LOUISIANA FOREST STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2009 **Vol. 4 Issue 2 2008/2009**

Louisiana's Natural Areas Registry: *Private landowners conserving our state's natural heritage*

Story by Patti Faulkner

Wenk's Landing Forested Seep Natural Area, where Texas trillium can be found, is located on Bodcau WMA in Northwest Louisiana. Texas trillium (*Trillium texanum*) is a globally rare plant found in forested seeps of northern Louisiana and Texas. This particular photo of Texas trillium was taken on Myrtis Mill Forested Seep Natural Area. *-Patti Faulkner and Chris Reid*

All of us who love the outdoors have our favorite places to hike, hunt, bird watch, or just commune with nature. Be it the piney woods, hills and ravines of the Felicianas, riverine forests, bottomlands and swamps, live oak cheniers, or one of the many other diverse habitats found in Louisiana. We have such a variety of natural communities, and there are currently 66 different types defined by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP). Pressures from development, conversion of natural areas to other uses, wetland losses and urbanization have significantly reduced and fragmented the natural areas still remaining in our state, resulting in decreased habitat for Louisiana's native wildlife and spaces for its citizens to enjoy the outdoors. Today, only a small fraction of our natural places remain in their original condition, and many plant and animal species are now rare or endangered. Louisiana's natural heritage needs our help to ensure its continued survival.

Traditionally, the primary approach to conservation of natural areas has been government acquisition and management in places such as state parks, wildlife management areas or national parks and forests. However, the extent of these conservation areas is small when compared to the amount of native wildlife habitat encompassed by private lands. According to the Louisiana Forestry Association, 48 percent of Louisiana (approximately 13.8 million acres) is in forests. Of that total acreage, 62 percent is owned by non-industrial private

CONTENTS

Page 1
"Louisiana's Natural Areas Registry"

Page 4
"2009 Louisiana Southern Pine Beetle Prediction"

Page 5
"Night-time Shooting Permits for Feral Hogs and Coyotes"

Page 6
"West Gulf Coast Plain Prescribed Burning Initiative"

Page 7
"A Day in the Field"

Back Cover
Newly Certified Forest Stewardship Landowners

Louisiana Forest Stewardship Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2009
Volume 4 Issue 2 2008/2009
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Editor: *Cody Cedotal,* Forest Stewardship Biologist
Layout: *Becky Chapman,* Publications Officer

This public document was published at an average cost of $600.40. Approximately 1250 copies of this document were published at an average printing cost of $600.40. The total cost of all printing of this document averages $600.40. This document was published for Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70808, by LSU Printing Services, to provide information on the Louisiana Forest Stewardship Program. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

landowners and 29 percent is managed by timber industry, while only 9 percent of Louisiana's forestland is owned by the public in state and federal lands. Similar numbers exist for non-forested lands. Consequently, some of the most suitable wildlife habitat is found on private parcels, and because of this fact, conservation efforts must include these private lands. For this purpose, the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry was created.

In 1987, the registry was created by an act of the Louisiana Legislature. It is managed by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The registry is designed to honor and recognize owners of outstanding natural areas for their commitment to the protection of Louisiana's natural heritage. To date there are 84 landowners with their properties in the Louisiana Natural Areas Registries. The registries are located in 34 of 64 parishes and consist of over 46,648 acres under conservation.

Landowner, Juliette Dauterive, accepts her plaque from LDWF staff at the dedication of her HooShooToo Forest Natural Area. HooShooToo Forest Natural Area is located on certified Stewardship Forest #140 in East Baton Rouge Parish and was registered in July 2003. Pictured from left to right: Chris Reid, Judy Jones, Juliette's niece (seated), Juliette Dauterive, Patti Faulkner and Ines Maxit.

The longleaf pine flatwoods savannah is among the most imperiled natural communities in Louisiana.

SO, JUST HOW DOES THE REGISTRY WORK?

LNHP manages a database of information on rare, threatened and endangered species and natural communities in our state. From information in this database and use of topographic maps and aerial photos, special sites are identified within Louisiana that have potential for providing important habitat for some of Louisiana's rare species. A Natural Areas Registry representative then contacts landowners of these areas to discuss the special plants, animals or natural communities that occur on their properties. This first step of informing owners about the importance of their property has a tremendous impact. Through education, the program greatly reduces the chance that significant natural areas of our state might be inadvertently destroyed. The registry program is completely voluntary and registration of a site is only publicized at the owner's request or approval. The registration agreement provides no rights of public access and the exact location of properties is never published.

To qualify for the Natural Areas Registry, a property must contain at least one of the following natural values:

- Habitat for native plants or animals with rare or declining populations in Louisiana, such as the forested seep and the globally rare plant, *Trillium texanum*, found growing under this forest canopy.
- Plant communities characteristic of the native vegetation of Louisiana such as the live oak natural levee forest.
- Contains outstanding natural features such as old growth forests or wetlands.

When a landowner decides to register his or her property with the Natural Areas Registry Program, the program representative will draw up a Registry Agreement specific to that particular property. The agreement will name the landowner and describe the property, the

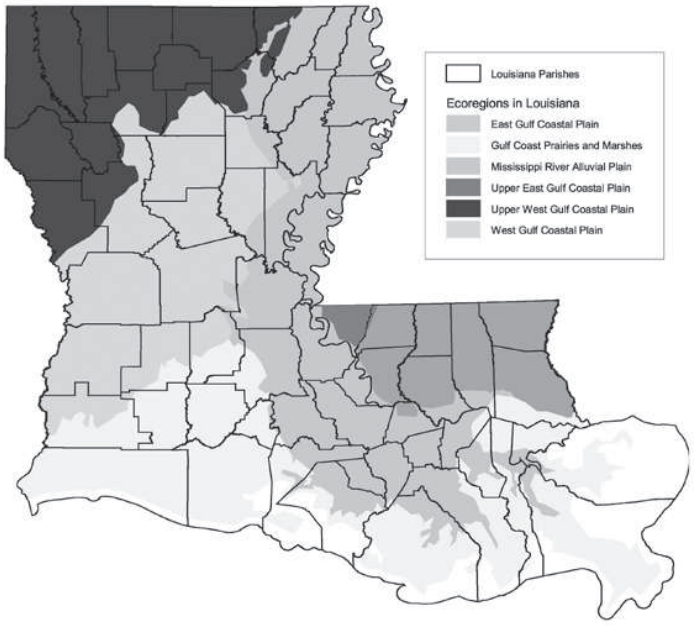
Bird enthusiasts observe the many bird species that frequent Louisiana's coastal live oak forests.

natural habitat and any rare plants or animals found there. By signing the document, the owner agrees to protect the area and its unique species and habitats to the best of their abilities, to notify the program of any threats to the area or the plants and animals within, and to notify the program of any intent to sell or transfer ownership of the area. The agreement is not legally binding, does not subject the property to any additional legal regulations and involves no payment or receipt of funds. To honor this special commitment to protect Louisiana's natural areas, the property owner receives a framed certificate bearing the owner's name and selected name of the registered area and signed by the owner, LDWF Secretary and the Governor of Louisiana.

Upon entering the registry program, LNHP will work with landowners to provide help and guidance for appropriate management of their unique natural areas. LNHP will develop a free of charge management plan specific to the special habitat on the registered area to act as a guide for proper maintenance of the site. LNHP can also provide a listing and guidance on state, federal and private conservation programs and options. Some of these conservation programs provide cost-share funds to defray a landowner's expenses for activities such as prescribed burning and invasive species control. Also available is the option of an annual ecological check-up on the health of the plants, animals and habitat of concern on the property, and consultation on how to best protect the area should a transfer of ownership or other change become necessary. Landowners will receive a periodic mailing of the Natural Areas Registry Newsletter, published quarterly, which contains information such as updates to the registry, new conservation programs and information on Louisiana's natural communities and rare species. Registry participants also have the satisfaction of joining other select Louisiana landowners in a voluntary program to protect natural diversity, benefiting both present and future generations for our state and nation. LNHP feels that a knowledgeable and active citizenry is key to protecting our natural environment. The people of Louisiana are the guardians of their own natural heritage, and support of all our citizens is needed to ensure that our outstanding natural areas are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Patti Faulkner is the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program Ecologist for LDWF.

Ecoregions of Louisiana



Natural Communities of Louisiana (2007)

NATURAL COMMUNITY TYPE	State Rank	Global Rank	ECOREGION[1]					
			UWGCP	LWGCP	MRAP	UEGCP	GCPM	EGCP
MARINE								
Marine Submergent Algal Vegetation	S1S2	---					X	
Marine Submergent Vascular Vegetation	S1S2	G4?					X	
ESTUARINE								
Salt Marsh	S3S4	G5					X	
Brackish Marsh	S3S4	G4?					X	
Intermediate Marsh	S3S4	G4?					X	
Coastal Mangrove-Marsh Shrubland	S3	G2?					X	
Estuarine Submergent Algal Vegetation	S4	---					X	
Estuarine Submergent Vascular Vegetation	S1S2	G4?					X	
Vegetated Pioneer Emerging Delta	S2S3	G3G4					X	
PALUSTRINE								
Submergent Algal Vegetation	S4	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Submerged/Floating Vascular Vegetation	S4	---	X	X	X	X	X	X
Freshwater Marsh	S1S2	G3G4					X	X
Coastal Prairie	S1	G2Q					X	
Mississippi Terrace Prairie	S1	G2			X			
Flatwoods Pond	S1	G2Q		X				
Eastern Hillside Seepage Bog	S2	G2						X
Western Hillside Seepage Bog	S2	G2G3		X				
Interior Salt Flat	S1	G1	X?	X				
Scrub/Shrub Swamp	S4S5	G3?	X	X	X	X?	X	X
Cypress-Tupelo Swamp	S4	G3G5	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cypress Swamp	S4	G4G5	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tupelo-Blackgum Swamp	S4	G4?	X	X	X			X
Pondcypress/Swamp Blackgum Swamp	S1	G3						X
Bottomland Hardwood Forest	S4	G4G5	X	X	X	X	X	X
Overcup Oak-Water Hickory Forest	S4	G4?	X		X			
Hackberry-American Elm-Green Ash Forest	S4	G4G5			X			
Batture	S4S5	G4G5	X	X	X	X		
Sweetgum-Water Oak Forest	S4	G4?			X		X	X
Live Oak Natural Levee Forest	S1S2	G2			X		X	
Wet Hardwood Flatwoods	S2S3	G2G3	X	X	X			
Macon Ridge Green Ash Pond	S1	G2			X			
Forested Seep	S3	G3?	X	X				
Bayhead Swamp	S3	G3?	X	X				X
Slash Pine-Pondcypress/Hardwood Forest	S2S3	G2?						X
Pine Flatwoods	S3	G2G3		X				X
Eastern Longleaf Pine Savannah	S1	G1						X
Western Acidic Longleaf Pine Savannah	S1S2	G2G3		X				
Western Saline Longleaf Pine Savannah	S1	G1		X				
Small Stream Forest	S3	G3	X	X	X?	X		X
TERRESTRIAL								
Coastal Dune Grassland	S1S2	G2G3					X	
Cook Mountain Calcareous Prairie	S1	G1G2		X				
Jackson Calcareous Prairie	S1	G1		X				
Fleming Calcareous Prairie	S1	G1		X				
Morse Clay Calcareous Prairie	S1	G1G2	X					
Saline Prairie	S1	G1G2	X	X				
Coastal Dune Shrub Thicket	S1	G3?					X	
Southern Mesophytic Forest	S2S3	G1G2				X		
Mesic Hardwood Flatwoods	S2S3	G1G2?			X			
Calcareous Forest	S2	G2?Q	X	X				
Hardwood Slope Forest	S3S4	G2G3	X	X		X		X
Prairie Terrace Loess Forest	S1	G2						X
Salt Dome Hardwood Forest	S1	G1					X	
Coastal Live Oak-Hackberry Forest	S1S2	G2					X	
Barrier Island Live Oak Forest	S1	G1					X	
Shortleaf Pine/Oak-Hickory Forest	S2S3	G2G3	X	X				X
Mixed Hardwood-Loblolly Pine	S4	G3G4	X	X		X		X
Saline Oak Woodlands	S1	G2	X	X				
Slash Pine/Post Oak	S2?	---						X
Live Oak-Pine-Magnolia	S2	G2G3						X
Spruce Pine-Hardwood Flatwood	S1	G1G2						X
Eastern Upland Longleaf Pine Forest	S1S2	G1G2						X
Western Upland Longleaf Pine Forest	S2S3	G2G3	X	X				
Western Xeric Sandhill Woodland	S2S3	G2G3	X	X				
Cedar Woodland	S1	G1		X				
Sandstone Glade/Barren	S1S2	G1G2		X				
Fleming Glade	S1	G1		X				
Caves	S1	---		X				

[1]UWGCP=Upper West Gulf Coastal Plain
LWGCP=Lower West Gulf Coastal Plain
MRAP=Mississippi River Alluvial Plain
UEGCP=Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain
GCPM=Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes
EGCP=East Gulf Coastal Plain

This table lists the natural communities of Louisiana, their rank and the locations in the state where they are found.

EXPLANATION OF RANKING CATEGORIES EMPLOYED BY NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE

Each element is assigned a single global rank as well as a state rank for each state in which it occurs. Global ranking is done under the guidance of NatureServe, Arlington, VA. State ranks are assigned by each state's Natural Heritage Program, thus a rank for a particular element may vary considerably from state to state.

GLOBAL ELEMENT RANKS:

G1 = critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer known extant populations) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction

G2 = imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 known extant populations) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range

G3 = either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g., a single physiographic region) or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range (21 to 100 known extant populations)

G4 = apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery (100 to 1000 known extant populations)

G5 = demonstrably secure globally, although it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery (1000+ known extant populations)

GH = of historical occurrence throughout its range; i.e., formerly part of the established biota, with the possibility that it may be rediscovered (e.g., Bachman's Warbler)

GU = possibly in peril range-wide, but status uncertain; need more information

G? = rank uncertain. Or a range (e.g., G3G5) delineates the limits of uncertainty

GQ = uncertain taxonomic status

GX = believed to be extinct throughout its range (e.g., Passenger Pigeon) with virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered

T = subspecies or variety rank (e.g., G5T4 applies to a subspecies with a global species rank of G5, but with a subspecies rank of G4)

STATE ELEMENT RANKS:

S1 = critically imperiled in Louisiana because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer known extant populations) or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extirpation

S2 = imperiled in Louisiana because of rarity (6 to 20 known extant populations) or because of some factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extirpation

S3 = rare and local throughout the state or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted region of the state, or because of other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation (21 to 100 known extant populations)

S4 = apparently secure in Louisiana with many occurrences (100 to 1000 known extant populations)

S5 = demonstrably secure in Louisiana (1000+ known extant populations)

(B or N may be used as qualifier of numeric ranks and indicating whether the occurrence is breeding or nonbreeding)

SA = accidental in Louisiana, including species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded once or twice or only at great intervals hundreds or even thousands of miles outside their usual range

SH = of historical occurrence in Louisiana, but no recent records verified within the last 20 years; formerly part of the established biota, possibly still persisting

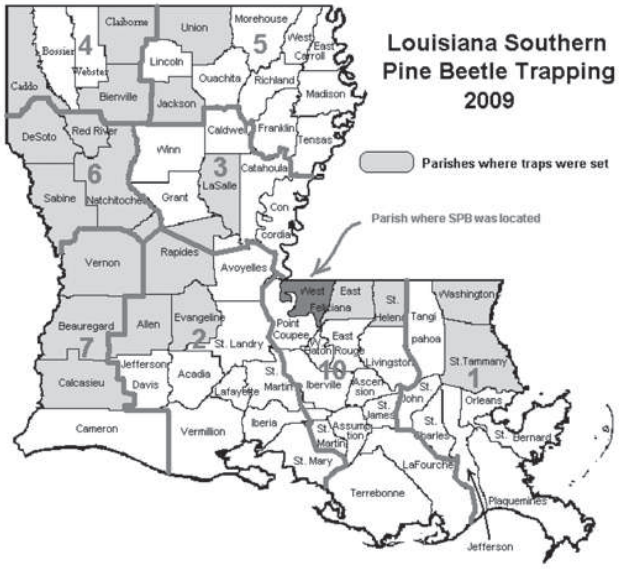
SR = reported from Louisiana, but without conclusive evidence to accept or reject the report

SU = possibly in peril in Louisiana, but status uncertain; need more information

SX = believed to be extirpated from Louisiana

SZ = transient species in which no specific consistent area of occurrence is identifiable

Additional information on the Natural Areas Registry, natural communities and rare plants and animals is available at www.wlf.louisiana.gov under the "Experience Wildlife" tab or from the LDWF Natural Heritage Program at 225-765-2823



2009 Louisiana Southern Pine Beetle Prediction

Story by Carlton Cobb

The southern pine beetle (SPB) is the most destructive insect to our southern pine forests. In most years, SPB activity is relatively dormant. Yet with little warning, an epidemic can occur with multiple infestations each destroying many acres of pine timber.

To predict the likelihood of an epidemic each year, foresters and fire crew personnel with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry distribute across the state southern pine beetle traps baited with an SPB sex attractant and another pheromone. This spring, 34 of these highly effective traps were distributed in 21 pine-dominate parishes as indicated in the map above.

Samples from these traps were collected each week for a month. The samples were then examined under a dissecting scope to count the number of southern pine beetles and clerid beetles, which is the major predator of SPB. This information was then sent to Dr. Ronald Billings, Texas Forest Service, where he uses the ratio of beetles in a prediction model to determine the possibility of an epidemic. The model has proven to be accurate over 75 percent of the time in the last 20 years.

An unusually high total of 2,268 clerid beetles and only one SPB were found in the 2009 season. Having not yet received all of the results, it should be safe to say that a southern pine beetle epidemic is unlikely to occur in Louisiana this year.

The Department of Agriculture and Forestry will continue to monitor SPB and other bark beetle activity this growing season by conducting periodic aerial grid surveys. For more information, contact the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at 225-925-4500.

Cartlon Cobb is the Forest Health Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Night-time Shooting Permits for Feral Hogs and Coyotes

Story by Carrie Salyers

The word is out, and yes it's true; the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is issuing night-time shooting permits for both feral hogs and coyotes. These new permits will allow landowners another technique to protect both agriculture and forestry crops from these two nuisance species. This opportunity is made available to landowners who have experienced both crop/livestock depredation and have previously applied abatement techniques (i.e. trapping, day shooting) to their property.

Interested landowners should contact their local regional office for the permit application. The primary application will request the following information:

- Main applicant's name, date of birth and mailing address (the main applicant must either be the property landowner or must have written consent from the landowner stating their knowledge of requested permit activities on their property).
- LDWF basic hunting license number and driver's license number
- Property location-applicants must include a detailed map of the property showing property details including the proximity to public roads and highways
- Main applicants may list up to nine additional individuals as a sub-permittee under that individual permit. The name, date of birth, driver's license number and LDWF basic hunting license number is required for each sub-permittee listed. No other individual other than those listed on the permit may be present for night-time hunting activities, even if only to observe.
- All listed applicants will be subject to LDWF enforcement background checks. No applicant may have any convicted wildlife violation within the past five years.

Upon completing your application, either mail or fax to the application to the local LDWF office. After reviewing your application, a regional biologist will contact you to discuss and arrange a site visit to the property. Biologists visiting your property will complete a damage report. Information recorded in the report will include:

- Description of the property (noting location and primary use).
- Description of agricultural damage (including estimates of economic impact and type of damage).
- For hog permits, a description of habitat damage will be noted (including seedling or crop damage). This will include documenting the damage with photographs.
- Description of previous abatement practices applied to the property (including day shooting and trapping efforts).

The regional biologist will then sign the report. In addition, both the regional enforcement captain and regional wildlife manager signatures will be collected on the permit application.

Applications and pictures are then sent to LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. Permits are entered and applicants will be contacted by the office of Carrie Salyers. Permit provisions will be reviewed including the requirements of:

- Permittees agreeing to call the regional enforcement number listed on the permit each day they intend to night shoot and
- Permittees agreeing to send the provided shooting reports to Carrie Salyers. Reports are due on a monthly basis. Permit reporting includes time of shooting, number of animals seen/shots fired and number of animals taken with the permit.

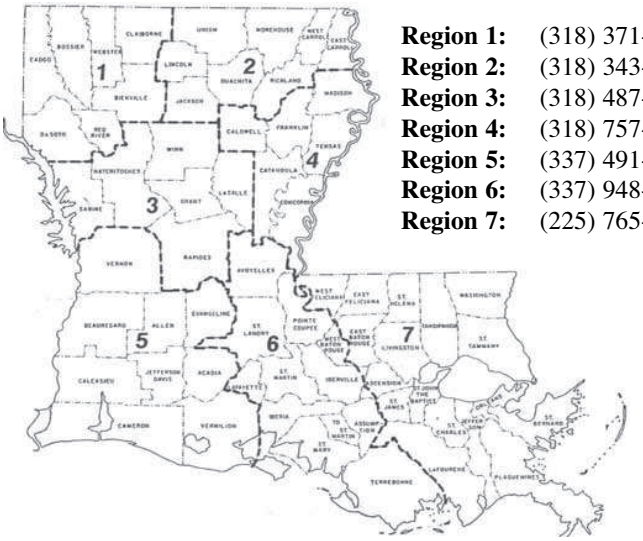
Permits can be issued up to six months in length. Permitted dates will only be during closed deer season. Important points to remember while utilizing your permit:

- Remember your permit does not supersede local ordinances.
- Be cautious of non-target species including bears. Always remember that hogs eyes will not shine, whereas a bear's will. Incidental take of bear will not be protected by the LDWF issued permit. All individuals are subject to prosecution.
- No one other than the (up to) 10 individuals listed on the permit may be in the intended shooting area during permitted hunting activities.

So, if after reading this you feel that you, or an individual you know, would be interested in applying for this permit, please call your local regional office. LDWF looks forward to helping Louisiana landowners continue to protect our resources. Good luck and good shot!

Carrie Salyers is the Urban Biologist for LDWF.

LA Wildlife & Fisheries Regions



Region 1: (318) 371-3050
Region 2: (318) 343-4044
Region 3: (318) 487-5885
Region 4: (318) 757-4571
Region 5: (337) 491-2575
Region 6: (337) 948-0255
Region 7: (225) 765-2360

West Gulf Coast Plain Prescribed Burning Initiative

Story by Fred Kimmel

Prescribed burning financial and technical assistance is available to forest landowners whose property lies in the West Gulf Coastal Plain (WGCP) ecoregion of Louisiana. Prescribed burning is an important tool for managing pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests in this region. These fire-adapted forests provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, and a decline in the use of prescribed burning has led to the decline in many species of birds and other animals that are dependent on the habitat that periodic burning provides. In addition to the benefits to wildlife, prescribed burning helps improve forest health and is one of the best tools for reducing the hazard from wildfires.

LANDOWNER BENEFITS

Property accepted into this program will have one prescribed burn conducted without charge to the landowner. A burn and management plan will be developed by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists. Louisiana Department of Agriculture's Office of Forestry personnel will construct fire brakes and conduct the burn. A single prescribed burn will not yield long-term benefits, so follow-up burns will be needed. LDWF and USFWS biologists will assist landowners in applying for programs that may provide financial assistance for future burns.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any forestland that lies within the WGCP of Louisiana is eligible. However, land currently enrolled in USDA cost-share or rental programs such as CRP, is not eligible.

RANKING PROCESS

Applications will be ranked by location, forest composition, forest structure, tract size and proximity to other land that is regularly burned. Certain areas of the WGCP have been identified as priority areas, and land within or bordering these priority areas will have the best chance of being accepted. However, not all land within the priority areas will be accepted, and land outside a priority area may be accepted over land in a priority area if other attributes are more suitable.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested landowners should contact LDWF or USFWS private land biologists for information or application materials. Once an application is submitted, the landowner will be contacted by a biologist who will arrange a visit to the property to complete the ranking form and gather information for a management plan. Contact an LDWF or USFWS office for more information.

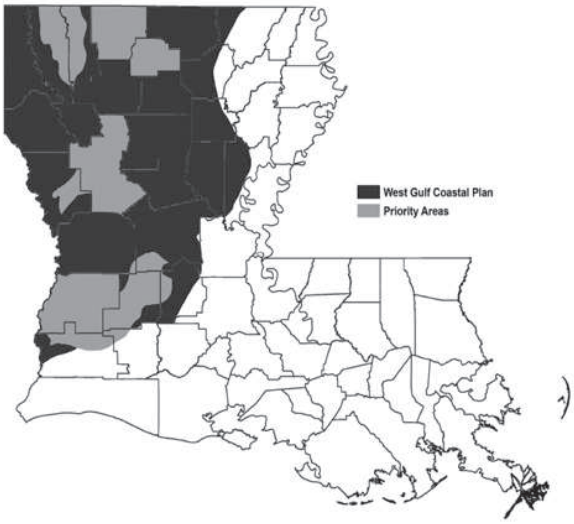
Fred Kimmel is the Upland Game Program Manager for LDWF.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Alexandria	318-487-5885
Minden	318-371-3050
Monroe	318-343-4045
Ferriday	318-757-4571
Lake Charles	337-491-2575

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tensas NWR	318-574-2664
Lafayette	337-291-3100
Bayou Cocodrie NWR	318-336-7119
D'Arbonne NWR	318-726-4222



A Day in the Field

Story and Photos by Cody Cedotal

Faced with stagnate timber markets, budget crises and an overall economic downturn throughout the country, it is as important as ever for landowners and managers to pool their resources and rely on one another for support and advice when managing their property. On April 24, 2009, a group of 55 landowners, foresters and biologists did just this in East Feliciana Parish at a joint meeting of the Red Stick Forestry Association and the Feliciana Forestry Association.

The field day was organized by Brian Chandler, Area Forestry Agent for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. The meeting was held at the Fazande/Rector property, a certified Stewardship Forest near Clinton, La. It was quite unique since this was the second time many members of the group were able to visit this 288-acre property. The first field day was held in 1993 when many of the pine stands were just recently converted to forest from pasture. Many people spent time recollecting, sharing memories and just teasing about the change in physical appearance of many of the participants around a display of photographs from the first field day.

In August 2008, the Fazande/Rector property, along with virtually all of south Louisiana, sustained considerable timber damage as a result of Hurricane Gustav. Cleaning up and moving forward with forest and wildlife management after this storm and some of the more recent damage sustained during the December 2008 "blizzard" was the theme of the field day. Brent Fazande, Consulting Forester and co-owner, began the morning by giving a brief overview of the objectives for the property and the past management that has occurred on the property. We then visited several stops in pine plantations and mixed pine/hardwood stands to view and discuss salvage harvest operations, thinnings, recent prescribed burns and pre-commercial thinnings. At each stop, Fazande and Mike Thomas, Management Branch Chief for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and co-owner, would describe conditions prior to the storm, detail what activities were conducted and layout management plans for the future. There was much additional discussion and questions from landowners, foresters and biologists about issues such as future management needs, production, wildlife habitat treatments and invasive species.

Wildlife habitat enhancement for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and other species is a secondary objective to timber production on the Fazande/Rector property. At a stop at one of the food plots on the property, members of the group got to view and hear discussion on an alternative way to manage food plots and other openings. Fred Kimmel, Upland Game Program Manager for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and I gave presentations on how to manage openings to promote native vegetation through the use of fallow discing, clipping and/or burning. These treatments often result in habitat that is more diverse for deer, turkey, quail and other species and less expensive to maintain than conventional food plots.

At our last stop, we visited a small recreational fish pond located near the back of the property. Dr. Don Reed, Professor - Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, went over some of the techniques and activities required to manage and maintain fish populations. There were detailed discussions on water quality, weed control, stocking requirements and harvest rates.

Overall, those that attended this year's meeting of the Red Stick and Feliciana Forestry Association had a good day in the field. After a well-planned tour of a working forest which highlighted numerous aspects of land management, we enjoyed lunch and good company. Landowner associations offer members a way to get to know one another, as well as local consultants and resource professionals.

Brent Fazande and Mike Thomas (left) address the group about management activities that have taken place in this mixed pine/hardwood stand.

Dr. Don Reed reviews the actions necessary to manage and maintain fish populations in a recreational fish pond.

Participating members can glean knowledge about management activities from many different sources, as well as draw from many years of experience in forestry and wildlife management. If you are not already a member of your local landowner association, I encourage you to join. Please contact your local Extension Service Area Forestry Agent for more information.

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Area Forestry Agents:

- *North LA:* Ricky Kilpatrick 318-965-2326
- *Central LA:* Barry Crain 318-767-3968
- *Southwest LA:* Keith Hawkins 337-463-7006
- *Southeast LA:* Brian Chandler 225-683-3101

Cody Cedotal is the Forest Stewardship Program Biologist for LDWF.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Mike Strain DVM, Commissioner

Office of Forestry
Post Office Box 1628
5825 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

NON-PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 965
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BATON ROUGE, LA

Newly Certified Forest Stewardship Landowners

#274 Shelton Dunn
Lincoln Parish
5/14/2008

#275 Robert Rackley
Ascantia Plantation
East Baton Rouge Parish
5/27/2008

#276 James and Edna Cooper
Vermillion Parish
6/04/2008

#277 Breezy Hill Farms
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009

#278 Charles Record
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009

#279 Neil Record (38 Acres)
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009

#280 Neil Record (23 Acres)
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009

#281 Pine Crest Farms LLC (182 Acres)
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009

#282 Pine Crest Farms LLC (208 Acres)
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/3009

#283 RMF Tree Farm
East Feliciana Parish
3/19/2009