



Louisiana Waterfowl Alliance

Summer Newsletter 2015

LWA's goal is to represent every water fowler in Louisiana



Officers and directors of LWA for 2015-16 as elected at the General Membership meeting in April:

Officers:

President-Vacant

Vice President- David Boudreaux

Secretary-Dr. Jay Huner

Treasurer-Sean Pille

Special new positions created at the membership meeting:

Newsletter Editor-John Serigny

Directors:

Beau Barbe, Lake Charles

Mike Benge, New Orleans

Fred Borel, Lake Charles

Bob Broadhead, Shreveport

Barney Callahan, Thibodaux

John Delhommer, Lafayette

Ray Doughty, Shreveport

Marty Floyd, Cheneyville

Randy Lanctot, Baton Rouge

Dr. Doug Liles, Monroe

Charles Williams, Baton Rouge

Sean Pille, New Orleans

If you as a member would like to contact any of the board members or officers please contact Secretary Jay Huner, e-mail:piku1@suddenlink.net.

LWA General Membership Meeting April 18, 2015

With the position of president being vacant, Vice President David Boudreaux opened the meeting welcoming members and visitors. A treasurer's report and a secretary's report were given. After his Secretary report, John Serigny notified the membership that he would not stand for re-election due to his difficult convalescence with spinal stenosis surgery.

Randy Lanctot presided over the election of board members and officers. (see list to the left).

Guest Speaker – Larry Reynolds, Waterfowl Study Leader for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries spoke first about the 2015-2016 season and then spoke about transitions and changes that will impact dates and limits for future waterfowl seasons. Dr. Reynolds pointed out that the past season was the 18th in a row with 6 duck and 60 day seasons. He was concerned, however, about pond conditions on the breeding grounds as it has been dry in the area. The 2014-15 season was a good one but hunting was clearly better in the first split than the second split based on hunter surveys on Wildlife Management Areas and information obtained from commercial hunting clubs.

Dr. Reynolds explained that the framework for seasons, beginning in 2016-2017, will be developed late in the preceding season rather than in mid-late summer of the same year that the season begins. When queried about lack of data associated with the season in progress, Dr. Reynolds presented data supporting long term trends for changes in waterfowl populations. These trends persist in time making it realistic to set seasons in advance of securing current season data. And, should there be any very drastic issue that develops, an emergency may be declared and modifications of the upcoming hunting seasons can be made. In any event, hunters should know what season dates will be, subject to change, if necessary, by April.

Dr. Reynolds then discussed this year's hunter survey.

LWA members have been notified since the meeting about taking the survey on-line.

Dr. Reynolds notified those present that the northern border of the Coastal Zone in the west will be moved to LA 14. This was done because rice crops have not been harvested upon the opening of the coastal zone. The part of the coastal zone loss will be moved to the East Zone.

Issues concerning goose hunting were extensively discussed and Dr. Reynolds presented stats and approached to deal with the issues.

Discussion of U.S. Senate Legislation on Baiting –

The Lafayette Outdoor expo was discussed (*see page two*).

Upcoming board meetings were announced and Randy Lanctot reported to the group that Limited Access Areas and Resting Areas on WMA would be discussed at those meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM.

Waterfowl Alliance Objects to Change in Baiting Rules – Offers Alternative Legislation is working its way through the US Congress that would make it legal to hunt waterfowl over what has, until now, been considered a baited field (i.e., a ripe crop field that has been manipulated causing seed to scatter on the ground). Evidently, the purpose of the proposal is to avoid a situation where folks anticipate being able to hunt waterfowl but, due to the application of farming practices or Federal Crop Insurance Program requirements that create a baiting situation, they are not able to legally harvest waterfowl on the area. In most cases, the opportunity to hunt on such areas has already been paid for by hunt or lease fees. The legislation provides an exception to the definition of a baited area for fields treated with normal agricultural practices or crop destruction required by the Federal Crop Insurance Program as a way to resolve such situations in favor of hunters.

The LWA has objected to the legislation in letters to [Senators Vitter and Cassidy](#) and US Fish & Wildlife Service [Director Dan Ashe](#). The letters are accompanied by a detailed [discussion of the issue](#) and recommendations for avoiding the creation of baiting situations in the future without upending the baiting rules that are necessary to conserve waterfowl resources and promote ethical hunting and the equitable enjoyment and utilization of our waterfowl resources. Follow this issue at www.louisianawaterfowl.org.

[Check Out Our New Bulletin Board](#)
["Waterfowl Talk"](#)

Lafayette Outdoor Expo

Cajundome Arena, Lafayette, LA

July 24,25,26, 2015

The LWA will have a table at the Expo in July. The LWA will be hosting the annual duck calling contest, signing up new members, and selling raffle tickets on a shotgun and other hunting gear. Our greatest need for volunteers is on Saturday during the contest when we will need officials to help with logistics of the contest. LWA members are currently selling raffle tickets on a Benelli Nova Shotgun, decoys, and a case of shells. The prizes will be drawn separately, and the drawing will be held at the Expo on Sunday at 4 PM.

LWA will need volunteers to sell raffles and man the sign up table on Saturday. If you can help out, contact David Boudreaux at (337) 781-2134.

If you did not attend the April member meeting and did not get raffle tickets to sell pre Expo, contact Jay Huner 318 793-5529 for tickets. Tickets are \$1 each/ 6 for \$5/ and 12 for \$10.

You can pre-register for the duck & goose calling contest by [clicking this link](#).

You can see that we have a number of activities that need volunteers. If you possibly be of help, we hope you can spend some time with us at the event.



LWA members manning the booth at last year's expo. The event at the Cajundome is LWA's only fund raiser for the year.



Retired USFWS enforcement agent, Phillip "Flip" Siragusa was recognized for his dedication and service to the waterfowl resource in Louisiana at the August, 2014 membership meeting of LWA in Lafayette.

LWA's new website will soon be in operation. Check it out at www.louisianawaterfowl.org. Also** recently the Wildlife and fisheries commission set the opening date of teal season as September 12, 2015. Again, we will have a 16 day season ending the last Sunday of September.

LDWF has been banding BBWDs heavily for the past 4 years, averaging nearly 3,000 per year. Last year, about 400 plastic leg-bands were put on BBWDs in an attempt to get some re-sighting data. Those bands have yellow letters on black plastic. This year, LDWF implanted satellite radio transmitters in 20 birds. Currently data from 16 of them is being collected, and at least 4 have made major movements (>200 miles) both to Texas and within Louisiana.

