



SISTER LAKE CAMP DESTROYED BY FIRE ON MARCH 4

The Sister Lake camp, which served as a research station and enforcement outpost for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for nearly 60 years, was destroyed by fire on March 4, 2007.

The camp sat on a small island leased from ConocoPhillips and was surrounded by Caillou Lake (commonly referred to as Sister Lake) in Terrebonne Parish. It was only accessible by a 25-minute boat ride from the nearest landing in Bayou Dularge.

The fire is believed to have started sometime after 8 a.m. At 10 a.m., volunteer firefighters from Bayou Dularge arrived on the scene to find the camp already consumed by the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation and no one was injured. An adjoining boathouse, dock and water tank were not affected by the fire.

The Sister Lake camp was built in 1947 to replace an old trapper's camp that was also destroyed by fire in 1946. The camp was used primarily to monitor the state's premier Public Oyster Seed Reservation in Sister Lake. Through the years the camp was also used by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Marine Fisheries staff as a shrimp tagging station, for finfish research and as a crew-staging site for oyster lease surveys among other projects. Additionally, the camp served as a refuge for Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel working in the area.

"The facility served the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries well and will be missed as we try to compensate for the usefulness, versatility and convenience of the Sister Lake camp," said Marty Bourgeois, marine biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. "Sister Lake provided overnight accommodations for personnel working for long periods in the field and served as a shelter for those in the area seeking shelter from passing storms."



Photo by Steve Hein

The Sister Lake camp burned to the pilings on March 4, 2007. Cause of the fire is still under investigation, and no one was injured.

Bourgeois said the facility had not been staffed full-time since the 1980s, but was used for project work by biologists, survey teams and enforcement agents in the area. The camp had survived some of the strongest hurricanes in U.S. history and received only minor damage from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina from 2005.

A decision has not been made on whether or not to rebuild the camp on the Sister Lake site.

For more information, contact Steve Hein at 985-594-4130 or shein@wlf.louisiana.gov.

LDWF Administration

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Janice Lansing, Undersecretary
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Division Administrators

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LAKE RAMSEY W.M.A. UNDER GOES REFORESTATION

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Wildlife Division recently completed the second phase of restoring longleaf pine to the northern portion of Lake Ramsey Wildlife Management Area (WMA). On Feb. 22, 2007, Region 7 Wildlife personnel and the Wildlife Division Forestry Section assisted by the Fur and Refuge Division's Nongame Biologist Manager planted 4,500 longleaf seedlings. Forestry Section personnel accomplished additional direct seeding of longleaf pine seed at the site on March 2, 2007.

Over the past several years the LDWF Wildlife Division has contracted with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to conduct prescribed burning on Lake Ramsey WMA.

"TNC has done an excellent job with the burning program, enabling us to move forward with plans to remove the existing loblolly pine from the site and restore the native longleaf pine," stated Kenny Ribbeck, biologist program manager of the Forestry Section. "Our focus at Lake Ramsey is to complete the restoration of the longleaf pine savannah ecotype through our cooperative management program with TNC. The burning program is leading the way in restoring the natural herbaceous component associated with this ecotype, and the longleaf planting is the follow-up with the restoration of the natural overstory species."

An initial harvest of loblolly pine on the north units of the WMA was accomplished in the fall of 2005.

Longleaf seedlings were planted throughout the harvest area in an attempt to advance their occupancy of the gaps created in the forest canopy through this initial harvest. A final harvest of the loblolly will occur within the next five years, as the planted longleaf become more visible and established on the site. Burning during this period will continue to promote the herbaceous component of the savannah and to prevent other woody species from encroaching on the site. LDWF also anticipates conducting woody invasive control on the site this summer, focusing on controlling Chinese tallow tree.

For additional information on the forest management program at Lake Ramsey WMA, contact Kenny Ribbeck at 225-765-2942 or

LA SEAFOOD MARKETING BOARD NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE

The Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board (LSPMB) welcomes Liz Ferguson, the new assistant executive director for the commodities board.

Ferguson brings superior credentials to the board, including experience as developer, owner and manager of a southern restaurant and upscale catering business; as national marketing and sales manager for Louisiana Cookin' magazine; and as senior events operations manager for Macromedia.

"She has worked with virtually every great chef and soon-to-be discovered chef throughout New Orleans and the nearby Louisiana parishes," said LSPMB Executive Director Ewell Smith. "When you are talking about marketing Louisiana seafood, those kinds of relationships are golden."

Her computer savvy builds from a degree in computer science, strengthens with competence in a variety of word

and money management software packages, and is capped by experience in web and media design.

Her past performance demonstrates her abilities to restructure staff and office operations successfully and to create new and exciting programs.

"I am intimately familiar with the Louisiana food industry," said Ferguson. "My previous jobs took me across the country, preparing me for this position,"

For more information, contact Ewell Smith at 504-283-8150.

**For the latest LDWF news,
check out our Web site at
www.wlf.louisiana.gov**



L.D.W.F. RECRUITING ENFORCEMENT CADETS FOR NEXT CLASS

The LDWF Enforcement Division is currently seeking interested candidates who want to become LDWF enforcement agents for the next LDWF Cadet Academy Training Program, which is scheduled to begin on June 18, 2007.

Interested applicants must submit a copy of their completed State Employment Application Form (SF-10) to the Department of State Civil Service and take the required LEAPS 7500 Exam by March 31, 2007. After taking the exam, applicants must also submit one copy of their application indicating specific parishes as announced with attached additional supporting documentation to LDWF Human Resources Office by hand, fax or mail postmarked no later than March 31, 2007. Applications via e-mail will not be accepted.

SF-10 Application Forms are available online at www.civilservice.gov, any state agency's human resources office or job service office. For information about the job vacancy announcement, the minimum qualifications required to qualify for the job title, Wildlife Enforcement Cadet, additional supporting documentation to be attached to the application, and contact information, please visit the Civil Service website at www.civilservice.louisiana.gov and click on the link "Search for Jobs," (or JOB SEARCH), which list available parishes as announced and contains application instructions. Applicants should apply and list on their SF-10 application only those parishes that are announced and in which they would be willing to live and work.



All Enforcement Cadets receive full state benefits and pay from the first day of training. The starting pay is \$30,000 a year. Cadets will train in Baton Rouge Monday through Friday, but will be allowed to go home on the weekends and holidays.

"This is one of the greatest jobs in the world if you enjoy law enforcement work and have a love for the outdoors," LDWF Enforcement Division's Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze said. "The job is exciting and challenging."

LaCaze said that he would like to have 20 cadets in this Academy and that an agent's life is never boring. "It is seasonal in nature as the job changes according to the time of year with hunting regulations enforcement in the fall and winter and boating and fishing in the spring and summer."

For more information about testing and application information, please visit www.civilservice.louisiana.gov or www.yourfuture.louisiana.com or call the LDWF's Human Resources Office at 225-765-2850.

For more information, contact Sandy Trahan at 225-765-2938 or stra-han@wlf.louisiana.gov or Ruth Rigg at 225-765-2851 or rrigg@wlf.louisiana.gov.

WEST BATON ROUGE NIGHT HUNTER CITED

On March 1, 2007, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division agents cited a West Baton Rouge Parish man for allegedly hunting rabbits during illegal hours.

Herbert Maze, 46 of Port Allen, was cited after agents received a tip that night hunting was taking place. An investigation revealed 12 rabbits had been taken after legal hours ended and with the aid of a headlight.

Maze was also issued a civil restitution summons in the amount of \$196.80 for the replacement value of the rabbits. The 12 rabbits were seized and donated to charity.

The penalty for hunting rabbits during illegal hours or with an artificial light is a fine between \$250-\$500, or jail time up to 90 days, or both plus court costs.

Agents participating in the case were Lt. Donald Salpietra and Senior Agent Jerry Stassi.

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



TURKEY HUNTING REMINDER ABOUT BAITING VIOLATIONS

With turkey hunting season approaching, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is reminding hunters that hunting turkeys over or with the aid of bait is illegal. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

In areas where turkey hunting occurs, deer feeders should be turned off and emptied. Hunters should be aware that an area is considered baited for 15 days after the complete removal of the bait. LDWF Enforcement Division agents are authorized to close baited areas to turkey hunting.

There are exceptions to the baiting law. Hunting over standing crops or food plots where grain grown in the field has been scattered by normal agricultural procedures or manipulations for wildlife management purposes is not considered baiting, provided that the grain has not been removed and then returned to the field. In addition, hunting more than 200 yards from a baited area or deer feeder is not illegal. The complete text of the baiting statute as it applies to wild turkeys can be found on the department's Web site at www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

Hunting turkeys over bait is punishable by fines of \$250 to \$500, or jail time up to 90 days, or both plus court costs. Penalties may also include forfeiture of seized items, community service, probation and loss of hunting privileges.

Violations of the turkey baiting regulations or any other wildlife violation can be reported to the Louisiana Operation Game Thief toll free hotline at 1-800-442-2511. Callers who provide information leading to the apprehension of violators of the turkey hunting regulations are eligible for cash rewards from Louisiana Operation Game Thief and the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Callers have the option to remain anonymous.

Hunting turkeys over bait remains one of the most com-

mon wild turkey hunting violations encountered by LDWF agents. Not only is hunting turkeys over bait unethical, it poses a health risk to wild turkeys. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose healthy birds to disease contaminated soil and grains containing lethal toxins. There is also evidence that predation on wild turkeys and their nests is higher in the vicinity of bait sites. Properly distributed food plots are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

For more information, contact Fred Kimmel at 225-765-2355 or fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov.

COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES AVAILABLE IN BOURG IN APRIL

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Licensing Section is reminding commercial fishermen that department representatives will again set up temporary shop in the Bourg office for the sale of commercial fishing licenses to the public.

Most commercial fishing licenses will be available for purchase from Tuesday, April 17 through Thursday, April 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. The office is located at 468 Texas Gulf Road in Bourg and their contact number is 985-594-4130.

Fishermen are reminded that only cashier's checks, money orders and cash will be accepted at the Bourg office. No credit cards or personal checks will be taken. To avoid processing delays, those purchasing licenses are asked to bring their license renewal notices with them.

In addition to continual sales in Baton Rouge, LDWF has offered commercial licenses from its office in Bourg twice a year since January of 2002. It has successfully provided LDWF with an improved method of customer service and has proven to be a convenient way for commercial fishermen to keep their important licenses current.

