LAPB Fall Symposium Dates Set

Dates for the LAPB/TWS 2014 Symposium have been set for August 28th and 29th. This year, we will meet in Baton Rouge at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center (see http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/facility/waddill-outdoor-education-center). 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/LA Chapter TWS 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 from professional biologists.

A special Focus Session will follow the poster session on Friday morning. The special session will focus on Louisiana’s Feral Hog Invasion and should be of interest to all attendees.

Registration is at the door and costs $25.00 for regular annual membership ($10.00 for student annual membership), $10.00 for the Symposium, plus an additional fee for the social and supper. For more information contact Andy Nyman, LAPB President-Elect at 225-578-4220 or jnyman@lsu.edu

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

**Thursday, August 28th**

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 – 3:45 PM Student Oral Presentations (Sessions 3 & 4)
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM LAPB/LA Chapter TWS Fall Business Meeting
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Evening Social, Student Oral Presentation and Publication Awards and Supper

**Friday, August 29th**

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
LAPB 2014 Fall Symposium: Oral Presentations
Thursday Morning, 28 August 2014

9:00-9:30 Coffee and Welcome

9:30-9:50 Predation and recruitment based on orientation of oysters (*Crassostrea virginica* and mussels (*Ischadium recurvum*) on fabricated shoreline oyster reefs. Caleb P. Bourgeois and Earl Melancon. Department of Biological Sciences, Nicholls State University.

9:50-10:10 Aerial assessment of damage inflicted by wild pigs in marshes of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Anthony Ballard*, Kim Marie Tolson†, James M. LaCour‡, and Edmond Mouton§. †Department of Biology, College of Arts, Education, & Sciences, University of Louisiana at Monroe; ‡Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

10:10-10:20 Forested freshwater wetland responses to secondarily treated municipal effluent discharge. Ashlee K. Minor and Aaron R. Pierce. Department of Biological Sciences, Nicholls State University.

10:20-10:30 (break)

10:30-10:50 Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) nesting success on Grand Isle, Louisiana. Heather Fraser1,2, Nicole Norelli1,2, Erik Johnson1, Jed Pitre2, and Kacy Ray1. 1Audubon Louisiana, National Audubon Society, 2American Bird Conservancy.


11:10-11:30 Assessment of the habitat value and edge effect of different wetland restoration techniques for waterbirds in the Mississippi River bird’s foot delta. Lauren R. Sullivan. School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU.

11:30-11:50 Effects of vegetation type on sediment microbial community structure and activity in coastal salt marshes of southeastern Louisiana. A.J. Rietl1, M.E. Overlander2, J.A. Nyman1, and C.R. Jackson2. 1Louisiana State University, School of Renewable Natural Resources. 2Department of Biology, University of Mississippi.

11:50-1:30 (lunch on your own)

Thursday Afternoon, 28 August 2014

1:30-1:50 Diet composition, breeding site-fidelity, and apparent survival of royal terns and sandwich terns on the Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge. Jeff Liechty and Aaron Pierce. Department of Biological Sciences, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA.

Toxicology research on a manufactured microbial bio-surfactant for use in oil spill dispersants. Bran Wagner, Heidi Oliver, and Christopher C. Green. School of Renewable Natural Resources and Aquaculture Research Station, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

Endangered Red Wolves: Historic and Contemporary Threats. Kristin E. Brzeski\(^1\), Sabrina Taylor\(^2\), Michael Chamberlain\(^3\), and David Rabon Jr\(^4\). \(^1\)School of Renewable Natural Resources, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA; \(^2\)Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA; \(^3\)Red Wolf Recovery Program, U.S.F.W.S., Charlotte, NC

2:50-3:00 (break)

3:00-4:00 LAPB Fall Business Meeting

4:00-7:00 Social (Fried Catfish, Orzo Salad, French Fries, Brownies)

LAPB 2014 Fall Symposium: Poster Presentations and Focus Session Friday, 29 August 2013

8:00-9:20 POSTER SESSION (with coffee)

9:30-11:40 FOCUS SESSION ON LOUISIANA’S FERAL HOG INVASION

Wild pig reproduction in Louisiana – just the facts. Kim Marie Tolson\(^1\) and James M. LaCours\(^2\). \(^1\)Department of Biology, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, LA; \(^2\)Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA.

Movement of wild pigs in Louisiana and Mississippi. Stephen B. Hartley\(^1\), Buddy L. Goatcher\(^2\) and Sijan K. Sapkota\(^3\). \(^1\)U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA; \(^2\)U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ERDC, Environmental Lab, Environmental Risk Assessment Branch, Vicksburg, MS.

Response of wetland vegetation to aerial gunning of feral hogs at the Pass A Loutre Wildlife Management Area. Todd Baker. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA.

Sodium nitrite as a toxicant for feral swine. Glen Gentry. School of Animal Sciences, LSU.

Panel discussion of “Coordinating a response to Louisiana’s feral hog invasion”. John Pitre (chair), Chad Corville, Scott Woodruff, Kim Marie Tolson, Stephen Hartley, Todd Baker, and Glen Gentry.

11:40–12:00 PRESENTATION OF POSTER AWARD AND CLOSING COMMENTS
LAPB/TWS Fall 2013 Award Winners Announced

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists / The Wildlife Society Louisiana Chapter held its 2013 Fall Symposium on Recent Natural Resource Research in Louisiana at a new venue, the Waddill Outdoor Education Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The Fall Symposium was well attended, with more than 70 registered including attendees from Texas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Ontario.

Natural resource students highlighted their research in 12 oral presentations and there were an additional 13 poster presentations. Holly Rogers (LSU) won 1st place for the best student oral presentation titled “Diseases and parasites in Louisiana’s Blue Crab (Callinectes sapidus) populations”. Sinead Borchert (LSU) won 1st place for the best student poster presentation titled “Using citizen science survey data from the Louisiana winter bird atlas to determine landscape-scale habitat associations of Rusty Blackbirds (Euphagus carolinus). Garret Wilkerson (University of Louisiana at Monroe) was also awarded the LAPB/TWS Student Scholarship Award.

LAPB/TWS publication award winners were Richard Day in the General Conservation category for his publication “Winter climate change and coastal wetland foundation species: salt marshes vs. mangrove forests in the southeastern United States” published in Global Change Biology and in the Wildlife category was Tommy Michot with his publication “Migratory strategies of waterbirds shape the continental-scale dispersal of aquatic organisms” published in the journal Ecography.

The 2013 Fall Symposium Focus Session was on “River Diversions and Wetland Restoration”. Invited speakers for the Focus Session included Harry Roberts (LSU), Chris Swarzenski (U.S. Geological Survey), John White (LSU), John Day (LSU), Gene Turner (LSU), and Andy Nyman (LSU).

Chevron Recognized for Supporting Whooping Crane Re-introduction

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation (LWFF) recognized Chevron on Aug. 7 for three years of financial support provided for the department’s whooping crane reintroduction project which began in 2011.

In a ceremony at Thursday’s Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting in Baton Rouge, commission members, department staff and meeting attendees were briefed on the value of the $400,000 in Chevron grant funding and all that it has provided from 2012 through 2014.

“Chevron chose to make a social investment in southwest Louisiana and this project presented an ideal opportunity,” said Robert Love, LDWF Coastal and Nongame Resources Division administrator. “Re-establishing the whooping crane within Louisiana’s ecosystem involves not only specialized research tools but a lot of people power and teamwork. Success and sustainability also requires raising public awareness and appreciation of the birds’ presence and educating our young citizens, as well as our farmers, on the importance having of this iconic and charismatic species back on the landscape. The Chevron grant funding was vital in each of these project components."

“Chevron Gulf of Mexico recognizes the importance of protecting biological diversity – the rich variety of life on Earth, its ecosystems and species, and the ecological processes that support them,” said Sakari Morrison, Chevron.
Gulf of Mexico General Manager of Public Affairs. “For this reason, we are a proud and active partner in support of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and the Department and their work to reintroduce whooping cranes to Louisiana and educate the public on the importance of wildlife protection.”

The grant funding has provided for satellite transmitter equipment and associated communications costs for tracking the movement of the whooping cranes released from LDWF’s White Lake Wetland Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish. Biologists plot the birds’ movement, habitat selections and adaptive behavior as they adjust to life in the wild.

Supporting LDWF’s efforts, the LWFF has coordinated receipt and dispersal of grant funds for stewardship, public outreach and educational purposes. Kell McInnis, LWFF executive director, presented a signed print of the Chris Davis’ wildlife portrait “Taking Flight” to Morrison in appreciation of the corporate support provided for the project.

Grant funds have additionally been utilized for a public outreach media campaign designed to alert the public that the birds are now on the Louisiana landscape, they should be observed from a distance if spotted and LDWF should be notified if anyone witnesses cranes being harmed. Billboards have been produced, as well as television and radio announcements, to deliver these messages.

A third key component funded by the Chevron donation provides lesson plans and classroom tools that have been made available to Louisiana middle and high school teachers through educational workshops. Teachers then deliver endangered species information to students to foster an appreciation for non-game species and awareness of the significance of LDWF’s and its partners’ efforts.

The whooping crane, a very vulnerable species, was found in south Louisiana until their demise during the late 1800s and early 1900s when little conservation ethic was in existence and conversion of prairies and marsh lands to agriculture acreage became a trend. Since 2011, LDWF has soft released 50 isolation-reared, juvenile cranes provided by the US Geological Survey Research Center in Patuxent, Md., into rural southwest Louisiana, and 29 survive today. Nesting pairs within that experimental population have produced the first eggs in the wild in over 70 years, but no fledglings have resulted as yet.

The recovery plan goal is for Louisiana to reach a subpopulation of 25-30 productive pairs, which translates to about 130 cranes in Louisiana. This process could take 15 to 20 years. To learn more about Louisiana’s whooping crane population, go to http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/information. To contribute to the whooping crane project or any LDWF initiative, go to the LWFF website at http://lawff.org.

LDWF’s whooping crane recovery team gather with Chevron’s Sakari Morrison (front row center) following Aug. 7 LWF Commission meeting. Team members (front row, left to right) Dr. Sammy King, USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at LSU Ag Center; Sara Zimorski, LDWF Project Biologist; Morrison; Venise Ortego, La. Environmental Education Commission Coordinator; Phillip Vasseur, LSU Ag Center Research Associate; (back row, left to right) Buddy Baker, LDWF Coastal and Nongame Division Biologist Director; Kell McInnis, La. Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation Executive Director; Charles Smith, LSU Ag Center Research Associate; Bob Love, LDWF Coastal and Nongame Division Administrator; and Chad Gaspard, LDWF Technician.
LSU Chapter of The Wildlife Society News

The LSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, under the new leadership of advisor Luke Laborde, started this 2013-2014 academic year off with a bang! At our first meeting in August we served jambalaya and had a live band with over 75 students in attendance, our biggest meeting on record! We offered the first ever Conclave Prep Class in the Fall to give students the opportunity to learn hands on skills, prepare for conclave, and to voice their needs to expand on techniques that may not have been part of the regular curriculum for our program. The first class was full and students got the chance to practice things like flyfishing, buck scoring, axe throwing, wildlife immobilization, and heard from talented guest speakers from around the state. We are hoping this class will continue to be offered for students as an incentive to practice these valuable skill sets and to reward those that want to go above and beyond in their wildlife education by competing in conclave. TWS members have volunteered at several on campus activities including Louisiana Agricultural Center’s Ag Magic and Louisiana Sea Grant’s Ocean Commotion as well as at the LSU Raptor Rehab center. We have made it a priority to get members in contact with outside volunteer opportunities as well as partnering undergraduates with graduate students to help out in the field with some of the outstanding research happening right here in our department.

What a success!! LSU Wildlife Society Members truly enjoyed The Southeastern Wildlife Conclave attended in March. The conference is getting rave reviews from all members that attended and they are spreading the word throughout our department and organization.

On behalf of the LSU Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society I want to extend a heart-felt thank you to Chancellor Richardson, Allen Rutherford (RNR dept), Louisiana Professional Biologists (LA State Chapter of The Wildlife Society), and Luke Laborde (TWS advisor) for making this possible. We took a total of 21 people to conclave this year, the largest group LSU has taken.

While at the conclave we had the chance to meet with wildlife professionals, hear guest speakers from various wildlife careers, network with other student chapters, and attend field trip workshops on different topics and skillsets related to wildlife and natural resource management. While talking with other students we recruited to both undergraduate and potential graduate students, promoting our programs in Renewable and Natural Resources and the amazing prospects LSU has to offer. Everyone that attended the conference competed in an event to represent LSU.
We placed 10th overall at Conclave and placed in the top 3 categories in 4 events:

3rd Place Canoeing- Terrel Christie & Kayla Smith
3rd Place Orienteering- Emily Gibson & Olivia Colton
3rd Place Photography- Alonda McCarty
1st Place Shotgun- R. Hunter Fuqua

Team Competition 12th Place overall and respectively placed in top 3 in:
1st Place- Fish ID Table
3rd Place- Mast ID Table
1st Place- Forestry Table

As we continue to grow as a chapter we strive to offer more opportunities for our student members and create a fostering atmosphere for young wildlife professionals to develop their skills and pass on the lifeblood of our passion to the next generation! We hope to continue to grow as an organization offering students the opportunities to further themselves; through exposure to wildlife resources and environment, networking with professionals in our field, teaching hands on skillsets and techniques, and social activities interacting with other students and wildlife programs from across the nation.

Alonda McCarty
President
LSU Student Chapter of TWS

**Mourning Dove Season Dates Set**

Beginning with the 2014-15 hunting season, the season length for hunting mourning doves will go from a 70 day season to a 90 day season, the bag limit will remain at 15 birds daily. For the north zone the dates will be as follows: First split September 6 – 28, Second split October 11 – November 9, Third split December 10 – January 15. For the south zone the dates will be as follows: First split September 6 – 14, Second split October 11 – December 3, Third split December 20 – January 15. The dove season will open 1/2 before sunrise except on LDWF WMAs and LDWF private lease fields, where it will open at 12 noon.

LDWF has planted dove fields at 10 WMAs that are open to public hunting. In addition, LDWF plans on leasing private fields for public dove hunting on opening day only. The cost to the public for hunting on the LDWF lease fields is $10 per hunter, 16 years of age and older. Hunters under 16 years of age may hunt for free. For more information on WMAs with dove fields and LDWF private lease fields visit the LDWF web site at: http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting/dove.
Who We Are

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists is a diverse group of natural resource specialists including, but not limited to, foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, wetland scientists, fisheries biologists, and students who are dedicated to the economically sound and science-based protection, management, and use of Louisiana's natural resources through peer-reviewed research, mentoring, ecologically sound habitat management, and informed public policy.

We’re On The Web!!!
www.labiologists.org

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions?
Contact Any Member of Our Executive Board

President          Dr. Aaron Pierce          aaron.pierce@nicholls.edu
President Elect   Dr. Andy Nyman          jnyman@lsu.edu
Past President     Dr. Kim Marie Tolson     tolsong@ulm.edu
Secretary          Troy Mallach            troy.mallach@la.usda.gov
Treasurer          Larry Reynolds          lreyolds@wlf.la.gov
Newsletter Editor  Dr. Jeffrey P. Duguay    jduguay@wlf.la.gov