



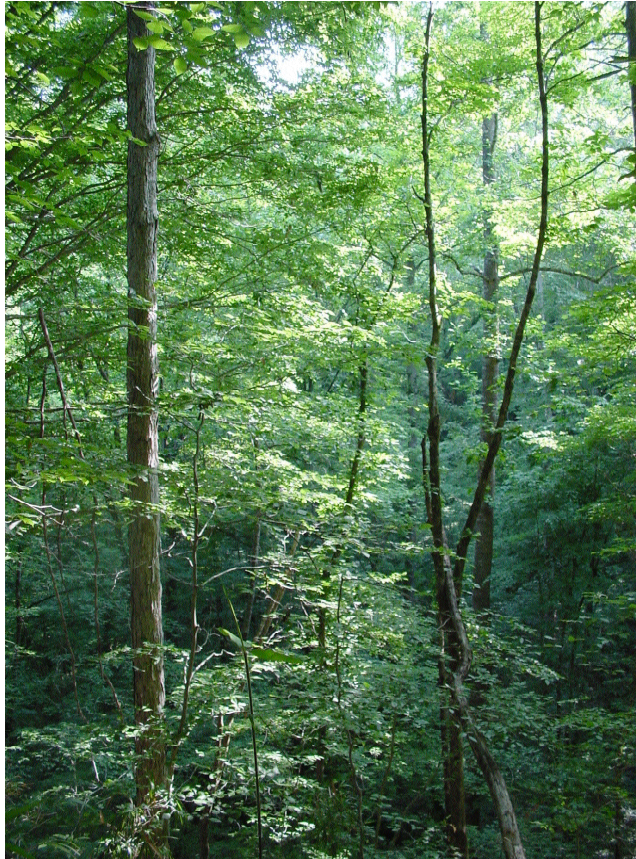
L.D.W.F. AND ENTERGY'S RIVER BEND STATION TEAM UP TO PRESERVE RIVER BEND NATURAL AREA

Entergy's River Bend Station, with assistance provided by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP), within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), has designated 550 acres of unique wilderness for preservation as a registered natural area.

The River Bend Natural Area, located within the Tunica Hills in West Feliciana Parish, is part of Louisiana's Natural Areas Registry program, a state program designed to recognize landowners who are actively protecting their natural areas.

Entergy's Forest Manager Jim Monk, working with LNHP Community Ecologist Patti Faulkner and LNHP Botanist Chris Reid, developed a management plan in 2004 to permanently protect and enhance the property. The new natural area, located in an ecoregion confined to West Feliciana Parish, contains deeply dissected hills with rich hardwood forests dominated by Southern magnolia, American beech and American holly.

LDWF File Photo



Tunica Hills' Wilderness

floodplain. These dissected hills have sustained localized populations of some Appalachian species, primarily herbaceous, thought to have originally migrated south ahead of advancing glaciers in the past ice age.

Relic populations of numerous species more common in the Appalachian Mountains, Ozarks and areas northward still occur today in the Tunica Hills. The region is considered to be one of the most species-rich upland hardwood forests in the entire continental United States. Currently, there are 20 rare state plant species that have the potential to occur within the River Bend Natural Area, including the only known Louisiana locations of wild ginseng and Canada wild ginger. Additionally, 14 rare state animals are known to occur

here such as the rare Webster's salamander, the Eastern chipmunk and the timber rattlesnake.

The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry was created by the Legislature in 1987 and it is maintained by the Natural

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LDWF Administration

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The unusual topography of the River Bend Natural Area developed on deep, fertile, wind-blown silt called loessial deposits that formed east of the Mississippi River between periods of glaciation from 40,000 to 12,000 years ago. The loessial deposits have eroded over thousands of years to form a characteristic highly-dissected landscape of high, narrow ridges, steep slopes, deep ravines and intermittent to permanent streams. Thickness of loessial deposits can vary from two to 30 feet deep and are thickest on the western edge of the bluffs adjacent to the Mississippi River



RIVER BEND NATURAL AREA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Heritage Program (LNHP), founded in 1984 through a partnership with the state of Louisiana and The Nature Conservancy. The Natural Areas Registry enables LDWF to recognize contributions made by Louisiana citizens in protecting our state's natural legacy. The registry program relies on citizen-based conservation and the willingness of landowners to safeguard the best that remains of our natural world. Today, there are more than 36,000 acres registered by private, industrial and government landowners.

LNHP is also a part of the NatureServe Network. This network was designed to gather, organize and distribute standardized, detailed information on the biological diversity across all 50 U.S. states, Canada, and parts of Latin America.

To find information on the Natural Areas Registry, go to the LDWF website at www.wlf.louisiana.gov. Additionally, for information on NatureServe go to their Web page at www.natureserve.org. To learn more about Entergy's environmental com-

mitments and actions, go to www.entergy.com/our_community/environment.aspx.

For more information on the Natural Areas Registry Program, contact: Judy Jones, Natural Areas Registry Program at 225-765-2822 or naturalareas@wlf.louisiana.gov, or Patti Faulkner, Natural Heritage Program, LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, at 225-765-2975, pfaulkner@wlf.louisiana.gov. Site photos are available upon request.

2006 PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2006-07 HUNTING SEASON

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has announced meeting dates and locations for public review and comment on the 2006-07 Hunting Season Rules and Regulations for Resident Small Game and Deer.

March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Alexandria, Alexandria Convention Hall
The City of Alexandria Convention Hall is within the City Hall Building located on Third St.

March 14 at 6 p.m.

Opelousas, Yambilee Center
Directions: Go through Opelousas on Hwy 190 west. When the two lane opens up to a four lane on Hwy. 190 west, the Yambilee building will be on the left.

March 16 at 7 p.m.

Winnsboro, Council on Aging Bld.
The Franklin Parish Council on Aging Building is on 714 Adams St., Winnsboro.

March 20 at 7 p.m.

Bossier City, Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Road
Phone number 318-741-8900.

March 20 at 7 p.m.

Ruston, Ruston Civic Center

Directions: Exit I-20 at the US 167 Exit. Go South on US 167 (North Trenton Street) to the Ruston Civic Center sign on the right at 401 North Trenton Street.

March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Lake Charles, LSU Agriculture Center
The LSU Extension Service Office located at 7101 Gulf Highway in Lake Charles, next to the Burton Coliseum.

March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Baton Rouge, LDWF HQ, La. Room
LDWF is located at 2000 Quail Dr. off of Perkins Road.

March 23 at 6 p.m.

Houma, Houma Municipal Auditorium, 880 Verret St.
Directions: Go down West Tunnel Blvd., turn left on Barrow St., go to Verret St., turn right, Municipal Auditorium a few blocks down on the right. Phone Number 985-873-6543.

March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Hammond, SLU University Center, Room 133
Directions: I-55 North to Exit 32 (University Avenue) exit right (east), continue east to the second traffic light, University Center is on the left.

For more information, contact Jimmy Anthony at 225-765-2347 or janthony@wlf.louisiana.gov.



PRO ANGLER PLEADS GUILTY TO CHEATING IN TOURNAMENT

A Lee's Summit, Mo. man pled guilty to contest fraud on Jan. 25, 2006 in Natchitoches Parish for cheating during a Bassmaster fishing tournament on the Red River in November.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents arrested Paul E. Tormanen, 39, on Nov. 11, 2005 after he weighed in a black bass at the CITGO Bassmaster Central Open. The fish had been caught prior to the tournament.

B.A.S.S. officials had alerted LDWF agents to the possibility of contest fraud after they were contacted by a fisherman who had snagged one of the fish while practicing for the upcoming event.

Agents secretly marked the fish and returned it to the stump where it had been found. On Nov. 10, Tormanen brought the marked fish to the scales at the Grand Ecore boat launch and



had it officially weighed in to count toward the total weight of his catch. B.A.S.S. officials informed agents and the investigation continued. After weighing in his next days catch, Tormanen was questioned by agents. He admitted to catching several bass before the tournament and tying them to stumps in order to weigh them in during the tournament.

Judge Eric Harrington from the 10th Judicial District accepted Tormanen's

guilty plea and issued a suspended sentence of six months in the parish jail, fined him \$588.50 and placed him on probation for two years. In addition, Harrington ordered Tormanen to perform 120 hours of community service through an approved wildlife and fisheries organization and banned him from participating in any fishing tournament where prizes are awarded during the period of his probation. Harrington also ordered Tormanen to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,000 to B.A.S.S., LLC.

Agents participating in the case were Lt. Richie McCarthy, Lt. Bill Tyree, Sgts. Chuck Dison and Patrick Staggs and Senior Agents Eric Droddy and Billy Shoemaker. Natchitoches Parish District Attorney Van Kysar prosecuted the case.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov or 225-765-2469.

L.D.W.F. AGENT HONORED BY VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Department of Louisiana Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) honored Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division Sgt. Darren Bruce from West Carroll Parish with a "Law Enforcement Officers of the Year" award on Jan. 28.

Bruce was one of three enforcement officers selected from various law enforcement agencies across the state for this prestigious award.

Law Enforcement Division Administrator Col. Winton Vidrine commended Bruce on his award. "Sgt. Bruce is a dedicated law enforcement officer and is respected throughout his community for his professional service to the public. We are proud to have him as one of our officers."

The award presentation occurred in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mid-Winter Conference in Alexandria under the direction of VFW Commander Tom Kijak. Bruce had previously been honored as a Morehouse Parish Officer of the year in March 2005 at the Bastrop VFW Post, which led him to the state competition.

Bruce is an eight-year veteran of the LDWF Enforcement Division and received the award for his outstanding service and job performance. VFW Junior Vice-Commander Clayton DeFreese Jr., VFW Post 2277 of Bastrop, presented Bruce with the award.

For more information contact Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze at klacaze@wlf.louisiana.gov or 225-765-2469.



LOUISIANA'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN RECEIVES APPROVAL

LDWF has announced that the agency's Wildlife Action Plan -- A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Future federal funding for State Wildlife Grants (SWG) was contingent on plan approval. LDWF's strategy was accepted in its initial submittal following a two year statewide planning process that concluded in 2005.

"The federal government made the commitment to the conservation of all wildlife species with state wildlife grant funding in 2002 and Louisiana's Wildlife Action Plan reaffirms the state's commitment to being a conscientious steward of the total resource," said Dwight Landreneau, LDWF secretary.

SWG funds are federal dollars derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and distributed by the USFWS Department of Interior. The funds are distributed proportionally, based on each state's geographic and population size and provide for the research and program solutions for wildlife species that are not hunted, fished or trapped. Annual SWG funding in recent years has averaged \$900,000 for LDWF programs and research.

State-level action developed by SWG fund use can prevent more species from becoming listed on the threatened or endangered species list - a designation that brings strict federal land and water usage regulation which restricts private property use and development.

"Our successes in non-game species recovery efforts prove the value of program funding in this area," said Gary Lester, Natural Heritage Program coordinator. "LDWF biologists had significant roles in the re-population of species such as the brown pelican and the Louisiana black bear, and recovery research on the pallid sturgeon."

The plan approved by USFWS details Louisiana's habitat value as a permanent or temporary home to over 900 species of vertebrate animals and an unknown number of invertebrates. Ecosystems from the diverse coastal marshes to interior pine-dominated landscapes are inhabited by a variety of wildlife including 24 million migrant songbirds on a typical spring day to five million waterfowl during an average winter. Over 200 rookeries for wading birds and seabirds are contained within the state's borders.

LDWF broadened its constituency base in the development of the action plan. In addition to continuing its relationship with hunters and fishermen, the department conducted outreach meetings with the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Louisiana Forestry Association, and all federal and state agencies with interest in natural resources.

More than 325 Conservation Actions or strategies were developed in seven focus group meetings held across the state with invited conservation organizations, forestry and wildlife associations, federal and state agencies, industry, universities and private citizens.

To review the Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan - A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, go to <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov> and click on the link under ABOUT LDWF.

For more information, contact Gary Lester at 225-765-2823 or glester@wlf.louisiana.gov.

HUNTER ED. CARDS ON INTERNET

Instead of calling or visiting LDWF to retrieve a lost hunter education card, you can now request a temporary or duplicate card at LDWF's Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

After going to LDWF's homepage, click on the "Hunting Information" link. Next, click the "Hunter Ed. Courses" link. Last, click the "Online" link under the "Lost Your Hunter Education Card" heading and fill in your first, middle and last name, birth date and zip code as it appeared on their lost card and then hit submit.

After submitting the form, hunters can print a temporary hunters education card and request a duplicate card, which would be received by mail in two weeks.

"This system allows hunters who lost their hunters ed. card after hours on a Friday to print a temporary card, which will let hunters legally purchase a hunting license. Without this system, hunters would have to wait until Monday during work hours to call LDWF," LDWF Hunter Ed. Program Manager John Sturgis said.

LDWF does not charge for duplicate cards, and the cards can also be requested by calling 225-765-2932.

For more information, contact John Sturgis at 225-765-5448 or jsturgis@wlf.louisiana.gov.

