



L.D.W.F. BREAKS GROUND ON NEW MINDEN OFFICE

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) officially broke ground Dec. 14 on a new \$3.5 million regional office in Minden that will house the agency's Enforcement, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions.

“Our customer service capabilities will be greatly increased for walk-in customers, group meetings and classroom needs,” said LDWF Secretary Bryant Hammett. “Staff needs for additional office space will also be accommodated.”

LDWF File Photo



The 15,000 square-foot facility will replace a 6,000-square-foot building that has housed LDWF regional office personnel since 1963. Located southwest of Minden off U.S. Hwy. 80, the multi-purpose building will provide office, laboratory and meeting room space for Wildlife Division and Inland Fisheries Division biologists, Enforcement Division agents and administrative staff serving LDWF Region 1 in northwest Louisiana.

“Louisiana is the Sportsman's Paradise and convenient access to department personnel in the region is critical to the Wildlife and Fisheries' mission that supports recreational and commercial outdoor activities in the state,” said Sen. Robert Adley (Dist. 36, Benton). “Add to that the support LDWF personnel provide landowners needing assistance with habitat management and the funding for this project is certainly a smart investment for the state of Louisiana.”

The new facility will serve as the focal point for developing educational opportunities with regional universities, schools, other governmental agencies and sportsmen organizations. It will also provide a convenient location for conducting Hunter and Aquatic Education classes as well as Boater Safety Courses.

Left to right: Rep.-Elect Henry Burns, Dist. 9; Webster Parish Police Juror Jerri Lee; Richard LeBlanc, architect; Col. Ron Stuckey, LANG Camp Minden commander; Rep. Billy Montgomery, Dist. 9; Webster Parish Police Juror C. C. “Cat” Cox; James Seales, LDWF Inland Fisheries Biologist Manager, Region I; Capt. Wesley Walker, LDWF Enforcement, Region I; Rep. Jean Doerge, Dist. 10; Sen. Robert Adley, Dist. 36; Webster Parish Police Juror Vera Davison; and Scott Longman, LDWF Wildlife Division Asst. Division Administrator

“Wildlife and Fisheries' biologists will be able to share their knowledge of species management and foster a better understanding of the department's conservation efforts in classroom settings within this new facility,” said Rep. Jean Doerge (Dist. 10, Minden). “The outreach opportunities that will now be possible can present career path ideas to students who may some day work here.”

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LDWF Administration

Bryant Hammett, *Secretary*
Janice Lansing, *Undersecretary*
John Roussel, *Deputy Asst. Sec., Fisheries*
Brandt Savoie, *Deputy Asst. Sec., Wildlife*

Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Earl P. King, Jr., *Chairman*
Patrick C. Morrow
Wayne Sagera
Frederic Miller
Henry Mouton
Robert Samanie, III
Stephen J. Oats

Division Administrators

Gary Tilyou, *Inland Fisheries*
Karen Foote, *Marine Fisheries*
Jimmy Anthony, *Wildlife*
Phil Bowman, *Fur & Refuge*
Col. Winton Vidrine, *Enforcement*



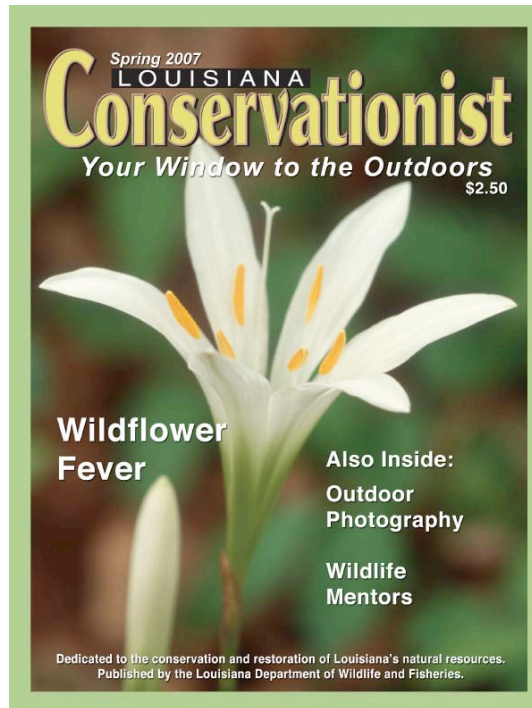


LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST MAKES GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT

Give the gift of the Louisiana outdoors this upcoming holiday season by purchasing a subscription to Louisiana Conservationist for a loved one.

Louisiana Conservationist is a quarterly magazine created by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. It has offered award winning articles and photography on the Louisiana outdoors by focusing on conservation and management for future generations to enjoy since its inception in 1923.

“We feel the magazine would make a great stocking stuffer for any outdoor enthusiast,” said Louisiana Conservationist Executive Editor Thomas Gresham. “We want to show every aspect of what it takes to manage and conserve our outdoor resources. We try to live up to our motto of 'Your Window to the Outdoors.'”



To order Louisiana Conservationist for yourself or a loved one, please call 225-765-2918 to order by phone or download an order form from www.wlf.louisiana.gov/onlinestore/laconservationist. Subscribers will receive four issues to correspond with the four seasons and a yearly calendar

for \$12. To receive two years worth of issues and two calendars, the cost is \$20.

Upcoming issues will include stories about why prescribed burning is an effective wildlife habitat management tool and what the department's plans are for combating the nuisance aquatic weeds that have spread in some of Louisiana's waterbodies.

Louisiana Conservationist is a 36-page, full color magazine. Articles are written by award winning outdoor writers and LDWF staff including biologists and public information officers. Some of the main topics include department programs and studies, outdoor related concerns, hunting and fishing stories, and non-consumptive outdoor activities such as bird watching.

For more information, contact Thomas Gresham at 225-765-2496 or tgresham@wlf.louisiana.gov.

PROJECT WILD TEACHER WORKSHOP OFFERED IN JANUARY

LDWF is offering a Project WILD workshop on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2007 at Chicot State Park from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop is designed to introduce K-12 educators to materials, activities and strategies along with hands-on practice to help participants integrate Project WILD into their teaching.

Teachers are given an overview of the program, information about Louisiana's wildlife, lesson plans for incorporating Project WILD into their curriculum and an opportunity to participate in Project WILD activities from the guides.

Those who complete the course are provided a Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide and a Project WILD Aquatic K-12 Curriculum. Each participant will

also get a certificate for six hours of professional development for this workshop.

There are only 30 spaces available so sign up now! To sign up for the workshop or for more information, please contact Theresa Cross at 337-491-2585 or tcross@wlf.louisiana.gov with your name, contact number, and mailing address.

Chicot State Park is the largest state park in Louisiana. Situated around a 2,000-acre man-made lake, the park offers a wide variety of outdoor activities for visitors such as camping, fishing, hiking and picnicking. The park is located in the heart of Louisiana, six miles north of Ville Platte in Evangeline Parish on La. Hwy. 3042. Day-use admission to the park is \$1 per person.



HIGH SPEED PURSUIT ENDS IN ARREST OF NIGHT HUNTERS

On Dec. 11, Donald Merritt, 23, Joel Rushing, 21, and Justin Gossett, 20, all of Newellton were arrested following a vehicle pursuit by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division Sgt. Larry May.

All three men were arrested for alleged wildlife violations including hunting deer during illegal hours, hunting deer from a public road and hunting from a moving vehicle. Merritt, the driver of the vehicle, was also arrested for aggravated flight from an officer, reckless operation of a vehicle and failure to yield at a stop sign.

May saw a spotlight being shined from a vehicle and heard a rifle shot fired from the vehicle as it traveled north on La. 575 in Tensas Parish at approximately 8:30 p.m. When May attempted to stop the vehicle, the pursuit began. Merritt reached speeds over 100 miles per hour during the chase. May pursued the vehicle into a field, where Merritt's vehicle got stuck in a flooded area.



Hunting deer during illegal hours or with artificial light carries a fine of up to \$950, jail time up to 120 days, or both, plus court costs and forfeiture of seized items. Hunting deer from a public road carries a penalty of up to \$350, jail time for up to 60 days, or both, plus court costs. Hunting from a moving vehicle is punishable by fines of up to \$500, jail time for up to 90 days, or both, plus court costs.

Aggravated flight from an officer is a felony and punishable by imprisonment at hard labor for up to two years.

Reckless operation of a vehicle carries a fine of up to \$200, jail time for up to 90 days, or both, plus court costs. Restitution on the deer that was killed is valued at \$524.

Other agents involved in the pursuit and case were Lt. Gene Wilson, and Senior Agent Brandon Miller.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov or 225-765-2988.

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The Louisiana National Guard (LANG) worked cooperatively with LDWF to provide approximately 30 acres of state property being managed by LANG in exchange for 30 acres of LDWF property in Webster Parish. The new LDWF Region 1 office, just east of LANG's Camp Minden on U.S. Hwy. 80, will be easily accessible from surrounding parishes via Interstate 20.

“This project is a good example of government entities working together to satisfy mutual needs and better serve the public as an end result,” said Col. R.D. Stuckey, Camp Minden commander.

The facility, designed by Richard LeBlanc Architects, Inc. (Shreveport), is being constructed to continue operating during emergencies and allow

LDWF Enforcement personnel a location to coordinate first-response services to the region and the state. Walker Construction of Ruston is the builder. The projected opening date is set for December 2008.

For more information, contact Steve Hebert at 318-371-3050 or shebert@wlf.louisiana.gov.

L.W.F.C. MOVES NEXT MEETING TO JANUARY 9, 2008

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) has changed the date for their next monthly meeting from Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 to Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008. The meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 9 at the Louisiana Department of

Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters building located at 2000 Quail Dr. in Baton Rouge.

The January meeting agenda will be released prior to the January meeting.



OVER 2,000 DEER TAKEN ON W.M.A. MANAGED HUNTS TO DATE

Deer hunters have harvested over 2,000 deer on either-sex managed deer hunts on state owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) through Dec. 3.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife Fisheries (LDWF) has reported that a total of 21,224 hunter efforts were recorded on these managed hunts. Those efforts resulted in 2,298 deer being taken for an average of about one deer being taken for every nine hunter efforts.

“WMA managed hunts have been excellent across the state so far this year with several great deer harvested,” said LDWF's Deer Study Leader Scott Durham. “Efforts per deer harvested have been in the four to five range on many daily hunts and this kind of success rate is good on any tract of land - public or private.”

Last year LDWF collected harvest data on over 3,000 deer taken during the managed hunts on about 800,000 acres, and this is the primary method used by LDWF deer managers to monitor herd health conditions.

Durham points out that hunter turn out on the Sherburne WMA managed hunt this year may have been lower than usual due to the closure of Interstate 10, which created slow travel on Highway 190.

“Deer hunting on WMAs is one of the ways for families to spend vacations and holidays together by hunting and

putting up their annual venison supply. These managed hunts are big tradition across the state,” said Durham. “This low-cost hunting opportunity is important for many Louisianans.”

Durham states that most deer harvested during the recent Thanksgiving hunts were taken the first day with cold and clear weather conditions. These conditions quickly deteriorated through Saturday and Sunday with rain soaking much of the state. However, many hunters hunted through the tough conditions.

The following shows some of the WMA hunts to date: (Numbers represent from left to right: Harvest Efforts, Harvest, and Efforts Per Deer)

Loggy Bayou	450*	67	6.7
Jackson Bienville (Nov. 17-18)	933	123	7.6
Tunica Hills (muzzleloader)	279	14	19.9
Ben's Creek	369	22	16.8
Sandy Hollow	105	2	52.5
Maurepas Swamp (self clearing)	512	66	7.8
Pearl River	318	8	39.8
Attakapas	351	38	9.0
Grassy Lake	1,111	87	13.0
Pomme de Terre	363	33	11.0

Sherburne	1179	138	8.0
Spring Bayou	371	35	11.0
Thistlewaite	787	62	13.0
Peason Ridge	600	37	16.0
Clear Creek (27-28 Oct)	1727	92	10.0
Clear Creek	654	37	18.0
West Bay (27-28 Oct)	1155	119	10.0
West Bay	438	14	26.0
Peason Ridge (27-28 Oct)	147	14	10.0
Fort Polk	1337	79	17.0
Fort Polk (27-28 Oct)	941	193	5.0
Ouachita	355	80	4.4
Russel Sage	535	83	6.4
Boeuf	1538	253	6.1
Red/Three Rivers	3662	346	10.6
Buckhorn	534	89	6.0
Big Lake	720	122	5.9
Sicily Island	203	45	4.5
Totals:	21224	2298	9.2

* estimate