gassoway Lake, a shallow depression within the levees of the Mississippi River in East Carroll Parish, Louisiana inundated/overflowed by the waters of the Mississippi River at ordinary high water stages, the judge acknowledged that the public is legally entitled to navigate to the ordinary high water mark of the Mississippi River, but that fishing is not incidental to navigation and therefore the act of fishing on public waters flowing over the privately-owned waterbottom of Gassoway Lake at ordinary high water stages of the Mississippi River constitutes an act of trespass if not done with the consent of the waterbottom owner, and

WHEREAS, the federal court judge's ruling in the subject Gassoway Lake case denies a

longstanding interpretation of Louisiana Law with respect to those public activities incidental to navigation which are attached to banks of natural navigable waterways while covered with water of the navigable waterway to the ordinary high water mark, and

WHEREAS, both recreational and commercial fishing in Louisiana have traditionally been practiced in overflow areas inundated by ordinary high water of natural navigable waterways and both activities support significant economies important to the state and provide important public recreational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the federal judge's ruling in the subject Gassoway Lake case makes criminals out of families enjoying a day out on the water fishing in areas inundated by ordinary high water of natural navigable waterways, a traditional, wholesome and cherished activity in Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Legislature, and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation through an act of the US Congress, to clarify state and federal law with respect to public uses incidental to navigation on natural navigable waterways to the ordinary high water mark, to explicitly designate fishing as a public use incidental to navigation on such waters.

#### INVERSE TRESPASS LAW

WHEREAS, the general state criminal trespass law was amended, changing it from a statute that required property boundaries to be posted, marked or fenced against trespass in order to arrest and convict trespassers, (and grand-fathered a variety of local trespass laws that created a hodge-podge of requirements for posting and definitions of trespass) (pre-1980), to a statute that was more uniform and widely applied in its posting guidelines and definitions that put the burden on the trespasser to prove that he/she was not trespassing, using specified affirmative defenses against prosecution, to the current law (2003) that removed all references to posting as a guideline or requirement to define a property boundary that was previously a condition of enforcement of the law against trespass, and

WHEREAS, the underlying philosophy of the current state criminal trespass statute is that a person should know whether or not they are on property that they have permission or a right to be on and if they are on another's property without implied or explicit permission,

they are trespassing, and

WHEREAS, such a philosophy is reasonable as it pertains to property where boundaries between public and private lands/waters are readily discernable, and

WHEREAS, the current state trespass statute relieves private property owners of the burden of marking the boundaries of their property in order to be protected against trespass which is a great savings and a reasonable regard for the rights of private property owners, and

WHEREAS, in the zeal to delete all requirements or suggestions of posting property boundaries from the statutes, the 2003 legislation that amended the state criminal trespass law repealed the prohibition against unauthorized posting of property and destruction of posted signs, and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the prohibition against unauthorized posting of property has in some areas, such as coastal waters flowing over subsided and eroded property where the demarcation between public and private is not discernable, emboldened private claimants of the waterbottoms to keep the fishing and boating public from accessing the waters over those bottoms by posting and gating, and in some cases threatening, and

WHEREAS, subsided and eroded lands adjacent to state-owned waterbottoms, including tidelands become the property of the state unless secured and reclaimed by the private landowner, and

WHEREAS, claimants to waterbottoms who cannot prove ownership can gate, post and bully the fishing and boating public away from their claims with impunity since the 2003 revision to the state trespass law repealed the provision against unauthorized posting of property and there is little recourse to an angler out for a day on the water with his family but to leave and avoid confrontation, and

WHEREAS, the state has an obligation to resolve this issue in favor of the public in a way that is equitable and respectful of the legitimate rights of private landowners, but has thus far failed to act to protect the interest of the public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Legislature to enact a law prohibiting the posting of land and waters, or otherwise obstructing public access (including threats and physical harassment) to land and waters, by any person or representative thereof who does not have legal ownership of the land or waterbottom being posted or to which public access is

obstructed, with penalties for violation similar to those assessed for violation of the state criminal trespass law.

#### DETERMINATION OF STATE LANDS AND WATERBOTTOMS

WHEREAS, due to ever-changing environmental conditions along Louisiana's coast, Louisiana's dynamic estuaries and river systems, and an array of human activities that have induced changes to land and water resulting in erosion, subsidence, accretion and flooding, it is a challenge to determine ownership boundaries and know what is public and what is private land, water and waterbottom, and

WHEREAS, both the state and private landowners have a major economic interest in the determination of ownership of lands and waterbottoms, particularly with respect to the ownership of the subsurface minerals, and

WHEREAS, to efficiently, effectively and realistically execute vital coastal restoration and other land restoration projects involving the reclamation of eroded or subsided land, it is vital for the state to determine ownership boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the fishing and boating public has a vital interest in knowing the boundaries between public and private lands, waters and waterbottoms so they can have full access to and use of those lands, waters, and waterbottoms consistent with natural resource conservation and land and water restoration needs and priorities, and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the State Land Office (SLO) within the Division of Administration was directed by Act 919 (R. S. 41:1701.1) to "identify all public lands and water bottoms within the state and develop and maintain a current master list of public lands and water bottoms," and, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Administration, the Governor, Attorney General, LDWF and LDNR, to "develop and promulgate a comprehensive state master plan for the administration of state lands and water bottoms and ensure that all public lands and water bottoms are protected, administered, and conserved in a manner consistent with the constitution," and

WHEREAS, to add to the difficulty of making ownership determinations that are accurate and that preserve the interest of the state and the public's interest, the venue for challenges to state claims of ownership is the district court in the locale of the ownership dispute rather than the 19th Judicial District

Court in Baton Rouge which serves as venue for most claims against the state, and court settlements between the state and private owners over property boundaries are not required to be reported to the SLO and therefore the SLO is not routinely notified of such settlements that have a bearing on its ownership determinations, and

WHEREAS, R. S. 41:1701.1 has given the SLO a challenging task considering all of the circumstances previously noted, however, prior to the hurricanes of 2005, the SLO had completed ownership determinations throughout most of the state, including coastal parishes and the Atchafalaya Basin, and

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 111 of 2005, following up on SCR 25 of 2004, Act 919 of 2001 and special appropriations to the SLO to complete the inventory of state lands and waterbottoms, requested that the SLO make its preliminary land ownership determinations available to the public via Internet access and outlined a transparent procedure for public notification of preliminary determinations, the acceptance of additional information and the notification of "final" determinations, and

WHEREAS, despite the accomplishment of ownership determinations, and SCR 111 of 2005, the SLO has yet to provide ready public access via the Internet to its ownership determinations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the State Land Office (SLO), in compliance with Senate Concurrent Resolution 111 of 2005, and numerous public requests, to provide access via the Internet to its land ownership determinations as outlined in SCR 111 of 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Division of Administration and the Governor of Louisiana to fully cooperate in facilitating the provision of public access via the Internet to the ownership determinations made by the SLO per SCR 111 of 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Legislature to exercise its oversight authority to insure that the SLO is acting in compliance with the law and legislative directives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the Louisiana Legislature to enact legislation to require the reporting of ownership settlements between the state and private owners to the SLO within 30 days of the final adoption of the settlement, and to establish venue for challenges to state ownership claims

and challenges by the state to private ownership claims in the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge.

#### FUNDING FOR THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is essentially funded by self-generated revenues from user fees such as commercial and recreational license fees, lease fees, severance taxes and mineral revenue from department-owned lands to which the mineral ownership is attached, and

WHEREAS, due to declining mineral and user fee revenues, and growing costs associated with meeting payroll requirements and the demands of the public for services, the LDWF is faced with a funding crisis that will require a several million dollar "bailout" from the state general fund in the forthcoming fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the penchant of the Louisiana Legislature to enact reduced license fees or license exemptions for various segments of the traditional user-group population such as seniors, military, handicapped and others, and to provide extreme bargains like the Lifetime Hunting/ Fishing License have served to undercut the capability of the LDWF to raise sufficient revenue to maintain its operation in the face of declining participation and the aging of the population of hunters and anglers, and

WHEREAS, despite the inclination for legislators to provide free or reduced fee state services to their constituents, the Legislature has been cognizant of the funding challenge faced by the LDWF and in 1995 enacted R. S. 56:30 directing a biannual review of the fee structure and revenue situation of the LDWF and report to the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees which has rarely been complied with by the LDWF, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has always supported reasonable fees and revenue generating measures to support the work of the LDWF, including an allocation of a percentage of revenues raised from the state tax on marine fuels representative of the amount of fuel purchased by fishermen and recreational boaters, state sales taxes on the sale of ATVs, ATV registration fees, a portion of state sales taxes representing the purchases of hunting and fishing gear and the purchases of nonresident hunters and anglers, and a consistent appropriation from the state general fund

to pay for those services performed by the LDWF that are not supported by user fees such as the regulation of exotic snakes and big cats, scenic rivers administration, nongame and natural heritage programs, etc., and

WHEREAS, the LDWF will be seeking support and ideas from its constituents for changes to its fee structure and innovative funding to provide more stable and secure funding for the agency.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation hereby pledges to work collaboratively with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to establish more secure and stable funding for the agency.

#### FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS BASED ON USER PREFERENCE

WHEREAS, the authority to establish regulations for the management of wildlife and fisheries in Louisiana is vested in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC), and

WHEREAS, most regulations adopted by the LWFC are for the purpose of conserving natural resources and are informed by field data and the best professional judgment of the trained technicians, scientists and managers employed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), and

WHEREAS, occasionally, the LWFC considers proposals for adopting or modifying regulations that are based primarily on the preferences of individuals or segments of a user group rather than conservation need or compelling economic reasons, and

WHEREAS, although the LWFC has the authority to adopt regulations based on user preference within conservation standards that are necessary to sustain the resource, doing so inevitably is contrary to the preferences of a portion of the resource user group population, and

WHEREAS, with few exceptions, proposals to establish or modify regulations based on the preference of individuals or a segment of a user group rather than on conservation or compelling economic reasons do not reflect a consensus of the population of users who would be affected by the proposed regulation, and

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife are public resources and therefore the LWFC should determine the true disposition of all affected resource users toward a proposed regulation

that is based on the preference of individuals or a segment of a user group rather than conservation or compelling economic reasons, prior to adopting such regulation into law, and

WHEREAS, public meetings/hearings and comment periods are not sufficient to gauge the sentiment of the population of users affected by proposals based on the preference of individuals or a segment of a user group rather than conservation or compelling economic reasons, and public comment can be readily ignored, and

WHEREAS, when basing a regulatory action on user preference rather than conservation need or compelling economic reason, user preference should be determined by means of statistically valid user surveys conducted or commissioned by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries rather than by information or "survey" results submitted to the LWFC by individuals or organizations representing a segment of the resource-using community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to refrain from adopting regulations based on the preference of individuals or a segments of a user group rather than conservation or compelling economic reasons unless supported by a super-majority (67%) of the affected user group as determined by a statistically valid survey conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

#### PROTECTION OF STRATEGIC COASTAL WOODLANDS & FORESTS & CONSERVATION OF HYDROLOGICALLY-IMPAIRED SWAMP FORESTS

WHEREAS, individual trees, woodlands and forests that occur within the tide zone along Louisiana's coast function to hold soil and provide wind and storm surge buffering capacity that contributes to the protection of the land base and proximate communities from flooding and erosion, as well as support the integrity of levees and flood control works, and

WHEREAS, such strategically positioned coastal trees, woodlands and forests are important habitat features that are vital to neotropical migratory songbirds as well as wading birds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Restoration & Management has the authority and responsibility to guide activities in the Coastal Zone, and prevent actions that will

irreparably degrade the coastal ecosystem or contribute to flooding, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the hurricanes of 2005 it is imperative that the State of Louisiana establish a policy and program to insure the protection, sustainability and, where feasible and effective, the expansion of strategic coastal trees, woodlands and forests, to aid in maintaining and restoring the coastal land base and to maintain, restore and provide storm surge buffering capacity and protection for flood control works, and

WHEREAS, in addition to strategic coastal trees, woodlands and forests, that are intrinsic to hurricane protection along the coast and therefore warrant priority protection under the state's coastal restoration and management authorities and responsibilities, Louisiana has thousands of acres of swamp forests that are degrading due to altered hydrology that results in stressed trees, slow to no growth, premature death and regeneration failure, and

WHEREAS, hydrologically-impaired swamp forests provide important ecosystem benefits including water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and provide scenic and recreation amenities, and

WHEREAS, some private owners of significant acreages of hydrologically-impaired and strategic coastal forests and woodlands wish to harvest their timber while the trees are still viable and before they die from adverse hydrology and salt water and have no market value, and

WHEREAS, the ecosystem value, vital storm surge protection capacity and degrading status of many strategic coastal trees, woodlands and forests and hydrologically-impaired swamp forests creates a dilemma for private landowners and conservationists, some of whom are the same persons or otherwise share the same values, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the state to provide leadership and direction to resolve the issue of protection and conservation of strategic coastal and hydrologically-impaired swamp forests in a manner that honors the rights of private landowners yet provides for the public interest in safety and conservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Legislature to authorize and direct the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Louisiana Departments of Agriculture and Forestry and Wildlife and Fisheries, and with the assistance of qualified colleges and universities with expertise in the conservation and management

of coastal and swamp forests, to establish a program to:

1) identify and locate all coastal trees, woodlands and forests that hold soil and provide wind and storm surge buffering capacity that contributes to the protection of the land base and proximate communities from flooding and erosion, as well as supports the integrity of levees and flood control works (strategic coastal trees, woodlands and forests), and all hydrologically-impaired swamp forests that are degrading due to altered hydrology that results in stressed trees, slow to no growth, premature death and regeneration failure;

2) acquire the necessary land rights or otherwise negotiate to secure the protection and sustainable management of strategic coastal trees, woodlands and forests and hydrologically-impaired swamp forests that are integral to government-funded coastal or ecosystem restoration projects;

3) establish and encourage the application of best management practices for the practice of sustainable silviculture in swamp forests; and, where feasible

4) restore healthy hydrology to hydrologically-impaired swamp forests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges that the program described herein be fully funded with state and federal revenues dedicated to coastal protection and restoration.

#### MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR LOUISIANA SCENIC STREAMS

WHEREAS, state law requires the development of management plans for each designated scenic stream and stream segment, and

WHEREAS, scenic stream management plans are required to be developed with public input, including participation by riparian landowners, and

WHEREAS, state law requires that scenic streams management plans be reviewed, and updated as appropriate, every five years, and

WHEREAS, there are currently 62 streams or stream segments designated as state scenic streams with additional streams being considered for designation, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the state agency responsible for administering the state scenic streams system, including the development of management plans for each designated stream and stream segment, but due to programmatic and funding priorities within the agency, and lack of user-generated revenue and state general funds to support the program, it is under-

funded and understaffed resulting in cursory, insufficient, or non-existent management plans for many of the designated scenic streams.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to fully develop management plans for each designated state scenic stream and stream segment, and update them every five years in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF supports an appropriation of state general funds to the LDWF to use for administration of the state scenic streams program, including the development and refinement of management plans for each scenic stream and stream segment, and the investigation of user fee concepts that may be feasible for generating funding to support the program.

#### ASSESSMENT OF BAYOUS IN THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN FOR SUITABILITY FOR NOMINATION FOR SCENIC STREAMS DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is renowned for its productive and scenic waterways that provide outstanding fish and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the largest scenic streams system in the nation including 62 streams or stream segments throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, despite the extraordinary scenic quality of many bayous in the Atchafalaya Basin and their eligibility to be designated under the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act for special protection within the State Natural and Scenic Rivers System, none have been so designated, and

WHEREAS, with the recent designation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and ongoing efforts through the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program to enhance water quality and recreational opportunities in the AB, it would be appropriate to inventory the waterways in the Atchafalaya Basin and evaluate them for suitability for inclusion in the Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the state agency with responsibility for administering the Natural and Scenic Rivers System, to conduct an inventory of the

waterways in the Atchafalaya Basin for the purpose of assessing their suitability for nomination for designation as scenic waterways within the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

#### NOMINATION OF BEAR BAYOU, BAYOU CHEVREU, BIG BAYOU JESSIE, BAYOU GROSBREAK, BAYOU COCODRIE AND BAYOU CANE WITHIN THE LOWER ATCHAFALAYA BASIN FOR DESIGNATION UNDER THE LOUISIANA SCENIC RIVERS ACT

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the largest scenic streams system in the nation including 62 streams or stream segments throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, despite the extraordinary scenic quality of many bayous in the Atchafalaya Basin and their eligibility to be designated under the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act for special protection within the State Natural and Scenic Rivers System, none have been so designated, and

WHEREAS, with the recent designation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and ongoing efforts through the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program to enhance water quality and recreational opportunities in the AB, it would be appropriate to include the most outstanding scenic waterways in the Atchafalaya Basin under the protection of the state's Natural and Scenic Rivers System, and

WHEREAS, south of Little Bayou Sorrel in St. Martin Parish, Bear Bayou, Bayou Chevreu, Bayou Cane, Bayou Cocodrie, Bayou Grosbeak and Big Bayou Jessie, lined by large baldcypress trees, flow into Flat Lake, and

WHEREAS, these bayous comprise one of the most pristine areas in the Atchafalaya Basin and are particularly suitable for nomination for the state Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation supports the nomination of Bear Bayou, Bayou Chevreu, Bayou Cane, Bayou Cocodrie, Bayou Grosbeak and Big Bayou Jessie within the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway in St. Martin Parish for inclusion in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

#### PUBLIC ACCESS TO NAVIGABLE SCENIC STREAMS

WHEREAS, Louisiana has a large state scenic streams program with 62 streams or

stream segments currently designated, some of which have great potential to accommodate public uses like paddling, fishing and swimming, and

WHEREAS, some designated scenic streams are not navigable in law, the stream beds owned by the adjacent riparian owners, and therefore are limited with respect to use by the public, but many others are navigable in law with state-owned stream beds, and

WHEREAS, public use of many navigable scenic streams is limited by insufficient access points and facilities and therefore, public recreation opportunities and the associated economic benefits are not being accommodated and fulfilled, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is responsible for administering the state scenic rivers system and is responsible for developing management plans for each designated stream and stream segment, and

WHEREAS, it would be consistent with its scenic streams administration responsibilities for the LDWF to inventory navigable segments of scenic streams for potential public access points and to secure suitable public access as well as, where feasible and appropriate, to develop public access facilities including securing access rights from willing private landowners.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to inventory navigable (state-owned) segments of state scenic streams for potential public access points and to develop a program for securing public access to such streams, including securing access rights from willing private landowners and development of public access facilities where feasible and appropriate.

#### SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION FOR BLACK CREEK

WHEREAS, Black Creek in Grant Parish is one of the most attractive blackwater streams in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, it is habitat for the largest population of the threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel within the known range of this species, and

WHEREAS, the stream arises within a large shortleaf pine/oak-hickory plant community on Kisatchie National Forest, including the proposed 147-acre Natural Registry Black Creek Area, and

WHEREAS, the water quality of this

ecosystem is threatened by the four-laning of U.S. 167, erosion at the Liberty Chapel Bridge (Parish 159), a parish constructed wing ditch crossing Forest Service administered land and refuse from an abandoned parish landfill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF supports the designation of those portions of Black Creek in Grant Parish within the Kisatchie National Forest and within the private property boundaries of willing landowners for inclusion in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System and urges that Black Creek be nominated for study by the scenic rivers administrator (LDWF) and recommendation to the Legislature for inclusion in the system.

#### DESIGNATION OF KISATCHIE BAYOU AS A NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER

WHEREAS, a pre-1999 study for the FEIS for the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for Kisatchie National Forest, concluded Kisatchie Bayou, in Natchitoches Parish, is eligible for inclusion in the National Scenic River System (p. 21, Appendix D, FEIS for the Forest Plan), and

WHEREAS, Kisatchie Bayou's sandstone formations create the high bluffs, rock outcroppings, rapids and small waterfalls which earned the stream a regionally outstanding scenic and recreational value, and

WHEREAS, both wildlife and fish values are considered locally significant, and

WHEREAS, over 21 miles of the 40.5 mile stream are within Kisatchie National Forest, and

WHEREAS, water quality in Kisatchie Bayou is threatened by military activity, including grubbing and clearing for tank maneuvers in the headwaters on the Peason Ridge Artillery Range, and

WHEREAS, Kisatchie Bayou will receive more protection under the National Scenic River System than its current status as a State Scenic River.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF supports the designation of Kisatchie Bayou in Natchitoches Parish as a National Scenic River and urges the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to nominate Kisatchie Bayou for such designation.

#### EROSION CONTROL ON JORDAN CREEK WITHIN THE CATA- HOULA DISTRICT OF THE KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation passed a resolution at its 2006 convention requesting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service designate critical habitat for the threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel (LPM), and

WHEREAS, the LPM population on Jordan Creek, the second most populous stream on the Rigolette Bayou watershed in Grant Parish, has increased on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administered land, yet water quality in the headwaters has high volumes of suspended solids after rain events, and the population is severely threatened by private land clearing and fill deposits just downstream from LA Highway 8 (Section 12).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF urges the US Forest Service to take appropriate measures in the Jordan Creek headwaters (Sections 31 and 36) to protect the water quality in Jordan Creek and that the private landowner within the creek's headwaters develop, file and execute a stormwater pollution abatement plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF supports the designation of critical habitat for the Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel in Sections 30 and 31 on the Catahoula Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest and on cleared and filled private land on both sides of Jordan Creek in Section 12, south of LA Highway 8, if the foregoing water quality protection measures are not taken.

#### LOUISIANA PEARLSHELL MUSSEL RANGEWIDE SURVEY ON PRIVATE LANDS ON THE RIGOLETTE BAYOU WATERSHED IN GRANT PARISH

WHEREAS, the Rigolette Bayou watershed population of the threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel in Grant Parish was identified at least 15 years ago, and

WHEREAS, the only rangewide survey of this species on this watershed was conducted in 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan for this species requires a rangewide survey every three years, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program of LDWF was contracted to conduct the survey on private lands, but was unable to carry out the survey in 2006 due to adverse weather, and

WHEREAS, changing weather patterns, including increased hurricane and heavy rain activity the past two years, have jeopardized

carrying out the survey during the traditional August-September period, and

WHEREAS, highway construction, land clearing and logging are putting this population at risk on its most productive streams, and

WHEREAS, without this survey, providing up-to-date population and trend data figures, it will be impossible to gauge the impact of adverse land use activities or develop criteria for delisting, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) had final responsibility for the species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF urges the US Fish and Wildlife Service to work with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program to conduct a survey of the range of the Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel on private lands at the earliest possible date in 2007 when conditions are suitable, and to utilize data gathered to develop criteria for delisting.

#### UPDATING THE BAYOU BOEUF WATERSHED RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE LOUISIANA PEARLSHELL MUSSEL

WHEREAS, the Bayou Boeuf watershed population of the threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel is the most stable of the species' two known habitats, and

WHEREAS, this population has shown a relatively consistent increase over the past several years, and

WHEREAS, a recent second rangewide survey now makes it possible to start developing trend data, and

WHEREAS, these factors make the time ripe to take management to the next level by updating the Recovery Plan for this watershed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF urges the US Fish & Wildlife Service to apply for funds in 2007 to update the Recovery Plan for the Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel in the Bayou Boeuf watershed, including the development of numerical, stream specific data for delisting the species.

#### GULF OF MEXICO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RED SNAPPER REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (GMFMC or Council) voted in August to delay any further action on the rebuilding plan for red snapper for four months so as to gather more information and input, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crabtree, the Southeast Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), then threatened to exercise his right to set an interim rule independent of the Council, thus forcing their action, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation appreciates that NMFS has in the past strived to implement fishery management policy based on the best available science, and

WHEREAS, the destruction caused by last season's hurricanes to the commercial finfish fleet, charter boat fleet, recreational anglers and the shrimp fleet in the Northern Gulf cannot be ignored in establishing appropriate management regulations, and

WHEREAS, it seems self evident that hurricane impacts have substantially reduced harvest capacity and effort of the fishing fleets, resulting in a harvest and by-catch regime that is different from the data which has led NMFS to propose the subject interim red snapper management regulations, and

WHEREAS, many commercial fisherman, charter boats, and recreational anglers are still struggling to survive in the wake of the storms that ravaged our coast, and

WHEREAS, no one knows the socioeconomic effects of changing the current regulations that are already so restrictive as to force many recreational anglers and headboat operators to the brink of abandoning the fishery, and

WHEREAS, implementing more restrictive regulations now, without the concurrence of the Council, or by forcing their action, without thoroughly evaluating the new fishery dynamics induced by the storms, cannot and should not be construed as responsible fisheries management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to take extra care and caution in assuring that additional constraints on the citizens represented in the red snapper fishing industry who are attempting to rebuild their homes, lives, and livelihoods are warranted based on current and compelling red snapper population science and fishing data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the GMFMC and NMFS to exercise due diligence in gathering new representative fishery data before moving forward to implement revised management regulations for the important red snapper fishery.

#### FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GULF HYPOXIA ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the spread of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico poses a serious threat to Louisiana's productive coastal fisheries and to the commercial and recreational fishing industries that depend on this resource, and

WHEREAS, the Congress, the federal government, and states along the Mississippi River joined together to support the formation of a national Task Force (the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force) and the creation of a national Action Plan (Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico) in 2001, and

WHEREAS, despite its pragmatic, voluntary, incentive-based approach, the Action Plan has not been fully funded or implemented after five years, while the average yearly size of the Gulf hypoxic zone has increased, and significant federal resources are not yet being directed to carry out the steps called for in the Action Plan to reduce the average annual extent of the hypoxic zone, and

WHEREAS, the ongoing expansion of biomass production for processing into ethanol fuels may result in removal of marginal lands from conservation programs like CRP and WRP, the consequent increased use of nitrogen-based fertilizer and polluted runoff into the Mississippi River watershed, and subsequent increase in the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and its members have long expressed their concerns about the Gulf hypoxia problem and support for national action to address it, to protect the health of one of the most productive wild coastal fisheries in the lower 48 states.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation again expresses its support for funding and implementation of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan, and for effective measures to be taken by federal agencies and states along the river to reduce nutrient loading and reduce the size of the Gulf Hypoxic zone.

#### ENFORCEMENT OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ATV TRAILS ON WMAs

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Management Areas in Louisiana have designated ATV trails

for use by Physically Challenged Hunters, and WHEREAS, these trails allow Physically Challenged Hunters to access areas with their ATV's that are not to be used by able-bodied hunters with their ATV's, and

WHEREAS, the trails are supposed to be plainly marked for handicapped or general use, and

WHEREAS, these signs are being removed or destroyed, and

WHEREAS, trails restricted to use by the handicapped-only are often being used by able-bodied hunters with their ATV's, even though these trails are restricted.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to enforce the rules of the management areas, and in particular those rules regulating the use of ATV trails, and have enforcement agents monitor these areas closely, especially through the opening and closing of the deer seasons.

#### ESTABLISHING A LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR CORRIDOR IN CATAHOULA PARISH

WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan for the threatened Louisiana Black Bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) lists as needed recovery actions: 1) identification of key recovery blocks of land and key corridors (p. 14, 1.1), 2) protecting large tracts of relatively remote bear habitat with connecting corridors (p. 15, 1.1), 3) using reforestation to establish corridors along streams or through habitat with unsuitable features (p. 15, 1.4), and

WHEREAS, occupied bear habitat is considered only areas where evidence exists of reproduction, i.e., a female with cubs, and

WHEREAS, the Lake Ophelia NWR in Avoyelles Parish has been the site for successful repatriation of several females with cubs, most of which have stayed in the area, and

WHEREAS, the 60,000 plus acre Dewey Wills WMA is not only managed with consideration for the Louisiana Black Bear (p. 11 Recovery Plan), but harbors one or more females with cubs, and

WHEREAS, these two blocks of forested land are only a short distance apart, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Black Bears already travel between these two areas, and

WHEREAS, safe travel would be greatly facilitated by a forested corridor between the two areas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

the LWF supports the establishment of a habitat corridor for the Louisiana Black Bear in Catahoula Parish and urges the Black Bear Conservation Committee, The Louisiana Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other conservation organizations and agencies to cooperate with willing sellers to acquire through easement, fee purchase or other negotiated means the rights to reforest a corridor between Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area and Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge.

#### UPDATING THE RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE THREATENED LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR

WHEREAS, the original range of the Louisiana subspecies black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) consisted of the entire state of Louisiana, east Texas, and southwest Mississippi, and

WHEREAS, black bear in the southern-most counties in Arkansas were considered *U.a.luteolus* by Hall in 1981, but were excluded by U.S. Fish & Wildlife because of a lack of scientific testing, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Black Bear Recovery Plan, completed in 1995, encompasses only two subpopulations, the Tensas River Basin and the Atchafalaya River Basin in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan estimated a total population of 160 from the Tensas and Atchafalaya River Basins, between 200-300 in a 1999 Biological Opinion for the Kisatchie National Forest Plan and the population is estimated at 500 today, and

WHEREAS, home ranges for both males and females in good habitat is smaller than previously believed, and

WHEREAS, the final rule published in the 1992 Federal Register lists the species as threatened throughout its historic range and includes other free-range bears of similar appearance, and

WHEREAS, the Recovery Plan calls for a monitoring and analyzing report every five years, with modification of the black bear plan as needed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWF urges that the recovery plan for the Louisiana Black Bear be reviewed and requests that the US Fish & Wildlife Service provide the required monitoring report, update population figures and habitat acreage requirements, perform needed sampling to genetically identify

the Arkansas population which is expanding from the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge into Louisiana as far as the Ouachita NWR, and expand recovery plan provisions to include the entire historic range of the species, including East Texas, confirmed populations east of the Mississippi River and in the loess bluff lands of Mississippi and the Tunica Hills area in Louisiana, and the Louisiana Black Bear in Arkansas, if warranted.

#### CATAHOULA PARISH FLOODPLAIN LANDFILL PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, Two Rivers Recycling, LLC of Jonesville, LA has applied to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a solid waste permit to operate a four cell Construction & Debris (C&D) landfill to handle hurricane debris from the New Orleans area, and

WHEREAS, the proposed landfill site is in a cropped wetland in the Red River Backwater Area, in the extreme southern part of Catahoula Parish, the second largest overflow floodplain in the state, and

WHEREAS, this highly productive and richly diverse wildlife backwater floodplain is an important element in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood surge reduction plans for the lower Mississippi River Valley, and

WHEREAS, precedent established by the Louisiana Supreme Court in the IT case and numerous other challenges involving Article IX, Section I of the 1974 Revised Louisiana Constitution states proposed projects cannot be approved by any agency or official; without full and careful consideration of other projects, other sites and mitigation beyond that originally proposed, and

WHEREAS, a more economically and environmentally preferable project, which should be considered, would be establishing a waste transfer site, strategically located in a less environmentally sensitive area, closer to the debris source, as a temporary storage site, while the material is processed for volume reduction and removal of hazardous and toxic material which requires special handling and disposal, and

WHEREAS, the proposed site is a prime candidate for wetland restoration under the Wetland Reserve Program (Public Law 99-198), and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has approved 46 other C&D landfill sites, 18 of them south of I-10, which have more than enough available

capacity, and

WHEREAS, the proposed landfill site is part of a proposed hardwood corridor to be restored for the Louisiana black bear and other wildlife, between the Lake Ophelia NWR and the Dewey Wills WMA, and

WHEREAS, additional mitigation must include a Water Quality Certification which will be difficult for DEQ to legitimately issue since it will be virtually impossible to unload onto the multiple barge terminals required under the Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act without spilling debris containing lead, arsenic, and methyl-mercury into the Red River, posing a threat to the endangered pallid sturgeon or the bald eagle pair nesting almost directly across the river from the landfill site, and

WHEREAS, additional mitigation should address the fact that leachate will slowly travel through the slightly permeable clay liner, eventually contaminating ground and surface water, and

WHEREAS, additional mitigation should explore and provide an alternative to having a storage pond for contaminated water from the cells, which will be below the level of the surrounding land, since fill from the holding pond will be used to construct the elevated landfill cells, and

WHEREAS, methyl-mercury in the holding pond will still be toxic when the pond is full and must be emptied, and

WHEREAS, groundwater flow from the proposed site flows into Larto Bayou, Red River, and Cowpen Slough, and

WHEREAS, the private levee around the landfill site was built to the height recommended by the USACE, but this levee was overtopped by the 1973 flood and is not designed to withstand more than a 25 to 30 year flood, making any contaminated material released from the holding pond or the landfill cells a serious pollution hazard, and

WHEREAS, this is an important archeological site; the ancient Native American burial grounds on the landfill site demand both a surface and below ground inventory.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation strongly urges the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality not to approve any permit or request to create a landfill of any kind at this site because of almost certain adverse impact on fish, wildlife, and the livelihood of those who depend on these resources.

2007 LWF Convention  
Sponsors and Donors

Special thanks go to the following persons, organizations and businesses for supporting this convention with their generous donations.

### Premier Corporate Wild Turkey

#### Shell Oil Company

#### Corporate Wild Turkey

#### Marathon Petroleum Company, LLC

#### Wild Turkeys

East Ascension Sportsman's League  
Ron & Jackie Bartels  
Ken & Cindy Dancak  
Carl & Dolores Gremillion  
Edgar F. Veillon

#### Black Bears

Acadiana Sportsman's League  
Avoyelles Wildlife Federation  
Terry & Lisa Melancon  
Warren & Jodie Singer  
Smitty Smith

#### Wood Ducks

American Sportsmen Against Poachers  
Tom & June Butler  
Barney & Donna Callahan  
CII Carbon, LLC  
Tom Core - State Farm Agent  
Chipper Gajan -  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance  
Dr. Keith Girod -  
Gonzales Dental Clinic  
Jerry & Sybil Haas  
Jimmy & Sherri Johnston  
Earl & Lonnie Matthew  
Raoul Robert -  
Southern Valve Service, Inc.  
Keith & Cindy Saucier  
Joelle Singer

#### Largemouth Bass

Virginia & Don Burkett  
Tommy Cunningham -  
General Rental Center  
EATEL  
Bill Herke  
Joe L. & Rosalie Herring  
Andrew P. Mayer, MD  
Robert & Sharon Taylor

#### Bluebirds

Jimmy Gremillion  
Mike Gremillion

Jay & Judy Huner  
Wil J. LaBat  
Randy Lanctot  
Clint & Virginia Mouser  
Daniel Ory  
Tempco Supplies, Inc.  
Jaime Thibodeaux  
Ken & Brad Tuminello -  
Southern Packaging, Inc.

.....

Academy Sports; Acadiana Silkscreen; Accardo Tackle Co.; Akin Promotions; Ascension Marine; Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs; Audio-Video Innovators; Baton Rouge Coca-Cola; Chari & Thad Bellow; Boudreaux's Condeaux; Dave Boudreaux; Dane & Ralph Bourgeois; Briarwood Golf Club; Bruce Foods; Virginia Burkett; Bushnell Corp.; Cabela's; Cajun Injector; Coca-Cola Bottling of Lafayette; Ronald Coco; Coleman Co.; Crossman Air Guns; DAC Technologies; Daisy Manufacturing; The Deer Depot; DeLorme Mapping; Bob Dennie; DeSantis Holster & Leather Co.; Desireables Gift Shop; Diez Signs; East Ascension Sportsman's League; Faulks Game Calls; Flambeau Products; Forestry Suppliers, Inc.; Gamo USA; Catherine Gonzales; Glen Gonzales; Carl & Dolores Gremillion; Goosie & Lucette Guice; H & H Baits; Jerry Haas, Jr.; Haydel Game Calls; Purvis Hebert; Joe L. & Rosalie Herring; Hoppe Farms; Jay Huner; Innovation Event Management; Jefferson Rod & Gun Club; Jimbo Rods; Lyle Johnson; Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Lamendola's; Randy Lanctot; John Landry; Laredo Hunt Club; LeBlanc's Payless; Tyson Lee; Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation; Louisiana Publishing, Inc.; Louisiana Wildlife Federation; Bobby McCarley; Joe McPherson; Terry Melancon; Miller "Friends of the Field"; Sharon Miller; Mockler Beverage Co.; Oak Grove Smokehouse; Clint Ourso; Premier Performance Marine; Pure Fishing/Abu Garcia; Quik Quarter; Robbie Robinson; Capt. Herman Solar; Sprint PCS; Stackpole Books; Strike King Lure Co.; Stansel Rice Co.; Superior Bait & Tackle; T & T Lures; "Tangle Free" Decoys; Bobby Taylor; Tibby Thibodeaux; Larry Thompson; Capt. Paul Titus; Top Brass Tackle; The Trophy House-Joe Stablier; TTI Companies, Inc.; Wal-Mart; Wright & McGill/Eagle Claw; Nathon Williams; Zapp's Potato Chips

# Bears Den in WRP Lands

A cooperative habitat restoration program that restores wetlands on marginally and non-productive croplands has contributed to restoring black bears as well. Lands enrolled in the Wetland Reserve

Program (WRP) have recently helped produce four black bear cub litters in Louisiana adding 10 black bear cubs to the threatened population of Louisiana black bears. WRP is a voluntary easement program and since its creation in the 1990 Farm Bill, over 200,000 acres have been restored to wetlands in Louisiana. These lands once again are able to store floodwaters, bind and hold carbon, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat for hundreds of species.



*Two black bear cubs on Wetlands Reserve Program lands where they were born. The scoring system used to prioritize the bids received for enrollment in WRP allocates extra points to those lands that fall within bear conservation priority areas within travel corridors for the Louisiana Black Bear, a Threatened Species. Photo courtesy of BBCC.*

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Louisiana black bear as a threatened subspecies under the Endangered Species Act in 1992. As with most rare species, habitat loss and fragmentation was the primary cause for the bear's decline. The USFWS Recovery Plan for the Louisiana black bear requires protected forest corridors between bear populations and protection of existing habitats. Since 90 percent of lands in the historic range of the Louisiana black bear are privately owned, creating these corridors presented several challenges for bear recovery efforts.

Prior to the creation of the Wetland Reserve Program in the 1990 Farm Bill,

there was no large-scale mechanism in place to create the forest corridor necessary for delisting. To directly address the recovery criteria, the Black Bear Conservation Committee, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,

by corridors to encourage bear movement between tracts. This effort evolved the 3.5 million-acre Louisiana Black Bear Habitat Restoration and Planning Maps (HRPM).

The HRPM, reaching from the Arkansas/Louisiana border to the Gulf of Mexico, established three levels of conservation based on where bear populations are currently located and how bears move through the landscape. Priority zones and a system for awarding additional points to properties competing for the Wetland Reserve Program and other conservation programs were established by the HRPM.

“The corridor concept was promoted with the expectation that bears would use corridors to travel from one large forest tract to another,” said Maria Davidson, LDWF large carnivore program manager. “The prospect that bears would den and successfully produce cubs in these young corridor forests was not anticipated, but that fact makes this cooperative habitat restoration plan even more successful.”

The first bear litter documented in Wetland Reserve Program lands was found in 2004 adjacent to Tensas River NWR in northeast Louisiana. Two addi-

*Continued on page 33*



*Cub and sow in ground den on land enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Photo courtesy of BBCC.*

# LSU Plans New Wildlife Hospital

by Vance Gordon

Dr. Javier Nevarez gave a presentation at the LWF annual meeting on the work of the wildlife rehabilitation unit at the LSU Veterinary School and the Veterinary School's vision for a new hospital dedicated to the treatment of injured wildlife and their return to the wild. Dr. Nevarez talked about the treatment techniques for injured wildlife. The Veterinary School receives injured birds and animals from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, hunters, and fisherman and others in the outdoors who encounter them. Numerous raptors including a number of native Bald Eagles have been successfully treated and released back to the wild by the School. In some cases the injured wild animals the School receives have to be euthanized, but whenever they can be treated, they are rehabilitated and released. When possible and feasible they are returned to the area where they were found.

It was interesting to learn from Dr. Nevarez that many of the medical procedures used by veterinarians are similar to the high tech procedures for humans that we have come to expect in today's medical hospitals. In the case of young or orphaned wildlife, care must be taken to insure that they do not "imprint" on the veterinarian or technician handling them. If this were to happen, their chances for survival in the wild would be slim. In some cases, the animals are passed on to volunteer wildlife rehabilitators who care for them until they are released.

The unit that cares for injured wildlife currently works out of a single room in the Veterinary School that is very crowded for the number of wildlife patients treated. The Veterinary School has a conceptual plan for a new building dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of wildlife. LSU has set aside the space for the new hospital should it be constructed. Funding of \$5 million for the facility and \$5 million for its continuing operation has not been secured and the School has been unsuccessful thus far in getting any funds from the Legislature. A number of private donations have been given and the project has been the subject of renewed interest by LSU fund raisers. The facility would provide an excellent training facility for Veterinary students and a world class facility for research in wildlife rehabilitation. Donations for the

Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital may be made to the LSU School of Veterinary Science.

The Board of directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation adopted the following resolution in support of the proposed wildlife rehabilitation hospital.

## SUPPORT FOR THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL OF LOUISIANA AT THE LSU VET SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) is committed to the conservation of Louisiana's natural resources, including air, soils and minerals, forests waters and wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the LWF recognizes the value of wildlife as sentinels and indicators of imbalances in the health of our environment such as contamination of soil, air or water with harmful chemicals, and

WHEREAS, the LWF recognizes the value of the services performed by the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana (WHL), located at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine to test and analyze patients for illness, rehabilitate injured wildlife and release recovered patients to the wild to continue their role in Nature, and

WHEREAS, the demand for the services of the WHL exceed the hospital's current capacity to treat injured wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the limited resources and staffing available to the WHL preclude optimal treatment of some of the injured animals brought to it, including species protected by law and treaty, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana does not have adequate wildlife rehabilitation capacity considering the abundance of wildlife resources found in the state and the frequent occurrence of treatable injury, and

WHEREAS, the WHL is a teaching hospital for training veterinarians and rehabilitators how to treat and care for injured wildlife and therefore, expanding its capacity will increase the number of properly trained veterinarians and rehabilitators available to recover injured wildlife in the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation does hereby endorse the development and expansion of the Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana located at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

# The Purple Gallinule

The purple gallinule (*Porphyrola martinica*) or swamp hen, is a migratory member of the rail family that nests in the southern U.S. and winters primarily in the tropics. The large, brightly colored species is very dependent on freshwater wetlands with rich plant diversity. The purple gallinule is often confused with the common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

The purple gallinule is one of the most handsome of all water birds. The head, neck and underparts of the adult bird are a deep rich purple, while the back is dark green. The bill is bright red with a yellow tip and a light blue frontal shield, and like all members of the rail family, the bright yellow-green feet are lobed rather than webbed. The lobes flare out on the back stroke, providing propulsion. Plumage characteristics are similar between sexes, but differences in body weight and length of the middle toe and tarsus have been recorded.

The social structure of purple gallinules in North America consists of a breeding pair and their young, which is maintained through the breeding season and prior to fall migration. According to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries waterfowl study leader Robert Helm, during spring migration, the birds migrate across the Gulf of Mexico from the tropics of Central and South America to the southern North American coast into Georgia, Texas and Louisiana in mid April.

Though the age of initial breeding is unknown, purple gallinules probably begin to breed at one year of age. Both sexes of the species share reproductive responsibilities from nest construction and incubation to rearing of the young. The nests are constructed from nearby plant materials and extensive walkways for nest access are constructed in emergent vegetation. The gallinules begin nesting in May and continue to lay eggs until early August. The female purple gallinule lays one egg per day with an incubation period of 18-20 days, which begins before the clutch is complete. Common clutch size has not been definitively ascertained: estimated average

Continued on page 34

Over the years these companies have merged their assets and there are a few oil companies that own large tracts of land in the coastal region. Times have changed and the fear of liability is on every corporation's mind these days and there has been some talk of these oil companies possibly donating the surface rights to an entity that would relieve them of the liabilities and surface management costs. I believe that the state should be that entity.

General mining law of 1872 - Why would LWF be involved in this you ask? Almost every year LWF is asked to sign on to letters opposing open pit mining on or adjacent to sensitive public lands usually somewhere in the western United States. Our friends out west know how precious and fragile these lands are and you may have visited some of these special places yourself. The date of the statute is evidence that it has been around for a long time and it has provided a sweet deal for mining companies and little protection for the environment while it gives away our natural resources. Once this resolution passed through LWF's process we sent it to the NWF annual meeting where it passed with some additional cosponsors from out west. Legislation has been introduced to the US Congress (The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007 — H.R. 2262) to resolve the issues raised in the resolution and I hope we can convince the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to support it.

The Energy Infrastructure & Oilfield Cleanup Program/Fund resolution urges establishment of a program funded by the oil and gas industry to "cleanup and restore landscapes, habitat and hydrology damaged by the development, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas in Louisiana." While reading this, you may be thinking about places you know of that would be helped by establishing this program. The Atchafalaya Basin and marsh, to name only a few spots, could benefit if deteriorating tank batteries and defunct flowlines of rusting pipe that snake throughout could be removed and remediated. I can think of areas closer to home that are in the same state of disrepair and abandonment.

Since I mentioned the Atchafalaya Basin let's talk about a couple of resolutions pertaining to the basin. One resolution asks for an assessment of streams or bayous in the Basin that would be suitable "for nomination for designation as scenic waterways within the

Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System." Another resolution recommends specific bayous - Bayou Grosbeak, Bear Bayou and others in the lower area of the basin that are highly likely to be eligible for designation as state scenic streams and therefore receive additional protection under the law.

While we are on the water, let's talk about fishing. Convention delegates adopted a resolution calling for Congress and the state to clarify state and federal laws to explicitly designate fishing as a use of public waters that is incidental to navigation and therefore an activity protected by law. A recent federal court ruling determined that the public has the right to navigate "navigable" waters but not necessarily the right to fish navigable waters. This decision is so confused that I get upset just thinking about it so I'll refer you to our full listing of resolutions which appear later in the magazine for more information. But what I did want to mention is that a similar resolution was passed by the delegates to the National Wildlife Federation annual meeting and that will bring more prominence to our problems with navigating and fishing navigable waters in Louisiana.

NWF has coined the phrase "nature deficit." It realizes that our children are more and more being isolated from the outdoors, and I agree whole heartedly with their assessment. I can remember always being outside as a kid from morning till sunset, my hair bleached white and freckles from the summer sun. Even as a kid, exploring and discovering the rural neighborhood where I grew up was always fun. I don't have to tell you about the enjoyment, the peace of mind, the comfort, the solace and serenity that we as nature lovers get from being out doors, whether it be watching the sunrise or sunset in one of your favorite spots, or hunting or fishing. Even if not successful with the rod or gun the enjoyment of the outdoors keeps us going back. NWF has a goal of ensuring that children and families have positive opportunities to connect with the outdoors and nature, reversing this "nature deficit."

LWF has been prodding the State Land Office to make its determinations of state lands and water bottoms available to the public via the internet. The SLO has made those determinations for most of the state including the Atchafalaya Basin and coastal areas and has finally posted maps with those determinations on its website. Put <http://www.doa.la.gov/slo/> in your web browser and click on "State Lands and Water Bottoms" at the top of the column

on the left on the SLO homepage. You should read and follow the tutorial before checking out the maps to get the best performance from your computer. With a little practice, visitors to the site should be able to examine the waters they are interested in, or at least determine if they need to visit or call the SLO for more detailed information. Putting this information on the SLO website was a huge undertaking for the SLO and is an important step in government transparency. It will not, however, resolve legal questions or satisfy those who wish to access every water in the state where a vessel can navigate. It will help, though, to identify other steps that must be taken to resolve questions and differing views on ownership and access. I'm sure the SLO would welcome constructive criticism of the site as well as compliments in pursuing this challenging task. The information available on the SLO website should provide the public with at least a little more information about where folks can go without risking arrest for trespass.

For LWF members in central Louisiana we have been working with our affiliates in your area also to conserve and improve our state's only national forest, the Kasatchie. One LWF resolution proposes to designate Kisatchie Bayou in Natchitoches Parish as a National Wild & Scenic river. Kisatchie Bayou would receive more protection if so designated. Another resolution requests a range wide survey of the threatened Louisiana pearlshell mussel. There are indications that the population may be increasing to the point where the mussel can be delisted, but without the surveys the delisting cannot move forward.

One thing I have learned over the years in the conservation arena is that you have to be patient to see your efforts pay off. Sometimes it may take years for a concept or idea to become a reality. Well, I hope you are enjoying what is turning out to be a typical Louisiana summer - warm temperatures and routine thundershowers. I know that the trees in my yard are taking advantage of it. And remember, the LWF is here "conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."

Yours in conservation,

Terry L. Melancon  
President

defensive adults dive-bombing shoppers to warn them away from the chicks that sometimes end up falling off the roof to the ground. Store management is sensitive to the plight of the birds and does not want to harm them, but would like some help with the situation before a store patron is injured and a lawsuit is filed. I referred the matter to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and suggested that there may be an opportunity for LDWF to partner with Sears to do some research and come up with a win-win solution for both the terns and the store. That's just the kind of thing the State Wildlife Grants Program was intended to address - taking action to conserve species that are of conservation concern and that are not supported by other means of funding like game and endangered species are. LWF is collaborating with other National Wildlife Federation affiliates and state wildlife agencies in the region to build a constituency for this program and I will be reporting on that in an upcoming issue.

Another recent email asked where wood duck nest boxes could be purchased. We could not find a list of Louisiana retail and wholesale outlets for the boxes, so LWF is working with LDWF to develop one to post on the Internet. Then, conservationists who want to mount and maintain these effective aids to wood duck production on their property won't be discouraged by not knowing where to get them. You can help. If you know of an individual or business who sells wood duck nest boxes, please send me the name, location and phone number and we will add them to the list.

Something that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has been advocating for years is the publication of the case disposition records for violations of fish and wildlife conservation laws. Theoretically, a person interested in following a citation through the process would be able to access the record of cases filed by the LDWF Enforcement Division and, if a particular violation of interest was not prosecuted timely, could follow up with those responsible for the prosecution and judgment to learn the status of the case and urge action. A benefit of making this information available is more effective wildlife law enforcement because it adds transparency to the process. Such public scrutiny would make it more difficult for a citation to "fall through the cracks." The potential for misinterpretation of the records has been a deterrent to making this information conveniently accessible to the public.

New emphasis was given to this idea a few years ago when recreational and commercial fishing groups agreed that they had a common interest in insuring effective enforcement of conservation laws and that publication of case disposition reports would help. That consensus was an outcome of a task group created by SCR 107 authored by Senator Walter Boasso in an effort to review and revise fisheries laws and encourage cooperation and collaboration between user groups. Due to the hurricanes of 2005, the work of the "SCR 107 Committee," as we called it, was never completed. However, as a result the aforementioned consensus, leaders of the LDWF Enforcement Division agreed to explore the feasibility of posting a subset of case disposition records on the Department's website. After some additional prodding by LWF, this information is now posted on the LDWF website at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/publicservices/enforcement/crimeindex>. This is a work in progress and it is my understanding that the LDWF Enforcement Division welcomes feedback on how to make it more effective. To complement the information presented on the crime index page of the LDWF website, LWF intends to post a directory of contact information for the state's judicial districts on the LWF website to make it easier for conservationists to follow up on cases of interest.

Before signing off and welcoming new LWF members, I want to acknowledge the affiliation of the Black Bear Conservation Committee with the LWF. The BBCC is largely responsible for the progress being made in restoring the black bear population to the state and has been recognized locally and nationally for its conservation work. Also, LWF 1st VP Barney Callahan is the LWF's newest Life Member. Thanks, Barney for not only your leadership but your financial support as well.

Thanks and welcome also to the following new members of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

New Members (\$100 and up)

- Andrea's Restaurant, Metairie
  - Chef Andrea Apuzzo
- Elizabeth D. Baldridge, Prairieville
- Alton C. Beard, Slidell
- Walter J. Boasso, Chalmette
- Roland J. Bourgeois, MD, Metairie
  - Cardiovascular Specialists, Inc.
- Rene L. deBoisblanc, MD, Metairie
- Kirk Ebarb, Keithville
- Dee Geoghegan, Metairie
- Andrew A. Grezaffi, III,  
Saint Francisville

- Dr. Javier Nevarez, Baton Rouge
    - Wildlife Hospital of Louisiana
  - Robert J. "Rock" Reid, Lacombe
  - Pat Rieth, Gretna
    - Rieth Corporation
  - B. N. Roth, III, Thibodaux
  - Harry A. Trosclair, Metairie
  - John Van Vrancken, Metairie
    - The Balcony
  - Tyson Vandlandingham, Metairie
  - Sandra G. Wilson, Baton Rouge
- New Members (\$50 to \$99)

- Harold R. Christensen, Shreveport
- Ronald Coco, Moreauville
- Billy G. Davis, West Monroe
- Thomas J. Gayle, Lake Charles
- Joy E. Guy, Mansfield
- Arthur Hagar, Metairie
- Charles Hansen, Sulphur
- Leigh M. Harris, Baton Rouge
- Chris Henneman, Metairie
  - Henneman Design
- A. E. "Manny" Kaiser, Baton Rouge
  - Acme Refrigeration
- Colleen R. LaRocca, Metairie
- Hal A. LeBlanc, DDS, Norco
- Puanani M. Lindon, Lafayette
- Palmer Long, Jr., Shreveport
- John P. Miller, MD, Hammond
- Elizabeth L. Rankin, Shreveport
- Audrey Simpson, Gilliam
- Henry Soliberger, Slidell
  - Apple Janitorial Service
- Leo Terracina, Thibodaux
  - Keryl Dozer Service, Inc.
- Vincent Troxclair, Destrehan

New Members (to \$49)

- AdLab of Baton Rouge
- Arturo H. Aguilera, Miami, FL
- Gary C. Allen, Mandeville
- Chris Andrews, Baton Rouge
- Phillip Andrews, Hyde Park, MA
- Susan R. Andrews, Mandeville
- Arlen J. Authement, Grand Isle
- Roby Bearden, Jr., Baton Rouge
- Joan Bensel, Colfax
- Francis N. Bickham, Hammond
- Dewey Billodeau, New Iberia
- Wadean F. Bond, Haynesville
- Sylvia Bosma, Lacombe
- Calvin P. Boudreaux, Thibodaux
- Brent & Mary Bourgeois, Prairieville
- Gail Bridges, Haynesville
- Jim Brolin, Baton Rouge
- Claire Brown, Evergreen
- Premila Burns, Baton Rouge

Edward P. Burvant, Covington  
Roger Busbice, Morgan City  
Donna Caire, Abita Springs  
Bob Carlon, Lafayette  
Harry Carmouche, Saint Rose  
Alva Caster, Vinton  
James R. Catching, Monroe  
Leila Causbie, Morgan City  
Elsie M. Clark, Baton Rouge  
Eugene A. Coats, Springfield  
Patricia V. Coffman, Houma  
Betty L. Constans, Metairie  
Roland & Elizabeth Constantin, Houma  
Carol Corbat, Lecompte  
Dewey Lee S. Cornay, Lafayette  
Carl Couvillier, Montegut  
Milton E. Craddock, Pearl River  
Leonard & Sharon Crank, Maurepas  
Linda Creasey, Youngsville  
Diane Crump, Loranger  
- Loranger Elementary School  
Lynton D. Culpepper, Monroe  
R. M. Culver, Jr., Baton Rouge  
C. Bradley Currier, Baton Rouge  
Joseph Currier, Amite  
Samuel S. Danese, Slidell  
Frances G. Davis, Denham Springs  
Billy E. Dean, Westwego  
Janet Marie Decuir, Carencro  
Lana J. Dessauer, Folsom  
Annette Deville, Ville Platte  
Wanda Lee Dickey, River Ridge  
Danny M. Dobbs, Lafayette  
Tom Doll, Kenner  
Jacalyn Duncan, Boyce  
Daniel Dunlap, Lafayette  
Mitch Duplechan, Richardson, TX  
- T.R. Sinc  
Charles F. Dupuy, Marksville  
Jimmy Dusek, Plaquemine  
Janet Dyson, Baton Rouge  
Mark Ellermann, Slidell  
Stephen Evans, Winnsboro  
H. G. "Jerry" Fabre, Pierre Part  
David Farmer, Shreveport  
Barbara J. Fleischer, Metairie  
Thelma & Kevin Fleming, Slidell  
Lt. Col. Thomas H. Folse, APO AE  
Frank H. Ford, Jr., Shreveport  
Mary Lynelle Ford, PhD, Boyce  
Ronnie L. Frederick, Baton Rouge  
Betty C. Freeland, Crowley  
Nicholas J. Gagliano, Metairie  
William Gedge Gayle, Jr., Metairie  
Jerald W. Gibson, Denham Springs  
Billy Giddens, Natchitoches  
- Giddens Farms, LLC  
Richard L. Goodwin, Shreveport

Edward Grabowski, Sulphur  
Alfred B. Gremillion, Cadiz, KY  
Edward Guevara, Lacombe  
Eulin Guidry, Bourg  
Anna S. Ham, West Monroe  
Rebecca B. Haynie, Denham Springs  
Teresa C. Heaton, Baton Rouge  
Lee Hebert, Rayne  
William J. Heroman, Sr., Baton Rouge  
Robert Herzog, Baton Rouge  
Robert & Eva Higgins, Leesville  
Terrance Hoffpauir, Sulphur  
Jerald Horst, Franklinton  
William Humble, Calhoun  
Toni R. Hyde, Deville  
Frederick J. Jacob, Kenner  
Raymond Jacob, Jr., Covington  
David P. Jeffreys, Luling  
Bonnie Laborde Johnson, Metairie  
Rowena E. Jones, Shreveport  
Carla Jumonville, Baton Rouge  
Mary Bernice Kaack, Abita Springs  
Sister Aletheia Kane, Covington  
Janice W. Keener, Oscar  
Clifford King, Ferriday  
Robert B. Koelling, Madisonville  
Pamela L. Krennerich, Slidell  
Kary Lafleur, Ville Platte  
- Kary's Roux  
Geneva Landry, Terrytown  
Virginia Langland, Maringouin  
B. J. Lawson, West Monroe  
Mary Elizabeth Leathers, Houma  
Louis A. LeBlanc, Donaldsonville  
Grady & Lula Ann Lee, Monroe  
Joseph C. Lemoine, Natchitoches  
Robert D. Levenstein, New Orleans  
John B. Levert, Jr., New Orleans  
Diane Lewis, Mandeville  
Mary E. Lewis, Metairie  
- Bodywork Heaven, LLC  
Joy Loudon, Saint Francisville  
Mrs. Carole C. Madden, Shreveport  
Rita L. Magnuson, Metairie  
Dean L. Manning, DDS, Sulphur  
Marcella Manuel, Maurice  
- Professional Counseling Services  
Katy Marcantel, Mamou  
Ronald A. Martin, Shreveport  
Paul Matherne, Prairieville  
Jon W. Maxwell, Center Point, TX  
Jean Louise May, Boyce  
Gene P. Mayeux, Ponchatoula  
Carol & Jesse McDonald, Monroe  
Barbara S. McKinney, Rodessa  
Jim & Merrie McMahan, Metairie  
Joe L. Meyer, Baton Rouge  
Kathleen L. Miller, Ruston

Tresmer L. Miller, Iowa  
Donald J. Millet, New Iberia  
Steve Mintz, Monroe  
- Forsythe Avenue Beautification  
Adrian Moga, Metairie  
Patrick Murphy, Mandeville  
Wayne Naquin, Houma  
Herman Nash, Benton  
Bertha E. Nolde, Leesville  
David O'Brien, Baton Rouge  
Tommy Ory, Lafitte  
Fred Parker, Slidell  
Ronald Parrish, Hammond  
Jane Patterson, Baton Rouge  
William Penny, Oakdale  
Armand B. Pepperman, Jr., Metairie  
Claudia M. Perry, Lake Charles  
Michael Pfender, Bossier City  
Greg M. Poche, Reserve  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Poe, Alexandria  
Elizabeth Potts, Natchitoches  
Irving A. Pratt, Lafayette  
Jacques & Theresa Privat, Breaux Bridge  
Cyrus J. Provost, Morgan City  
Diana W. Puckett, Pollock  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Randall, Alexandria  
Julie M. Rauch-States, Kenner  
Linda Reboul, Geismar  
Christopher Reid, Baton Rouge  
Randall Rhodes, Robeline  
Dan M. Rider, Eunice  
Douglas Ritchie, Thibodaux  
Mike Ronich, New Brighton, MN  
Richard J. Roth, Thibodaux  
S. Joseph Salvaggio, Metairie  
- Salvaggio Contracting, Inc.  
Gary Sander, MD, Metairie  
Helga R. Sanders, Belle Chasse  
Willie Sayes, Pineville  
Katherine B. Scarpinato, Shreveport  
Mark Schexnayder, Metairie  
Ashley Scriber, New Orleans  
Lindsay Seely, Geysmer  
Ruby Segura, New Iberia  
Nancy Shaw, Ragley  
Ina Fleming Shirley, Baton Rouge  
Ronald J. Shultz, Metairie  
Charles J. Sill, Metairie  
John W. Sirman, Jr., Sulphur  
H. C. Sobon, Metairie  
Charles A. Songe, Gray  
L. J. St. Germain, Montz  
Truman Stacey, Lake Charles  
Dick T. Stalling, Natchitoches  
Shaw Stokes, Shreveport  
Karl Stumpff, Shreveport

# NWF Habitat Restoration Project Underway - Volunteers Wanted

Earlier this year the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), with additional support from Shell Oil, to recruit and deploy volunteers to do habitat restoration work on state and federal conservation lands in Louisiana that were damaged by the hurricanes of 2005. The project commenced in May with the hiring of a project coordinator and associate coordinator who are working out of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's office in Baton Rouge. The project is planned for a 12-month duration but may be extended to 18 months depending on site-specific needs and resources available. The project is recruiting volunteers from throughout the country. Volunteers from Louisiana will be needed to assist with orientation and hospitality as well as the specific habitat restoration work.

The grant request selected twelve federal and state conservation lands upon which to focus the initial effort: Bayou Sauvage, Big Branch and Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuges; the Barataria Unit of Jean Lafitte National Park; Rockefeller and Marsh Island State Wildlife Refuges; and Pass-a-Loutre, Pointe aux Chenes, Pearl River, Lake Ramsey and Sandy Hollow Wildlife Management Areas. More sites may be added as the project progresses. Restoration work needed on these lands include: removing trash and debris; Removing invasive plant species, such as Chinese tallow tree; re-vegetating damaged areas (forests, prairie, marsh) with habitat cover and food plants; planting vegetation on canal banks, levees, terraces and shorelines to stabilize and reduce erosion; installing nest boxes; collecting native plant seeds for the propagation of local ecotypes best suited to local conditions for use in restoration projects; conducting habitat and wildlife inventories.

Currently, project coordinators are consulting with the managers of the target conservation lands to identify and schedule specific projects, and recruiting volunteers to work on them. Some of the field work scheduled thus far is listed below. Visit the project website at <http://www.nwf.org/louisiana> to volunteer or learn more about the variety of vol-

unteer opportunities as they are added to the schedule. Questions about the project should be emailed to <mailto:louisianaproject@nwf.org> or directed to project coordinator Rebecca Triche or associate coordinator Jenny Reeverts at 225-346-4945.

**Activity:** Harvesting Louisiana Native Plant Seeds. **Dates:** August 17-18; Sept. 7-8; Sept. 21-22. **Location:** Several remnant coastal prairie sites on Hwy 165 and Hwy 90 near Jennings and Kinder (between Lafayette and Lake Charles, off I-10). **Description:** Volunteers needed to collect native Louisiana plant seeds at sites near Jennings, Welsh, Gueydan, Midland and/or Kinder. Seeds will be used for future coastal restoration projects to restore coastal habitat and regenerate food sources for wildlife. Volunteers will work in tall grass so we advise you to wear long pants and long sleeves. Orientation will include education on native plant identification. Plant knowledge a plus but not necessary. In case of inclement weather, volunteers will likely work with the seedling production process at a plant materials center in Lake Charles.

**Activity:** Installing Wood Duck Boxes at Big Branch Wildlife Refuge. **Date:** August. **Location:** Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge near Lacombe. **Description:** 4 volunteers needed for 3-4 days to install wood duck boxes in remote areas of Big Branch. Volunteers will travel by airboat in the refuge. To install the boxes, volunteers will drive posts into marsh and attach the nesting box to the post.

**Activity:** Repairing Bluebird boxes. **Date:** August. **Location:** Big Branch Refuge headquarters near Lacombe. **Description:** 4 volunteers needed to repair bluebird boxes for 1 or 2 days. Boxes are located at Refuge Headquarters near Lacombe. Boxes can be taken off-site, repaired elsewhere, and returned.

**Activity:** Installing Wood Duck Boxes at Bayou Sauvage. **Date:** August. **Location:** Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. **Description:** 4 volunteers needed for 1 day to install wood duck boxes in Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. Installation sites will be accessible via trails. To install the boxes, volunteers drive posts into marsh and attach the box to the post.

**Activity:** Debris Removal/Trail Maintenance at Bayou Sauvage. **Date:** August. **Location:** Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. **Description:** 2 - 4 volunteers needed for one day to do trail maintenance and debris removal in Bayou Sauvage at the Joe Madere Marsh and at Wayside Park.

**Activity:** Debris/Trash Removal in Bogue Chitto Refuge. **Date:** August. **Location:** Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge. **Description:** Up to 20 volunteers needed for 1 day to remove trash and debris at several locations within Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge.

**Activity:** Remove trash/debris at Big Branch Refuge. **Date:** September 15. **Location:** Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge near Lacombe. **Description:** Remove trash and debris along Lake Road. Held in conjunction with BeachSweep, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

**Activity:** Remove trash/debris at Bayou Sauvage Refuge. **Date:** September 15. **Location:** Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. **Description:** Remove Trash/debris at Hwy 11 boat launch and at Crabbing Bridge Road. Held in conjunction with BeachSweep, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

**Activity:** Invasive Species Removal. **Date:** Every week in September and October. **Location:** Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. **Description:** Up to 20 volunteers needed to help remove Chinese tallow in Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. Some areas may be accessible only by boat. Some areas will be partially blocked by downed trees and vines. Activities include applying herbicide and removing saplings. Orientation will be given to identify plants and removal is simple though labor intensive. Invasive species are gaining ground now that the native tree canopy has been severely reduced due to Hurricane Katrina. As native plants grow back, control of invasive species is important for recovery.

**Activity:** Invasive Species Removal. **Date:** Every week in September and October. **Location:** Sandy Hollow Wildlife Management Area (Northshore) near Amite. **Description:** Up to 10 volunteers needed to help remove Chinese tallow in Sandy

Hollow Wildlife Management Area. Activities include applying herbicide using a backpack sprayer and/or removing larger saplings. Orientation will be given to identify plants and removal is simple though labor intensive. Invasive species, such as cogongrass and Chinese Tallow, are gaining ground now that the long leaf pine tree canopy has been severely reduced due to Hurricane Katrina. As native plants grow back, control of invasive species is important for recovery.

Activity: Invasive Species Removal.  
Date: Every week in September and October. Location: Lake Ramsey Wildlife Management Area (Northshore) near Covington. Description: Up to 10 volunteers needed to help remove Chinese tallow in Lake Ramsey Wildlife Management Area. Activities include applying herbicide using a backpack sprayer and/or removing saplings. Orientation will be given to identify plants and removal is simple though labor intensive. Invasive species, such as cogongrass and Chinese Tallow, are gaining ground now that the mostly long leaf pine tree canopy has been severely reduced due to Hurricane Katrina. As native plants grow back, control of invasive species is important for recovery.

---

*Bears Den: Continued from page 27*

tional litters were discovered in 2006, and two more in 2007. All dens were located within the high priority areas identified in the HRPM. Historically, bear densities in the region were highest in bottomland hardwood forests of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV). Because of land drainage and clearing of bottomland hardwoods for agriculture in the LMAV, the original 24 million acres of these forests were reduced to less than 5 million acres by 1980. Many of these tracts proved to be too wet for profitable agricultural crop production. Although the amount of bottomland hardwood loss has stabilized since the early 1990s, habitat restoration is still crucial for bear recovery due to the highly fragmented nature of the remaining forests. Presently, 500-700 bears can be found in several relatively isolated breeding populations in the Tensas and Atchafalaya River Basins in Louisiana.

## State Wildlife Grants Program Nets Nearly \$1 Million

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is set to receive \$903,000 in 2007 through the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) Program. The funding was approved when President Bush signed into law a continuing resolution last February that will fund the SWG program at fiscal year 2006 levels for the rest of 2007. The federal funds come to LDWF through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Louisiana has received a little over \$5.5 million in funding since SWG became available in 2000.

SWG funds can be used to support research and programs directed toward wildlife species threatened by habitat changes. Emphasis is on species that are not supported by funds from other sources such as hunting, fishing and trapping license fees and federal programs such as the Endangered Species Act. The use of SWG funds are directed by Louisiana's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), approved by the USFWS in 2006.

In fiscal year 2007, the national SWG funding total will reach \$67.5 million. The 7-year national total for the SWG funding totals more than \$470 million.

In order to receive these funds, Congress mandated that each state devise a WAP by Oct. 1, 2005. Louisiana's WAP developed a blueprint for guiding LDWF in the development of management actions for Louisiana's fish and wildlife species with emphasis on species of conservation concern and associated habitats they depend upon. LDWF published Louisiana's approved WAP in February of 2006 and a complete copy can be found at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/wildlifeaction-plan/wildlifeplandetails](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/wildlifeaction-plan/wildlifeplandetails). The following are some examples of WAP projects funded through the SWG program:

Assessment of Henslow's Sparrow Abundance and Condition in Managed Savannas across Louisiana - This three-year project will evaluate habitat quality for the Henslow's sparrow with a total budget of \$98,165. The Henslow's sparrow is a grassland sparrow that has declined in abundance concurrent with reductions in longleaf pine forests. The study is determining how habitat quality and management (especially the reintroduction of fire into historically fire-regulated pine habitats) affects Henslow's sparrows and intends to derive management recommendations that will benefit

Henslow's sparrows and other species that depend on these habitats.

Fisheries Inventory of Louisiana's Major Rivers - This two-year project is nearing completion and is part of baseline data gathering for management of Louisiana's inland fisheries with a total budget of \$150,000. This information will help determine the health of the river systems, define routes used by invasive species to expand their range and establish the distribution of rare and unique species. LDWF is inventorying the fish assemblages in the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, Red, Black, Sabine, Ouachita, Mermentau and Calcasieu River basins. Sampling methods within rivers includes electrofishing and nets of various designs. Water quality parameters measured include dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and temperature at the surface and at the bottom.

Locating Sandhill Woodlands & Saline Prairie Habitat - This one-year project has recently been completed with a total budget of \$7,000. The study's objective was to document locations of these two globally threatened habitat types in Louisiana. These habitats support 18 species of conservation concern including the Louisiana pine snake and the western glass lizard. The LDWF Natural Heritage Program has been utilizing existing mapping data, GIS technology and field surveys to locate the surviving habitat localities. The Natural Heritage Program is using the results of this project to develop and implement strategies to protect and conserve these habitats, and the species they support.

---

*Conservation Line: Continued from page 35*

chase and donation, protecting a total of 2,530 acres of habitat adjacent to Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain. Both project parcels contain open swamp with patches of bottomland cypress/tupelo forested areas, and will serve to link the Maurepas Swamp and Joyce/Manchac Wildlife Management Areas. Lake Maurepas is a freshwater system, while Lake Pontchartrain is brackish; safeguarding the wetland ecosystems between and around them is crucial to maintaining each lake's unique hydrology and resources.

# Deer Telemetry Study Supported by Bayou State Bowhunters, Acadiana Sportsmen's League and Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation

Purple Gallinule: Continued from page 28

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Louisiana State University (LSU) recently received \$3,000 in donations from the Bayou State Bowhunters Association, Acadiana Sportsmen's League (ASL) and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF) to help purchase equipment and supplies for a new deer telemetry project that started in the fall of 2006. The project is titled "Population Characteristics of a White-tailed Deer Herd in a Bottomland Hardwood Forest of South-central Louisiana." BSBA donated \$1,000 and ASL donated \$500 to the LWFF for the deer telemetry study and the LWFF matched those contributions. Donations for research supplies are still needed. Any person or organization interested in contributing financially to the project should contact Scott Durham, LDWF Deer Program Manager, at 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 or by phone at 225-765-2351.

The BSBA, and affiliate of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, was formed in 1992 by a group of bow hunters to foster, expand, strengthen and develop the sport of bow hunting and bow fishing in Louisiana. One of the many objectives of the organization is to coordinate and cooperate with state and federal wildlife agencies and conservation organizations in the acquisition of wildlife habitats for the improvement of game conservation and bow hunting opportunities. For information on becoming a member of BSBA, visit their Web site at <http://www.bayoustatebowhunters.org>.

The ASL is a local non-profit affiliate of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation that meets on the first Thursday of every month in either Rayne or Crowley. The organization encourages outdoor education and conservation by supporting LDWF with their Hunter Education Program and Operation Game Thief. ASL members who are certified hunter education instructors teach 12 hunter education classes per year, certifying nearly 200 hunters annually. For information on becoming a member of ASL, visit

their Web site at <http://www.acadianasportsmen.org> or call 337-781-3919.

The LWFF mission is to enhance and encourage public enjoyment and use of the wildlife and fisheries resources of Louisiana. It raises private funds and serves as a fiscal agent to promote, develop, expand and improve the facilities of the LDWF and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The foundation accepts tax-deductible donations from individuals and corporations that help contribute to outdoor programs and insure that future generations will have access to quality outdoor recreational experiences. For information about the LWFF, please visit [http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/aboutldwf/fisheries\\_foundation](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/aboutldwf/fisheries_foundation).

A. Wilbert's Sons L.L.C. is the primary landowner and cooperator for the deer study and is also providing technical, logistical and housing support for the researchers. Michael J. Chamberlain, Ph.D., representing the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources, is directing the research. The primary objectives of the study are to assess range and movements of male and female white-tailed deer, evaluate age and sex-specific harvest rates of white-tailed deer and evaluate survival and causes of death among male and female white-tailed deer. Researchers are conducting the study on approximately 40,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest located west of Baton Rouge and east of the Atchafalaya Basin. The study area is currently leased to more than 30 private hunting clubs, and each club belongs to a cooperative that promotes quality deer management on the property.

White-tailed deer are an important economic and recreational resource across their entire range. In Louisiana and other southeastern states, land managers are choosing strategies geared toward developing quality deer herds. Because this management regime involves restricting harvest of younger-age-class bucks and increasing the harvest of females to lower herd density, substantial interest exists in understanding the effects of quality deer management on population characteristics.

number of eggs in a nest is about six. Mollusks, crawfish, insects and their larvae are fed to the gallinule chicks for two to four days after they hatch; the chicks are able to feed themselves by 21 days of age. The fledglings are generally capable of short flight at seven weeks.

Adult purple gallinules undergo a molt in late summer and are unable to fly for about four weeks until the flight feathers grow back. At time of molting, the plumage and bill becomes dull which makes it difficult to distinguish molting adults from fully-developed juveniles in the fall.

Purple gallinules feed mostly on annual grass and sedge seeds, floating and submerged vegetation seeds, water hyacinth flowers and domestic rice grains. They also eat aquatic insects and their larvae including dragonflies.

Deep water, fresh to brackish marshes, lakes and coastal impoundments with stable water levels and dense, varied vegetation provides the best habitat for purple gallinules. Nests are built either on floating vegetative mats or in emergent vegetation such as cattail and cut grass. Purple gallinules seldom use open water areas which have no floating vegetation. Rice fields are also good nesting sites because they provide a dependable source of food, cover and water.

There is no reliable method to estimate purple gallinule harvest or the number of hunters who target them. The number of gallinule hunters is small compared to the total number of small game and other migratory bird hunters; the difficulty hunters have distinguishing between common moorhens and purple gallinules further complicates harvest estimates. Also, some surveys combine purple gallinules and common moorhens and consider them as the same bird. Despite liberal hunting regulations recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, purple gallinule harvest is probably low due to low hunter interest and the secretive nature of the species. Harvest will probably remain low because most of the birds migrate south prior to the late fall and winter hunting seasons when most hunters are afield.

*Story courtesy LDWF*

## Grassland Restoration Effort

A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the State Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that will assist landowners in restoring Louisiana's grassland wildlife habitat. Loss of grassland habitat is one of the leading causes for the decline of several once common species of wildlife including bobwhite quail and Eastern meadowlarks and has occurred across Louisiana, particularly in the coastal prairie and longleaf pine ecosystems. Specialized equipment is needed to plant native grasses and wildflowers. The no-till grassland drills purchased for this project are specialized agricultural implements designed to plant the delicate native grass seed. LDWF will be providing the grassland drills and the State Association of RC&D Councils has agreed to rent the drills to landowners across the state. NRCS will provide on-farm technical assistance with drill operation and planning seed mixtures and establishment techniques associated with the work. Funding for the project was provided by the LDWF (Wildlife and Natural Heritage Trust), the La. Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Northwest La. Chapter of Quail Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (State Wildlife Grants Program).

## Boating Instructor Certification Courses Available

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is committed to making Louisiana boaters safe, knowledgeable and responsible. LDWF's Enforcement Division is currently offering a one-day Boating Education Instructor Certification Course to persons interested in becoming certified boating education instructors. Organizations or governmental agencies with public safety responsibilities can request courses for groups or staff members. All persons born after Jan. 1, 1988, must successfully complete a boating safety course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) prior to operating a motorboat powered by a motor in excess of 10 horsepower. Participants in the one-day course receive instruction on presentation techniques, organization of topics, NASBLA standards, policy and procedure and details of the "Boat Louisiana" course. Anyone

interested in becoming a boating education certified instructor will be required to submit an application and pass a criminal background check. Applicants must have already successfully completed a U.S. Coast Guard or NASBLA-approved boating education course. For more information on becoming a certified boat education instructor, contact Sgt. Rachel M. Zechenelly at LDWF's Baton Rouge Headquarters, <mailto:rzechenelly@wlf.louisiana.gov> or 225-765-2984.

## White Lake Teal Hunt Lottery

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is accepting applications for lottery teal hunts on the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area. Available dates are Saturday, Sept. 15; Sunday, Sept. 16; Tuesday, Sept. 18; Thursday, Sept. 20; Saturday, Sept. 22; Sunday, Sept. 23; Wednesday, Sept. 26; Saturday, Sept. 29; and Sunday, Sept. 30. A total of three applications per hunter, each one for separate dates, will be accepted. Hunters will not be allowed to submit more than one application per hunting date or more than three applications for the season, or they will be disqualified.

Persons 18 years of age or older may now send applications, available on the LDWF Web site ([www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov)) and at LDWF headquarters, to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Attention: White Lake Teal Hunt, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898. Applications must be received by close of business on Aug. 17, 2007. A \$5 administration fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must accompany each application. Applications without a correct driver's license number will not be processed. Successful applicants will be allowed to bring no more than one guest. All hunters must have appropriate licenses, including a basic hunting license (or Louisiana Sportsman's Paradise license), migratory waterfowl conservation license, federal duck stamp, HIP permit and WMA Permit. Successful applicants will be notified and required to submit an additional check or money order for \$200. In the event that a hunter is unable to participate on the date selected, he or she may transfer his or her permit to a qualified hunter of his or her choice, as long as the total number of hunts does not exceed three for the 2007 teal season. Transfers must be in writing and pre-

sented to the hunt coordinator on the morning of the hunt. Questions regarding the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area lottery teal hunt should be directed to Wayne Sweeny at 337-479-1894.

## LDWF Recognizes SCWDS Founding Member

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) honored Joe L. Herring for his participation in developing the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS), an organization founded in 1957 to investigate deer disease in the southeast states. LDWF Wildlife Division Administrator David Moreland presented the award at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's regular monthly meeting on April 5. Originally founded as the Southeastern Cooperative Deer Disease Study, the organization changed its name and mission in 1961 to include all wildlife diseases. Centered in Athens, Ga., SCWDS serves the southeastern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia as well as Kansas, Ohio and Puerto Rico. In a recent Louisiana Conservationist article written to acknowledge the 50 years of service to the wildlife community provided by SCWDS, Moreland stated that the organization has served a vital function that has earned it a reputation for excellence in wildlife disease research that extends far beyond U.S. borders. Herring, Former Game Division chief and agency secretary, served on the steering committee for the original study and as chairman during the 1961 reorganization. He continues to be active in wildlife issues today as a private consultant and leader of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

## Endangered Species Info Now on LDWF Website

New facts sheets on rare and endangered species are now available on the LDWF Web site. The new Natural Heritage Program web file can be accessed at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage/g1andg2elements>. The information was provided at the request of the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) to offer a central information source for LFA members and the general public on rare and endangered

wildlife. It is particularly useful to LFA members participating in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The LFA, the largest forest landowner association in the state, is the sponsoring organization for the SFI program that involves all the major forest product companies in the state. This recognized certification system involves a set of principles, objectives and performance measures developed by professional foresters, conservationists and scientists to assure the continuous growth and harvest of trees and the long-term protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality. The SFI standard includes protection of endangered species and communities ranked as G1 and G2 species and communities by NatureServe, with G1 being the most endangered and G5 the most stable. The fact sheets generally include a species description, G1 or G2 species or community designation, threats to survival, beneficial management practices, pictures and region where the species is found within the state. According to LFA Executive Director Buck Vandersteen, the LFA is committed to the practice of sustainable forestry and its members have a responsibility to manage forests in a way that will provide places to hunt, fish, camp and experience wildlife for future generations.”

### Recreational Harvest of Paddlefish Allowed

It is once again legal to recreationally harvest paddlefish, sometimes referred to as spoonbill catfish, from many of Louisiana’s waters. Similar to a catfish, the spoonbill has no scales. However, it is easily distinguishable by its rostrum, the paddle that makes up the first third of its body. Some anglers claim the flesh of paddlefish is a delicacy, while others question its palatability. The paddlefish has been protected from both sport and commercial harvest since 1992 to protect it from over harvest. At that time, LDWF had little information on the population status. Since 1992, the department has investigated its numbers and established artificial spawning techniques. “We feel the limited harvest of paddlefish, one that does not include the taking of mature females, will provide anglers with an opportunity to harvest a unique fish,” said LDWF Inland Fisheries Administrator Gary Tilyou. Properly licensed recreational fishermen using legal recreational gear may take paddlefish. For a list of legal gear types please refer to the department’s 2007 Recreational Fishing Regulations pamphlet or to [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov). No person shall

take or possess paddlefish in violation of any of the following provisions: a. Area - The taking or possession of paddlefish is closed in all saltwater areas of the state and in border waters shared with Texas; b. All possessed paddlefish must be dead and the possession or transportation of live paddlefish is prohibited; c. All paddlefish possessed on the waters of the state shall be maintained intact; d. No persons shall possess paddlefish eggs on the waters of the state which are not fully attached to the fish; e. The daily take and possession limit of paddlefish is two per person; f. Maximum size limit - All paddlefish greater than 30 inches (lower jaw fork length) must be returned to the water immediately (Lower jaw fork length is the distance from the tip of the lower jaw to the mid-line of the caudal fin. For a picture depicting this, please refer to the LDWF fishing pamphlet.). The commercial take and possession of paddlefish will remain prohibited. No person shall purchase, sell, barter, exchange or trade or attempt to purchase, sell, barter or trade paddlefish, their eggs or parts thereof.

### Latest Nutria Incentive Program Results

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) annual Coastwide Nutria Control Program concluded its 2006-07 season on March 31, 2007 with 365 participants having harvested 375,683 nutria. The harvest began on the first day of trapping season, Nov. 20, 2006. The goal of the program, funded by the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act, is to reduce or eliminate damage to Louisiana’s wetlands caused by nutria by increasing the annual harvest to 400,000 nutria. Registered participants received a \$5 incentive for each nutria tail brought to official collection locations along Louisiana’s coast. The program area is bounded on the north by Interstate 10 from the Texas line to Baton Rouge, Interstate 12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and I-10 from Slidell to the Mississippi line. Licensed trappers harvested 206,840 more nutria than last year, bringing the total within 25,000 nutria of the annual goal. The majority of nutria harvested this year were in the south central portion of the state. The highest harvest occurred in St. Martin Parish with 113,629 nutria, followed by Terrebonne Parish with 99,433 nutria. St. Mary (34,693 nutria), Lafourche (28,038 nutria) and Iberia (18,910 nutria) parishes also contributed significant harvests. LDWF assess-

es the amount and severity of the nutria damage for 2007 during aerial surveys conducted in April and May. A final report on the 2006-07 incentive program and aerial surveys will be available in July at the following Web sites: <http://www.nutria.com> and <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov>. Information was collected from each participant to determine the method of take, carcass use, and harvest date and location. This information along with the harvest maps and aerial survey data is used to track the progress of the program.

### Maurepas Swamp WMA to Expand

U.S. Representative Charlie Melancon announced that a \$3,045,000 private grant and a matching federal grant will be distributed to Louisiana for a wetlands restoration project in St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa Parishes. Using \$2,095,000 from the R.K. Mellon Foundation and a \$950,000 matching federal grant, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will acquire two privately-owned parcels of land to add a total of 2,530 acres of protected habitat to the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area adjacent to Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain.

“These grants to protect the wetlands around Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain could not have come at a better time, as development in St. John has exploded since the storms of 2005,” said Rep. Melancon. “While rapid commercial and residential development has been a boon for St. John’s economy, we must work quickly to protect the valuable wetlands in the parish that are part of Louisiana’s natural beauty and uniqueness. My goal is to protect not only the people of south Louisiana, but also the environment in which they live and work. I will continue supporting legislation that promotes the conservation of our natural habitats, while encouraging smart growth and development.”

The R.K. Mellon Foundation previously donated 62,500 acres of bald cypress/tupelo wetlands to the state of Louisiana for the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area, which became an important conservation “anchor” on the southern side of Lake Maurepas and inspired additional land conservation. These grants will allow the LDWF to acquire Salmen Corporation’s 930-acre parcel and Rogers Land Corporation’s 1,600-acre parcel through a combination of fee simple pur-

*Continued on page 33*

# Black Bear Cub Back Home in the Wild

The black bear cub found near starvation last November in St. Mary Parish has been fully rehabilitated by Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR) in Tennessee and returned to the wild in the Red River Wildlife Management Area. The cub weighed 15 pounds when captured, which is well outside of the 30-to-50 pound range the then 10-to-11-month-old bear should have reached. At release, the cub weighed around 190 pounds thanks to a healthy diet at the ABR center.

"The bear has returned to Louisiana a lot healthier than when he got here. We started him out on a commercial formula and yogurts. Then went to a more normal diet of lettuce, pecans and apples," ABR Curator Lisa Stewart said. "The last month or so we fed him a lot of food that is found more readily in the release area such as a lot of greens and corn."

LDWF Wildlife Biologist Maria Davidson transported the cub

fence. ABR has released 78 bears back into the wild without any being reported as a nuisance by the public. Their goal is to make sure bears are wary of humans.

"ABR does a great job of rehabilitating bears for release back into the wild," Davidson said. "I fully expect this cub to live a long life and to exhibit normal bear behavior."

Arlen Carter, of Franklin, first notified LDWF after he observed the cub in his hunting area while in a deer stand overlooking a food plot at 8:15 a.m. on Nov. 14. "I watched the cub and waited for his mother to arrive," Carter said. "After 30 minutes, I came to the conclusion that the cub was alone and called LDWF authorities." Carter said he has hunted this same area for the last four years and has seen quite a few bears, some coming within yards of his deer stand.

"Situations like this are extremely rare and hunters should not



*Looking a little bewildered, this black bear cub is fat and happy to be back home in Louisiana. Photo courtesy LDWF.*

back to Louisiana on April 24. The cub was immobilized for tagging and data collection prior to his trip home to Louisiana. Davidson said the Red River WMA was chosen as the release point because LDWF is establishing a new population in the area and trying to introduce some coastal bear genetics into the population.

"It was satisfying to be able to reintroduce this cub to the Louisiana landscape where it belongs," Davidson said. "The Louisiana black bear is a threatened species, so each one we save is special."

The cub received minimum human contact while at the ABR center living in a 12-foot diameter circular enclosure that included a den like setting while it was in the semi hibernation phase of the year. The cub also had to forage for its own food that was tossed over the

assume bear cubs seen without a female nearby are orphans," said Davidson. "This cub was very small, undernourished and near starvation, which prompted the decision to capture him. Had he been in good health, he would have been left in the area." Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Technician Tim Marcentel from LDWF's New Iberia office, along with student worker Brent Castille and WMA Technician Guy Patout, retrieved the cub later that day. According to Davidson, the cub had been trying to subsist on sugar cane stubble left in a harvested field. Following the capture, the young bear was then transported to Baton Rouge, given emergency care and nourishment and then transferred to the ABR Center.

The Louisiana black bear is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. *Story courtesy of LDWF.*

*Ole Tibby*



Bonjour, Mes Amis.

Nowadays we are reading more about the weather in different areas and extreme events, like the flooding in Texas. Global warming is becoming more recognized as something to be concerned about and a subject that the Wildlife Federation, and others have been discussing, predicting and studying. Polar bears know it. The sea ice where they hunt seals is shrinking. The past few summers in Louisiana have been among the warmest on record even though it's been cooler so far this year. I am not a biologist or a reporter, BUT, as they have said, turn off the electricity when not in use, the water, and all the utilities not presently used or needed. The old saying, "every little bit helps" is true. My kids tease me about that. That's O.K. I will keep reminding them. A nickel saved is earned and helps to keep the climate and earth clean. Unplugging computers, tools and appliances when not in use saves more electricity than just turning the switch off. Not enough people are recycling.

Remember, let's save all we can for the benefit of our future generation, the kids and theirs. It is already bad enough.

The salt water encroachment from Hurricane Rita has kept rice and other crops from growing in Southwest Louisiana and some of my hunting friends did not do very well hunting waterfowl in that area during the past season. The rains we have been having should help wash out some of that salt.

Chuck Smith invited me to a activity Ducks Unlimited activity recently but I had to decline due to I was not feeling well. No fun being old. I sure missed going to the LWF convention in Gonzales; it is a different world for me now.

I enjoy it when my old friends visit me, and really appreciate it. Stop by with your fish stories and let me know how your summer is going.

Bonne Peche,

Tibby

*NOTE: Tibby, turns 90 years young this August! The Thibodeauxs will be hosting a big birthday party on August 5, 2007. If you would like to join in the fun, email Tibby's granddaughter at <mailto:jaimethib@hotmail.com> OR, contact the Louisiana Wildlife Federation office (P.O. Box 65239, Baton Rouge, LA 70896; 225-344-6707). Send us your Tibby stories and photographs to be used in a Tibby memorabilia collection. Thanks.*

## AFFILIATE CLUBS

### DISTRICT 1

### DISTRICT 2

Jefferson Rod and Gun Club  
Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

### DISTRICT 3

Iberia Rod and Gun Club

### DISTRICT 4

### 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  
Hunters for Hardwoods  
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

## HELP WANTED!

The LWF Conservation Education Committee organizes LWF's participation at various events around the state like the annual Earth Day celebration, National Hunting and Fishing Day, National Wildlife Refuge Day, fairs, festivals, outdoor shows and other opportunities to educate the public about wildlife and conservation. The general theme of the LWF exhibit is "Nature in Your Neighborhood." To be able to participate in as many opportunities as possible, LWF needs members from throughout the state to assist in preparing and staffing the exhibit at events in their area. No experience necessary. Training and materials will be provided to you. Teachers, retired persons or any member just wanting to be a part of our mission, please <mailto:lwf@lawildlifefed.org> or call 225-344-6707 to be placed on our roster. We will get back in touch with you. Thanks for stepping up to help out.

# LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Your investment in "Conserving our natural resources  
and the right to enjoy them."



LOUISIANA  
**Wildlife**  
FEDERATION

- HOME
- ABOUT LWF
- WHAT WE DO
- JOIN LWF
- CONTACT US



"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](mailto: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](#)



Nature Online  
**Field Guide**  
see animals from your  
local area...

signup for our  
**free newsletter!**  
click here to receive  
periodic news & updates...

### MORE NEWS

09/15/05

Louisiana WILDLIFE  
Federation magazine

Please enroll me as a member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Visit our web site at [www.lawildlifefed.org](http://www.lawildlifefed.org) where you can join online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Check preferred member category below, attach your payment, and mail to:

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

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

All levels of membership include a subscription to *Louisiana WILDLIFE Federation* magazine.



Three million acres of one of the world's largest, most productive wetland estuaries.

## Lost?



America's WETLAND is home to many of our nation's threatened and endangered species. Every 30 minutes, on average, coastal Louisiana loses the equivalent of a football field of land.

If you don't think this affects you...think again.

You can help ensure the future of America's WETLAND, a valuable landscape extending along Louisiana's coast, so there are no additions to the endangered species list. You can help stop the loss. Join America's WETLAND: Campaign to Save Coastal Louisiana before we all lose.



For more information, call 1.866.4WETLAND or visit [www.americaswetland.com](http://www.americaswetland.com)