



# Louisiana Natural Resources News

Newsletter of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists

June, 2009



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## **Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists Executive Board**

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## **Brief Announcements**

-Rapides Wildlife Association lost access to a website - but now has a place on facebook under "Rapides Wildlife Association - Louisiana".

-La. Sea Grant posts several articles monthly, written by agents and specialists on a variety of natural resource subjects. They can be viewed at:  
<http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/resources/index.html>

## **Comments from the LAPB President**

*Mike Carloss, LDWF, LAPB President*

Some of you have probably recognized that this is the first LAPB newsletter of 2009. So we're a bit behind, but I believe we have several good excuses, as you will find out more of the details in the contents of this newsletter. First off, the Executive Committee is pleased to announce the official startup of the LAPB website. I want to personally thank Mark Parr (GCJV) for all of his help with this. We could not have done it without him, and I think you will all be pleased with it. Another new item for LAPB, is the announcement of a student scholarship (see website for application form). And finally the announcement for a logo contest that will enable active members to compete for a monetary prize in the attempt to develop an LAPB logo. There's not much time for this, so please check out the details enclosed. Our goal is to present this in August at the symposium. Here's wishing you a good summer and looking forward to seeing you at the Fall Symposium.

## **LAPB FALL SYMPOSIUM DATES SET**

*Dr. Kim Marie Tolson, ULM, LAPB President Elect*

Dates for the 2009 Fall Symposium have been set for August 13 and 14. Once again we will be meeting at the NOAA Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries center in Lafayette, LA. Oral presentations on recent natural resources research relevant to Louisiana will be given by university students from across the state on Thursday morning and continue through Thursday afternoon. These presentations will be 15 or 20 minutes in length, depending on the number of abstracts received. The LAPB Fall Business Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the day's speakers. Thursday night is the organization's Social and Dinner that is highlighted by the presentation of student and publication awards.

Friday morning begins with poster presentations from university students and professional biologists. Many members of LAPB are engaged in research and professional development. We encourage you to participate with a poster presentation on Friday morning. All posters should be no larger than 42" x 42". Boards for mounting will be provided. We would like for all posters to be displayed on Thursday with the dedicated poster session and judging to take place on Friday morning.

A special **Focus Session** will follow the poster session on Friday morning. The special session will focus on **Invasive Exotic Species in Louisiana** and should

be of interest to all attendees, as it covers both terrestrial and aquatic species and their impact on Louisiana's natural resources.

A "Call for Abstracts" will be issued in July. Please help by identifying students who could present their research at this symposium and by forwarding them the information. Remind them that there are cash awards for the best oral presentation and best poster presentation as well as free meeting registration for all student presenters. Presentations will be judged on scientific merit and quality of presentation.

Registration is at the door and costs \$10.00 for annual membership, \$10.00 for the Symposium, plus an additional fee for the social and supper. Mark the dates of August 13 and 14 on your calendar and make plans to join us in Lafayette for two days of professional development. A tentative symposium schedule is listed below. For more information please contact Kim Marie Tolson, LAPB President-Elect at (318)342-1805 or [Tolson@ulm.edu](mailto:Tolson@ulm.edu).

Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 AM            | Registration begins   |
| 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Student Oral Presentations (Sessions 1 & 2)                                 |
| 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Lunch on your own   |
| 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  | Student Oral Presentations (Sessions 3 & 4)                                 |
| 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM  | LAPB Fall Business Meeting  |
| 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM  | Evening Social, Student Oral Presentation and Publication Awards and Supper |

Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 AM – 9:45 AM   | Poster Session, Students and Professionals      |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Professional Focus Session                      |
| 12:00 PM – 12:15 PM | Presentation of Poster Award – Closing Comments |

## **Announcing LAPB Website**

*Mark Parr, USFWS/Gulf Coast JV*

The LAPB is proud to announce the forthcoming launch of its new website! Please visit <http://www.labiologists.org> near the end of this month. The new website will include the current LAPB Newsletter as well as back issues, info on award recipients, a searchable membership database, and the Spotlight, where each month a different LAPB is spotlighted. Additional content includes application forms for new members and student scholarships, meeting notices, notes from the president, and other items. Please visit the site in a few weeks and let us know what you think on the feedback form!

## LAPB Logo Design Contest Announcement

*Cassidy Lejeune, LDWF*

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists currently does not have a logo or emblem that distinguishes the organization and provides for immediate visual recognition. As a result, the LAPB Executive Committee would like to officially invite all active members (including lifetime members, members who have paid annual dues, and student members) to participate in the 2009 LAPB logo design contest. You can submit as many designs as you like, and any member with a great idea is encouraged to submit it regardless of their ability to render a final version. The contest is fairly unrestricted. Below are a few guidelines:

- Logos should include accompanying name (Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists or LAPB)
- Logos can be submitted in any electronic format (.gif, .pdf, .jpg. etc.). However, a higher quality .jpg with adequate resolution is preferred.
- Scanned copies of hand drawings will be accepted
- File sizes less than 5MB are preferred to allow for easy email distribution
- Please attempt to incorporate the diversity of LAPB members and Louisiana's natural resources. The logo should have mass appeal.
- Logos must be submitted to Michael Carloss ([mcarloss@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:mcarloss@wlf.louisiana.gov)) by **July 31, 2009**

The Executive Committee will rank all entries and select a first place and runner up logo. The prize for the WINNING design will be \$200.00. The designer of the runner up logo will receive \$100.00. The winning logo will be unveiled at the 2009 LAPB Fall Symposium and will be used with future LAPB correspondence and on the website.

## CALL FOR LAPB PUBLICATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS

LAPB honors outstanding publications in Wildlife, Fisheries, General Conservation and Popular categories. Eligible publications must have been published in 2008 or 2009 and at least one author must be an LAPB member. Recipients will be announced at the LAPB Fall Symposium in August. Deadline for submission is 31 July 2009, and should be sent to [mcarloss@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:mcarloss@wlf.louisiana.gov). For more details please contact Mike Carloss at the email listed above.

## LAPB Student Scholarship

LAPB is pleased to announce the LA Association of Professional Biologists Scholarship. This is a competitive scholarship that awards \$500.00 annually to a student(s) pursuing or planning to pursue college studies in the following curriculums: **Wildlife or Fisheries Management, Forestry, Wetland Science, Marine Biology, or other closely related field.** Applications will be available on the new LAPB website [<http://www.labiologists.org>], and applications for the Fall 2009/Spring 2010 school year will be accepted until July 31<sup>st</sup> and may be mailed or e-mailed to:

Tony Vidrine, Chairman, Scholarship Committee  
5652 Hwy. 182, Opelousas, LA 70570  
[tvidrine@wlf.la.gov](mailto:tvidrine@wlf.la.gov)

## Native Grassland Workshop

*Fred Kimmel, LDWF*

In many parts of the nation, the use of native grasses and forbs in filter strips, field borders, and pastures is a common practice. However, in Louisiana, the use of natives has been slow to be accepted. One reason for this is a lack of familiarity with native grassland vegetation establishment by natural resource professionals.

In an effort to address this obstacle to native grassland establishment, the Acadiana Resource and Development (RC&D) Council conducted a workshop for natural resource professionals in April. Over 30 conservation professionals were in attendance. The workshop covered the history of native grasslands in Louisiana, uses of native grassland plantings, and conservation values of native grassland vegetation. Participants learned about developing seed mixes, site preparation, and planting techniques for native grassland stands.



Morris Houck, NRCS, explains proper seedbed preparation for planting native grassland species.  
*Photo credit: Scott Edwards, NRCS*

This workshop was part of the Acadiana Grassland Restoration Initiative (AGRI). The AGRI represents an effort to “jumpstart” grassland establishment efforts by providing training to natural resource professionals, establishment of demonstration areas on working farms, and offering grassland establishment services to landowners. The AGRI is funded by the State Wildlife Grants Program, the Acadiana RC&D Council, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Atchafalaya Region Chapter of Quail Forever.

Another native grassland workshop is tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2009. For information regarding the workshop or the AGRI, contact Scott Edwards ([scott.edwards@la.usda.gov](mailto:scott.edwards@la.usda.gov)) or Fred Kimmel ([fkimmel@wlf.la.gov](mailto:fkimmel@wlf.la.gov)).

## **LAPB Treasurer Recognized by LWF**

*Kristen Lemoine, NRCS*

While on detail serving as acting National Wildlife Biologist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Washington D.C., John Pitre (long time LAPB Treasurer) was notified he was selected for the *2008 Professional Conservationist of the Year* in the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Governor’s Conservation Achievement Recognition Program conducted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Pitre stated, “I feel very honored and appreciative to receive such a notable award.” This acknowledgment is presented to an individual for his/her outstanding contributions to the wise use and management of Louisiana’s natural resources. Among several accomplishments throughout the year, Pitre was instrumental in helping to host the 2008 Southeast Quail Study Group meeting, implementing the LA Longleaf Pine Initiative, and providing environmental recommendations for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. He provided technical specifications for the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Program projects and the proposed Grassland Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and assisted in the associated outreach efforts. Pitre also served as instructor for private landowner wildlife workshops, partner agency trainings, and grassland wildlife field days. In addition to these commendable efforts, Pitre is also an active supporting member of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, LA Prescribed Fire Council, Quail and Grassland Bird Task Force, and the ArkLaMiss Wildlife Group. He also serves on the NRCS Plant Materials and Golden Meadow Plant Material Center Advisory Committees, is Vice Chairman for Gulf Coast Joint Venture Management Board, and has been the LA Association of Professional Biologists Treasurer since 1999.

Pitre was invited to receive his award, along with other award winners at the Federation's 70<sup>th</sup> annual convention, which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Monroe on February 28, 2009. Louisiana Wildlife Federation President, Barney Callahan, and National Wetlands Research Center Director, Greg Smith, presented Pitre with a statuette of an American Bison. Joining him at his table were his wife, Francine; their youngest son, Lance; retired NRCS Wildlife Biologist, Marty Floyd; LSU Ag Center Vice Chancellor and Director-Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Paul Coreil and NRCS State Conservationist, Kevin Norton.



## **LDWF Wildlife Division Banding and Surveys Providing Results**

*Mike Olinde, LDWF*

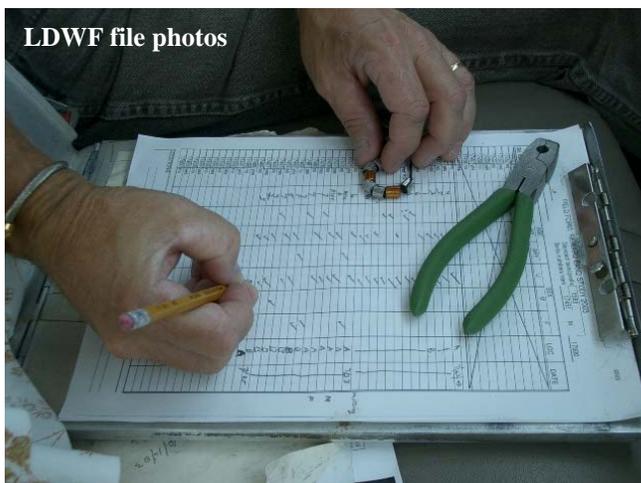
It's the summertime, and the living is easy, or perhaps *fowl*, for many of Wildlife Division's personnel... Last year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) granted Louisiana hunters, as well as those across the eastern half of the United States, additional hunting opportunities in the form of an increased bag limit for wood ducks and additional days of hunting for mourning doves with a 15-bird bag limit. This did not happen overnight. The process took the better part of 2 decades for both of these species.

Although wood duck banding in Louisiana began much more than 20 years ago, it wasn't until about that time that a vision of obtaining a 3<sup>rd</sup> wood duck in the daily bag arrived. For many years, Louisiana led the South in its banding efforts. In fact, it was practically the only southern effort! Wildlife Division personnel traditionally band adult hens in nest boxes during the late spring and early summer and juveniles and adults of both sexes during the fall. Although much information about the ecology of wood ducks in the south comes from nest box banding, the additional bag was based on the analyses of fall banded birds. Last year was an off year by Louisiana standards for banding in the fall and only about 800 birds were banded. However, 1,500 to 1,700 birds are about average during more recent years, and the cumulative annual efforts over the past 2 decades exceeds 1,500.

So how did the extra wood duck in the bag occur? After extensive analyses and debates among waterfowl biologists across the country, it was determined that an allowable harvest rate for wood ducks was 15% across the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. It is important that Louisiana continues to band large numbers of wood ducks and other southern states increase their banding efforts, because the upper confidence interval (95%) of the estimate must be at or below that 15% harvest rate. And, if you remember your statistics, the larger the sample size, usually the smaller the confidence interval. If, within the next 2 years, the harvest rate's upper confidence level exceeds 15%, then the bag limit of wood ducks would decrease to 2. As you can imagine, after all of the hard work and sweat it took to get the 3<sup>rd</sup> wood duck in the bag, southern waterfowl biologists and hunters are anxious to maintain the current limit, as long as science supports it. Waterfowl biologists will continue to evaluate and discuss harvest rates.



The increase in the number of dove hunting days allowed to take 15 mourning doves from 60 to 70 came about in a somewhat different manner, but Wildlife Division surveys and banding were key components for adoption of this change. The National Dove Harvest Management Plan established population growth as the desired parameter for mourning dove managers to use in future harvest regulation recommendations. Banding is the backbone for obtaining much of the information needed for mourning dove population growth modeling, but most of the major banding studies were conducted 3-4 decades ago. To determine the feasibility of renewing large-scale mourning dove banding, a pilot study involving 29 states was conducted from 2003-2005. During this period, nearly 100,000 doves were banded and about 5,000 recoveries were reported.



So how did banding get 10 days added to the 60-day/15-bird mourning dove option. Well, it really contributed indirectly. Generally 95% or more of the direct recoveries recorded during this study were from within the state of banding. This highlights the fact that the vast majority of the birds taken by hunters are locally raised. However, it was two other data sets and a modeling approach that greatly assisted obtaining the 10 extra days.

The Wildlife Division conducts an annual big and small game harvest survey. During 1991-2005, there were 7 years of 70 days and 12 birds and 7 years of 60 days and 15 birds. Using LDWF harvest statistics, it is clear that changing season structure had no impact on dove hunter participation or harvest in Louisiana. Dove hunter numbers averaged ~59,600 for the 12-bird bag years and ~59,800 for the 15-bird bag years. Likewise, mean days hunted (3.7 vs. 3.8), mean doves killed per day (5.0 vs. 4.9), and mean doves killed per season (18.4 vs. 18.8) were very similar for the 12-bird bag and 15-bird bag years, respectively. While the switching from 70- to 60-day seasons every other year during this period might have caused much consternation among Louisiana dove hunters, one can see that important knowledge was gained for mourning dove management.

The other data set, the FWS' Harvest Information Program (HIP) data for EMU states, which includes states that either selected 60-day or 70-day options, shows the average dove hunter makes about 3 trips and harvests about 6 doves per trip annually. This also suggests that little, if any, impact on dove hunter behavior would occur by adding 10 days to the 60-day and 15-bird option. Thus, we now have 2 independent sets of data, one federal and the other state, that illustrated the same result. As a consequence of these and more in depth analyses of HIP data, only a 70-day and 15-bird option was offered to EMU states last season (2008-09).

Why was moving to a single season length option for mourning doves important? When developing models, the *keep it simple stupid* or KISS approach is often preferred because

fewer variables in a model usually results in a higher probability of understanding the relationship between those variables. With mourning doves, 2 season length/bag options added another level of uncertainty to our model. Even though existing data suggest there was little difference, having a single option makes good sense because it



eliminates the need to account for the possibility of differences in the future. Although this seems like a small step, it took several years to achieve.

## **Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries—Wildlife Division Update, *Mike Olinde, LDWF***

The Wildlife Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be undergoing changes in its administrative and regional configuration. Civil Service recently approved the establishment of two Directors positions (formerly Assistant Administrators) for the division instead of the single position in the previous structure. This decision, along with budgetary constraints and the desire to provide a more focused product, helped set in motion the more formal re-organization of the Wildlife Division into Education/Outreach and Stewardship (Wildlife Management Areas [WMAs]) Branches. In order to provide technical assistance and habitat stewardship throughout similar habitats, the division will no longer utilize the existing regional approach. Biologists will now be assigned to areas based on 2 broadly defined ecoregions, the Gulf Coastal Plain (GCP) and the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV).

The Stewardship Branch will have a WMA Program Manager Position designed to coordinate the WMA efforts within the GCP and MAV. The two ecoregions will have 4 Biologist Managers—one for the north and south portions of each ecoregion. Biological staff and technician support within the Stewardship Branch will be similar to existing structure. The Deer, Forestry, and Waterfowl Programs will be under the supervision of the Stewardship Director because these programs historically have been closely associated with the WMAs.

The Education/Outreach Branch will have a Private Lands Program Manager to provide program supervision and a Biologist Manager for each ecoregion. Educators and biological staff support under this Director will also be similar to existing structure. The other species programs (Upland Game, Turkey, Large Carnivore, Research/Survey, Urban/Nuisance) have a private lands focus and are under the Education/Outreach Director.

## **LAPB Resolutions Passed at the LWF Convention**

*Marty Floyd*

At the Louisiana Wildlife Federation Convention, held in West Monroe in March 2009, eleven resolutions were submitted. Ten were passed, including all four submitted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologist and the Rapides Wildlife Association. One of these four resolutions concerned establishment of a neighborhood fishing program with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, while the other three dealt with coastal issues involving all participants in planning and restoration. The value of our presence is shown by the number of proposals we were able to submit and by the fact that so many of our members attended the annual conference. A list of the resolutions we submitted are shown below.

Resolution No. 1C, 2009

**SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD FISHING PROGRAM**

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

WHEREAS, many people start out fishing as kids, in places that they can travel to and access on their own, and

WHEREAS, many people in Louisiana do not own a boat and therefore must fish from the bank, and

WHEREAS, such fishing opportunities in urban areas are often lacking, and

WHEREAS, creating and enhancing close-to-home, easily accessible fishing opportunities will encourage recruitment of new anglers and reengagement of former anglers in the sport, and

WHEREAS, sustaining and increasing the population of anglers in Louisiana will promote conservation of aquatic resources and support for their management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to develop a Neighborhood Fishing Program, based on a formal, written implementation plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to consider the following in developing the Neighborhood Fishing Program: establishment of criteria for inclusion of a body of water in the program; listing and evaluation of sites such as city park lakes or borrow pits in or near urban areas statewide; obtaining permission from willing landowners and agencies such as DOTD, levee boards, etc. as required; developing and implementing intensive management plans to include liming, fertilizing, feeding and stocking of easily managed species such as channel catfish, hybrid bream, etc.; and providing site amenities such as lighting, fishing piers, fish attractors, trash receptacles, etc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LWF urges the LDWF to act as the lead agency in this effort and identify partner agencies, local governments, organizations, or other potential sources of funding, labor, and services.

*Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in Convention Assembled, March 1, 2009 in West Monroe, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, August 14, 2008, at Lafayette, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Rapides Wildlife Association at their July 15, 2008 meeting in Pineville, Louisiana*

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Resolution No. 5D, 2009

**SUBJECT: STUDY AND MONITORING OF BORROW AREAS IN COASTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, an increasing number of restoration projects in coastal Louisiana involve creation of marsh using material obtained from a “borrow” site, and

WHEREAS, it is important that the overall impact of wetland restoration projects is beneficial and that the most beneficial projects are give priority for funding and implementation, and

WHEREAS, the “Wetland Value Assessment” used to evaluate and prioritize restoration projects for funding and implementation, and to monitor the efficacy of projects, assesses only the area where wetland creation occurs, or loss prevented, and

WHEREAS, the creation/use of borrow sites may have adverse as well as beneficial impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, yet the borrow sites for the material used to create marsh for a wetland restoration/creation project are not assessed for positive or negative impacts and incorporated into the wetland value assessment for a restoration project, and

WHEREAS, it is conceivable that what would otherwise be a beneficial wetland creation project would not produce an overall net benefit in habitat units or would have a reduced Wetland Value Assessment ranking if the impacts of the removal/use of borrow material were included in the assessment of the project benefits, and

WHEREAS, adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat due to the creation/use of borrow sites for wetland restoration projects should be avoided.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of the state of Louisiana and the CWPPRA Task Force to include the assessment of ecosystem impacts due to the creation/use of borrow sites for proposed wetland/marsh restoration projects in the Wetland Value Assessment used to prioritize and fund implementation of each wetland restoration project that requires the use of borrow material.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this procedure be applied to other coastal protection and restoration projects such as those implemented through LCA, CIAP, State Surplus Funds, etc.

*Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in Convention Assembled, March 1, 2009 in West Monroe, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, August 14, 2008, at Lafayette, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Rapides Wildlife Association at their July 15, 2008 meeting in Pineville, Louisiana*

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Resolution No. 6B,

2009

**SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF COASTAL RESTORATION PROJECTS THAT INCORPORATE ORGANISM INGRESS/EGRESS FEATURES**

WHEREAS, coastal protection and restoration projects that create barriers that may alter hydrology and otherwise interrupt free access of organisms to and from waters and wetlands are usually designed with features that provide for some degree of ingress/egress via gaps and structures, and

WHEREAS, proposed coastal restoration projects are evaluated for funding and priority based, among other considerations, on a determination of “Average Annual Habitat Units” the project is projected to yield, and

WHEREAS, projects which have only a single-source entry/exit point are often given a higher rating under the analyses protocol than projects designed with multiple openings for organism ingress/egress, yet provision of more openings may yield greater capacity for organism ingress/egress that is more consistent with natural habitat conditions, and

WHEREAS, within limitations posed by available funding and public safety considerations, it is important for coastal restoration projects to maximize benefits to fish and wildlife and their habitats.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the CWPPRA Environmental Work Group and its academic advisors to review the application of the assessment of “Average Annual Habitat Units” (AAHU) to restoration projects that include gaps/structures for organism ingress/egress with the intent of

revising, as warranted, the allocation of AAHUs based on overall beneficial (compared to natural conditions) ingress/egress provided by the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this procedure be applied to other coastal protection and restoration projects such as those implemented through LCA, CIAP, State Surplus Funds, etc.

*Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in Convention Assembled, March 1, 2009 in West Monroe, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, August 14, 2008, at Lafayette, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Rapides Wildlife Association at their July 15, 2008 meeting in Pineville, Louisiana*

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Resolution No. 7D,

2009

**SUBJECT: PROTECTING WOODED CHENIERS, BARRIER HEADLANDS AND RIDGES IN LOUISIANA'S COASTAL ZONE**

WHEREAS, coastal Louisiana contains cheniers, barrier headlands and ridges that are or have been covered in woody vegetation, and

WHEREAS, these wooded areas provide storm protection as evidenced during the approach, landfall and passage of both Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and

WHEREAS, these wooded cheniers, headlands and ridges provide nesting habitat for herons, egrets, roseate spoonbills, ibis and other wading bird species, and

WHEREAS, these coastal woodlands are also important as resting and refueling sites during trans-Gulf avian migration, and

WHEREAS, during high water events coastal woodlands provide refuge for wildlife and livestock, and

WHEREAS, many coastal woodlands, ridges and barrier headlands are at risk to sand mining and the removal of woody vegetation which would diminish their storm buffering capacity and degrade the quality of protection and habitat they provide to birds and other animals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) urges the state of Louisiana to protect and restore coastal barrier headlands, ridges and cheniers and establish/reestablish, via plantings and habitat management, the presence of woody species of plants appropriate to the sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LWF urges the state of Louisiana to preserve the habitat quality and storm buffering capacity of coastal cheniers through acquisition, easement and regulation, including prohibition of sand mining, land clearing and other significant alterations to chenier integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this procedure be applied to other coastal protection and restoration projects such as those implemented through LCA, CIAP, State Surplus Funds, etc.

*Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in Convention Assembled, March 1, 2009 in West Monroe, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists, August 14, 2008, at Lafayette, Louisiana*

*Adopted by the Rapides Wildlife Association at their July 15, 2008 meeting in Pineville, Louisiana*

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## **LAPB Spring Business Meeting Notes**

*Prepared by Cassidy Lejeune, LDWF*

1:30 pm Saturday, February 27, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn

West Monroe, LA

### **Call to order and introductions:**

Present:

Michael Carloss

John Pitre

Kim Marie Tolson

Marty Floyd

Cassidy Lejeune

Paul Whitehead

Kenny Ribbeck

Jay Huner

Virginia Burkette

Mike Carloss, LAPB President provided attendees with a meeting agenda. Then, he called for the secretary's and treasure's reports.

**Secretary's Report** – No report was provided for spring meeting.

**Treasure's Report** – John Pitre

John presented a written financial report for fall 2008 to spring 2009. He provided a summary and update on the following accounts:

#### Section I

- Former Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association accounts
  - \$60 savings account at Campus Federal Credit Union: The funds are not accessible because the account is under signature authority of Steve Mathies, former LWBA president. Members discussed possibility of “writing off” funds or contacting Mr. Mathies. Mike Carloss volunteered to attempt to contact him.
  - Home Bank accounts:
    - \$3,857.42
    - \$4,636.70
- Former Louisiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society accounts (Iberia Bank)
  - Deer study group endowment: \$6,758.83
  - Life membership dues: \$1,053.68

#### Section II – CapitalOne checking account

The balance in July 2008 was \$11,000.38. Between August 2008 and December 2008, \$1,940.00 was deposited into the account and \$1,306.94 was deducted. Deposits/credits included symposium proceeds, membership dues, etc. and payments/debits included the expenses for the fall symposium, cash deposit service charge, and TWS dues. The balance as of January 27, 2009 was \$11,633.44.

John also reported that he opened a savings account for the Robert Helm scholarship fund.

### **Reports of Committees**

Next, Mike Carloss initiated a discussion about the status of the scholarship committee. Items discussed included eligibility and qualifying curriculums, creating a draft application (possibly using Rockefeller Scholarship as a template), adding the application to the LAPB website, selection and ranking of applications, and possibly requiring applicants to write an essay as part of the application process. The application should be available starting May 2009 and extend until June 2009. If process continues as scheduled, the results of the scholarship should be announced at the LAPB Fall Symposium. Kenny Ribbeck agreed to check with Larry Reynolds about the status of the scholarship.

### **Old Business**

Mike Carloss reported on the status of the LAPB website. He stated that he and Cassidy Lejeune met with Mark Parr and discussed updating the site with a variety of information such as the LAPB mission statement, by-laws, symposium agenda and registration, newsletters, contact information for members, changing the species profile on some type of rotational basis, applications for scholarship and membership, forums, etc. Also, it was suggested to use the site to show photos of the Fall Symposium award winners and to possibly develop/display a logo for LAPB. The idea of a contest was discussed with

possibly a monetary reward. Paul Whitehead suggested getting students involved in the competition. Further, a suggestion was made to advertise the competition in the next newsletter.

Following the website discussion, members revisited the idea of moving the spring business time to encourage/increase participation. Attendees discussed changing the meeting to Friday rather than on Saturday and changing the time of the meeting to avoid conflict with the LWF luncheon. Attendees decided to keep the meeting on Saturday, but change the time to have the meeting follow the last LWF committee meeting.

Finally, Mike Carlross addressed the need for agency support for the LAPB Fall Symposium. The ongoing effort to send letters to agency heads was discussed and an update was provided. According to Mike, Larry Reynolds has committed to sending out the letters in July 2009. Members discussed adding the dates of the symposium on the letters and making sure the letters are received well before the event.

#### **Election of Officers:**

The next agenda item was the welcoming of Dr. Kim Marie Tolson as the President-Elect and the involvement of her in TWS issues. Mike reviewed the issue of LAPB being considered the Louisiana Chapter of TWS, but not complying with TWS by-laws. Mike urged Kim to meet with TWS to discuss the issue and see if a compromise could be met. John Pitre stated that he felt TWS wanted to work with LAPB and felt that something could be worked out. He also suggested proactively contacting TWS to resolve the issue. Other members were firm about not simply becoming a TWS organization.

#### **New Business**

The Robert Helm scholarship was discussed again. Larry Reynolds is in the process of getting all of the checks cashed that were donated to the fund. Unfortunately, some checks were made out to Ducks Unlimited, Jimmy Anthony, etc. The donations came from advertisements posted in the Louisiana Conservationist and Ducks Unlimited publications. The desired amount was \$10,000. Approximately \$7,815 was reported secured during the meeting. The funds will help two students attend the North American Duck Symposium and Workshop.

Subsequently, the 2009 Fall Symposium topic was announced. Dr. Kim Marie Tolson stated that she was working with Sammy King concerning the topic and decided that it would address invasive and/or exotic species. Some discussion occurred concerning narrowing the topic to include only aquatic or terrestrial species, but a unanimous decision was made to keep the topic general. Thus, the topic for the Fall Symposium will be invasive exotics in Louisiana.

The dates for the Fall Symposium were not finalized for this meeting. However, Dr. Tolson stated that she would announce the dates via the next newsletter. Also, it was suggested to have the dates announced at the spring meeting in the future.

Next, Mike Carloss discussed his involvement in the LWF judging committee for the Governor's Award. Mike stated that there were a limited number of candidates and encouraged LAPB members to nominate deserving individuals. Also, he asked for ideas for getting LAPB members involved in the nomination process. Jay Huner suggested that more individuals would get nominated if LWF would recognize all nominees in addition to the award winner. Marty Floyd suggested that the topic be addressed in the newsletter.

The LWF award nomination issue developed into discuss of member participation. All attendees agreed that LAPB needed more member participation and discussed ways to attract members to functions. Some suggestions were as follows:

- LAPB needed to stop being "neutral" on current issues and get more active
- LAPB should suggest/sponsor resolutions for LWF. Also, LAPB should designate time during the fall meeting to discuss resolutions and develop comments for proposed resolutions.
- LAPB should provide the public with technical information concerning current issues
- LAPB needed to develop a technical committee that would provide technical assistance and statements about controversial issues

The resolutions of the LWF Convention were also discussed to finalize LAPB voting for the assembly of delegates on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Some issues discussed were proposing an LAPB amendment that would allow the use of a bicycle for Res. No. 4B (designated walk in only areas in WMAs), suggesting a friendly amendment for Res. No. 9D (control of feral hogs) which involved the broadening the wording to include hunters in general rather than "deer hunters" only, and supporting an amendment that was proposed to include all coastal restoration programs (i.e., CIAP, LCA, etc. and not just CWPPRA). Also, participants agreed that a detailed summary of the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual LWF Convention should be included in the next newsletter.

Finally, Paul Whitehead discussed his active role in LWF activities as a member of LAPB. He offered to represent LAPB as the appointed director/delegate for issues involving LWF. Mike Carloss and John Pitre other members discussed this topic with Paul briefly and then Mike adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.