



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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DISCOVER LOUISIANA HUNTING WEEKEND SET FOR NOV. 23-25

Discover Louisiana Hunting (DLH), the fall hunting promotion for new hunters, has been scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-25, announced Secretary LDWF Bryant Hammett.

“We’re encouraging both Louisiana residents and non-residents, 16 years of age and older, to experience recreational hunting for the first time,” said Hammett. “Anyone who once hunted, and would like to try it again, can also participate.”

Program participants must obtain a DLH permit online through www.discoverlouisianahunting.com before Nov. 19. To ensure a safe experience for DLH participants and fellow outdoorsmen, hunter education certification is required and participants must also partner with a licensed Louisiana resident hunter who will serve as a host hunter. DLH permit applicants can begin using the on-line permit request system starting Sept. 1.

All interested participants who need to obtain hunter education certification are urged to sign up for a class in a location near their home town. A list of courses around the state is available on the DLH Web site -- www.discoverlouisianahunting.com. An on-line version of the course is available through the DLH Web site or a CD-ROM version can be obtained by calling the LDWF office nearest the participant. Participants should have completed or be enrolled in a hunter education class by Nov. 7. Hunter education courses are free and certification obtained in another state will be accepted.

During the DLH weekend, only quail, rabbit, squirrel and deer can be hunted by DLH-permitted hunters. For daily bag and possession limits, and deer zone restrictions, refer to the 2007-08 Louisiana Hunting Season and WMA Regulations Booklet or go to www.discoverlouisianahunting.com and click on “Regulations.” Any DLH-permitted deer hunter will also need to attach a possession tag to any harvested deer and complete a harvest card to be returned to LDWF following DLH weekend. Both documents are available on the DLH Web site.

The DLH permit offer is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Once a participant utilizes the no-cost weekend hunting option, appropriate licenses and permits must be obtained for all future hunting trips in Louisiana. Any interested participant without Internet access can call any of the following LDWF offices Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., for permit application assistance:

- Alexandria: 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360; ph. 318-487-5885
- Baton Rouge: 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808; ph. 225-765-2346
- Ferriday: 261 Wildlife & Fishery Road, Ferriday, LA 71334; ph. 318-757-4571
- Grand Chenier: 5476 Grand Chenier Hwy., Grand Chenier, LA 70643; ph. 337-538-2276
- Lake Charles: 1213 North Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70601; ph. 337-491-2575
- Minden: 1401 Talton Street, Minden, LA 71055; ph. 318-371-3050
- Monroe: 368 Century Tel Drive, Monroe, LA 71203; ph. 318-343-4044
- New Iberia: 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560; ph. 337-373-0032
- Opelousas: 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, LA 70570; ph. 337-948-0255

DLH Weekend supporting sponsors and partners include: Academy Sports & Outdoors, Bass Pro Shops/Bossier City, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, Bowie Outfitters, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Hunter's Run Gun Club, the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

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L.D.W.F. BIOLOGISTS PARTICIPATE AT CAMP WIN-A-FRIEND

Biologists from the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries' Fur & Refuge Division assisted troopers with Louisiana State Police (LSP) during their annual Camp Win-A-Friend summer program for youth.

Staged at the LSP facility in Holden, the summer resident camp hosted 240 children during six week-long sessions between June 4 and July 20. Boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 12 enjoyed swimming, canoeing, hiking, arts and crafts, team building exercises, leadership skills, guest speakers, fishing, baseball and basketball.

LDWF's Jeff Boundy and Beau Gregory alternated weekly appearances for a session on reptiles and what they contribute to the eco-system they inhabit. Campers were given the opportunity to touch and hold the designated reptile of the day.

LSP troopers serve as camp directors, assistant directors, instructors and counselors at Camp Win-A-Friend.



Photo provided by LSP

LDWF Fur and Refuge Biologist and snake expert, Jeff Boundy, teaches Camp Win-A-Friend participants about snakes.

Campers are selected from geographic areas around the state that correspond to LSP regional "troop" areas, and the camp is made available at no cost to children would not otherwise be able to attend a summer camp.

L.W.F.C. SETS TENTATIVE MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) voted to tentatively adopt proposed season dates, bag limits and shooting hours for the 2007-08 migratory waterfowl season at their Aug. 3 meeting. The dates will be ratified by a declaration of emergency from the commission, after approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After the LWFC listened to public comments and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel comments on proposed duck season dates and bag limits, it was concluded that a 60-day season will be adopted for ducks and coots. In the West Zone, the first segment will open on Nov. 10 and close on Dec. 2. The sec-

ond segment will open on Dec. 15 and run through Jan. 20. In the East Zone, the first segment will go from Nov. 17 to Dec. 2. The second segment will last from Dec. 15 through Jan. 27.

Youth waterfowl weekend in the west zone is Nov. 3-4 and in the east zone Nov. 10-11.

The daily bag limit on ducks is six and may include no more than four mallards (no more than two of which may be females), two canvasbacks, one pintail, three mottled ducks, one black duck, two wood ducks, two scaup and two redheads. The daily bag limit on coots is 15. In addition to the daily bag limit for ducks, the daily bag limit for mergansers is five, only

two of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

Light geese and white-fronted geese will have a 72-day season. The first segment in the West Zone will open on Nov. 10 and close on Dec. 2. The second segment in the West Zone will open on Dec. 15 and close on Feb. 1. The first segment in the East Zone will open on Nov. 5 and run until Dec. 2. The second segment will open Dec. 15 and close on Jan. 27. The daily bag limit on light geese is 20, with no possession limit. The daily limit on white-fronted geese is two, with a possession limit of four.

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L.D.W.F. TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

National Hunting and Fishing Day is Saturday, Sept. 22, and in Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will mark the day with its 23rd annual celebration. The department will also hold events in Minden, Monroe and Woodworth.

“One of the best ways we can create a better public understanding of hunting and fishing is to create a better public awareness of the important role that outdoors men and women have played in conservation and improving our natural resources,” said LDWF Public Information Assistant Director Thomas Gresham. “National Hunting and Fishing Day helps to build appreciation and increase participation in outdoor sports. It is also an opportunity for people with no previous experience to learn about the values and enjoyment of outdoor pursuits.”

LDWF invites people of all ages in the Baton Rouge metro



LDWF Photo by Adam Einck

Skeet shooting is just one of the many free hands on events at National Hunting and Fishing Day.

area to celebrate this year's event at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center. The Baton Rouge event offers hands-on activities including canoeing, fishing, sports shooting and duck and goose calling. This year the department will again have a catfish pool where very young anglers can catch their first fish and get souvenir photos.

This year's event also offers numerous outdoor demonstrations and exhibits including Ducks Unlimited, Coastal Conservation Association, Operation Game Thief, National Wild Turkey Federation, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, plus many more.

National Hunting and Fishing Day is open to the public and free of charge. The Waddill Outdoor Education Center is located at 4142 Flannery Road. This event is scheduled to run

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact the LDWF public information office at 225-765-2925. The event is sponsored in part by local businesses.

MOURNING DOVES MANAGEMENT SEMINAR ON AUG. 14

A dove management and food-plot workshop will take place on Aug. 14 at the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Garden in Lafayette from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about dove management practices from experienced biologists and enforcement personnel. Attendees will be able to:

-- View a two-acre dove food plot planted in hybrid corn, tropical corn, milo, sunflowers, brown top millet, Japanese millet and pearl millet.

-- Hear a discussion of the status of mourning doves in Louisiana, managing small grain plantings for mourning doves and legal issues involved with the planting and manipulating of crops where dove hunting is involved.

-- Learn about the establishment and management of native grasses for attracting and holding mourning doves and other species

-- Visit with a Pennington Seed Representative to learn about commercially available food plot mixes.

The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Garden is located adjacent to the Fire Training

Facility and the Compost Facility at 400 Dugas Road in Lafayette. Dugas Road is located off of University Street and is North of Interstate 10 before Carencro.

A \$10 registration fee is required if the registration is received by Aug. 10. If a person does not register before Aug. 10, a \$15 registration fee will be collected on the day of the event.

To request a registration form, please contact Stuart Gauthier at sgauthier@agctr.lsu.edu or 337-291-7090.



L.D.W.F. INTRODUCES P.F.D. LOANER PROGRAM

LDWF Enforcement Division announced today a new boating safety program designed to alert boat operators of a safety violation and keep them on the water at the same time.

Beginning in August, Enforcement Division patrol vessels will carry extra personal flotation devices (PFDs) to be used as loaners when agents encounter a vessel not in compliance with PFD requirements. A written warning citation may be issued to first offense boat operators violating PFD requirements. Agents will then loan a PFD to the operator with instructions to return the life vest to the department within 10 days.

“Our goal is to educate boaters on boating safety regulations in place to assure their safety and allow them to remain on the water and enjoy their day when it is possible to bring the vessel in compliance,” said LDWF Col. Winton Vidrine.

If the PFD is not returned to the Enforcement Division within 10 days, the agent will void the warning citation and issue the operator a criminal citation for the PFD violation. The date of violation on the class one citation will be the



LDWF Photo by Thomas Gresham

LDWF agents are giving out PFDs this summer instead of tickets for boats without the sufficient number of PFDs.

same date that was on the warning citation.

Statistics show that nearly 70 percent of the boating fatalities in Louisiana are due to drowning and nearly 80 percent of those victims were not wearing a life jacket.

For more information on safe boating practices, regulations, or boating education courses, please visit LDWF's Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS-continued from page 2

The special-permit-required Canada goose season will be from Jan. 12-27 statewide, except for a small area in southwest Louisiana. The daily limit for Canada geese is one and the possession limit is two. The special \$5 permit may be obtained from any license vendor.

The Statewide Conservation Order for light geese will open in the West Zone on Dec. 3, and the first segment will close on Dec. 14. The second segment in the West Zone will open on Feb. 2 and close on March 9. The first segment in the East Zone will run from Dec. 3 through Dec. 14 and the second segment will be from Jan. 28 to Mar. 9. During this time, only snow, blue

and Ross' geese may be taken and daily bag and possession limits are eliminated. The use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns is permitted. Shooting hours during the order begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset.

Rails may be taken from Nov. 10 to Jan. 2. For King and Clapper rails, the daily limit is 15 in the aggregate, with a possession limit of 30. Sora and Virginia rails have a daily and possession limit of 25 in the aggregate.

Gallinule season will open on Nov. 10 and close on Jan. 2. The daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is 30.

Snipe may be taken in the first segment from Nov. 3 to Dec. 3 and from Dec. 15 to Feb. 28 in the second segment, with a daily bag limit of eight and a possession limit of 16.

Shooting hours for migratory bird hunting, except for the Conservation Order, are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the Conservation Order, end at 2 p.m.

An extended falconry season for ducks, rails and gallinules will take place from Nov. 3 to Feb. 1.