



# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Oct. 12, 2007 Volume 10, Number 17

## 2007 DISCOVER LOUISIANA HUNTING WEEKEND - NOV. 23-25

Whether you're a novice or one-time hunter who has been away from it for a while, the 2007 Discover Louisiana Hunting (DLH) Weekend, Nov. 23-25, will provide an opportunity over Thanksgiving weekend.

This LDWF promotion requires participants to partner with a licensed Louisiana hunter, provide proof of having completed a hunter education course and obtain a no-cost DLH permit via [www.discoverlouisianahunting.com](http://www.discoverlouisianahunting.com). The DLH permit allows the permittee to hunt deer, quail, rabbit and squirrel for the three-day promotion.

"It has never been easier to obtain hunter safety certification," said John Sturgis, LWDF Hunter Education Program manager. "If your busy schedule does not allow you to attend the standard education course, you can take the course through our home study program. Students can study at their own pace and convenience, and then attend a field day for course completion."

A list of Hunter Education courses around the state is available on the DLH Web site. An on-line version of the course is available through the DLH Web site or a CD-ROM version can be obtained by calling the LDWF office nearest the participant. Hunter education courses are free and certification obtained in another state will be accepted.

"We are also encouraging any Louisiana licensed hunter to invite someone to a Thanksgiving weekend hunt," said Sturgis. "So if you have family or friends coming to visit, and they are already Hunter Ed certified, you can be their host and they can obtain the DLH permit via the Web site."

The DLH permit offer is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for anyone 16 years of age and older. Once a participant utilizes the no-cost weekend hunting option, appropriate licenses and permits must be obtained for all future hunting trips in Louisiana.

For daily bag and possession limits and deer zone restrictions refer to the 2007-08 Louisiana Hunting Regulations



LDWF File Photo

Deer is just one of the four wild game hunting opportunities during Discover Louisiana Hunting weekend Nov. 23-25. Quail, rabbit and squirrel hunting are also available during this special weekend.

booklet or go to [www.discoverlouisianahunting.com](http://www.discoverlouisianahunting.com) and click on "Regulations."

DLH Weekend supporting sponsors and partners include: Academy Sports & Outdoors, Bass Pro Shops/Bossier City, Bayou State Bowhunters Association, Bowie Outfitters, Ducks Unlimited, Hunter's Run Gun Club, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation and Safari Club International.

### LDWF Administration

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

### Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

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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*





# L.D.W.F. STOCKING CATFISH AND BLUEGILL STATEWIDE

As water temperatures drop enough to make fish handling safe, employees with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Booker Fowler and Beechwood Fish Hatcheries are busy stocking lakes statewide with channel catfish and bluegill.

Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery, LDWF's primary fish-production facility, is currently undergoing a partial renovation and did not have the pond space to raise the catfish or bluegill this year.

“Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the fish were raised at the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery,” said Kristi Butler, LDWF biologist manager. “The department is grateful to the USFWS for their assistance.”

Inland Fisheries district biologists make requests for fish each year, which are prioritized by need into a single list. Hatchery employees then work to fulfill the requests, starting with the highest stocking priority and working down the list. This year, 745,000 channel catfish and 6.7 million bluegill were requested for 36



LDWF File Photo

USFWS and LDWF employees work together to harvest a pond of channel catfish fingerlings at the USFWS Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery.

bodies of water around the state of Louisiana. The fish are transported from the hatchery to the stocking location by special trucks equipped with insulated tanks and oxygen distribution systems.

Channel catfish are usually requested for lakes in urban areas with high fishing pressure. Bluegill are usually requested for urban areas and lakes that have been renovated to provide forage for subsequent stockings of largemouth bass in the spring. Some of the stockings requested this year

are part of the department's continued efforts to restore fisheries impacted by the 2005 hurricanes.

Both the channel catfish and the bluegill stocked this fall should reach harvestable size after another growing season.

*For more information, contact Kristi Butler at Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery at [kbutler@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:kbutler@wlf.louisiana.gov) or 318-748-6914.*

## L.D.W.F. ADDS 8,314 ACRES TO JOYCE W.M.A.

Randy Myers, land acquisition manager with LDWF announced the addition of more than 8,000 acres to the Joyce Wildlife Management Area (WMA) at the Oct. 4 meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Joyce WMA is now composed of 24,293 contiguous acres of mixed coastal forest and coastal wetland east of I-55 between Ponchatoula and Manchac, thanks to the addition

of 7,274 acres from Octavia Partners and 1,040 acres from The Conservation Fund.

This area is part of the important Lake Pontchartrain basin, and features bald cypress/tupelo swamps inhabited by white-tailed deer, ibis, herons and egrets among myriad other wildlife and fish species. In addition to hunting and fishing opportunities, Joyce WMA features a swamp walk located near I-55 at the northwest corner of the property.



## L.D.W.F. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION TO OFFER MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE COURSE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division (LDWF/LED) was recently granted approval by the Louisiana Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council to offer the Maritime Search and Rescue Course (MSARC) to qualified POST certified peace officers.

In the months after the devastating landfalls of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, several law enforcement agencies across the state of Louisiana realized a vital need to train officers in all aspects of search and rescue (SAR), especially maritime search and rescue.

The LDWF/LED is the primary agency for search and rescue in the state and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) designated lead for SAR operations. LDWF/LED agents have several decades of experience in boating safety enforcement, maritime patrol enforcement and maritime search and rescue, and the division has received several requests from law enforcement agencies to provide maritime SAR



training to their officers.

As a result, LDWF/LED designed and implemented the 40 hour MSARC to train other law enforcement officers in such areas as marine search and rescue, Louisiana Emergency Operation Plans (ESF-9 SAR), navigation rules, vessel handling, waterborne arrest techniques and more.

The first offerings of the course have been scheduled for Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2007 and Nov. 12-Nov. 16, 2007.

Officers must be Louisiana POST certified peace officers and have successfully completed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or U.S. Coast Guard approved boating education course before being eligible to attend the course. Law enforcement agencies interested in having their officers attend the course or for more information on the course itself can contact LDWF/LED at 225-765-2980.

*For more information, contact Rachel Zechenelly at rzechenelly@wlf.louisiana.gov or 225-765-2984.*

## L.D.W.F. AGENTS EXCEL IN LITTER ENFORCEMENT

For the second consecutive year, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Senior Agent Toby Miller received the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Litter Enforcement Officer of the Year award.

Miller, a Kentwood resident, accepted the award at the Oct. 4 meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful Executive Director Leigh Harris presented the award. She thanked Miller for his

work and dedication to litter prevention.

Harris also presented Col. Winton Vidrine, head of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division with the Keep Louisiana Law Enforcement Award, presented to the law enforcement agency that has done the most to promote a clean Louisiana in the previous year.

Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne noted that in the past year the division as a whole issued 336 gross litter citations and

478 simple litter citations, more than any other law enforcement agency in the state.

Col. Vidrine said that the Enforcement Division's aggressive stance on litter stems from their desire to keep our natural areas and roadsides pristine.

*For more information, contact Lt. Col. Jeff Mayne at jmayne@wlf.louisiana.gov or 225/765-2987.*



## COMMISSION AMENDS, ADOPTS 2008 TURKEY REGULATIONS

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted an amended version of the 2008 Turkey Hunting Notice of Intent proposed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The decision came at the commission's regular monthly meeting Oct. 4.

The amendment reads, in part: "Hunters who received tags with their licenses are encouraged, but not required, to tag their kill and record their kill on their harvest report card." Tagging and validation are not manda-

tory this deer or turkey season; they will be mandatory beginning with the deer season in the fall of 2008.

Difficulties implementing the tagging system for the upcoming hunting seasons prompted this move. LDWF Wildlife Division Administrator Jimmy Anthony also encouraged hunters to voluntarily report both deer and turkey harvest in order to test the system for further problems.

The 2008 turkey season will open Friday March 21 in all areas. The sea-

son will extend to April 20 in Area A, April 13 in Area B and April 6 in Area C. The statewide youth and physically challenged hunter days are March 15 and 16.

Hunters can validate their tags by clicking the "Buy Hunting Licenses or Validate Tags" link at [www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting).

*For more information, contact Fred Kimmel at [fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov](mailto:fkimmel@wlf.louisiana.gov) or 225-765-2355.*

## POACHERS LOSE HUNTING PRIVILEGES FOR FIVE YEARS

John N. Miller, 35, of Flatwoods, and Robert R. Bordelon, 28, of Boyce, both pled guilty on Sept. 7, 2007, in 9th Judicial District Court to several hunting violations. Judge Thomas M. Yeager accepted the guilty pleas, fined both men, sentenced each to jail and revoked their hunting privileges for five years.

Miller and Bordelon both pled guilty to hunting from a moving vehicle, two counts each of hunting deer at night, hunting deer during a closed season and possession of illegal game.

Yeager ordered Miller to pay \$3,656 in fines and court costs, pay \$500 to Operation Game Thief and sentenced him to 90 days in prison with 60 of those days suspended. Yeager ordered Bordelon to pay \$3,256 in fines and court costs, pay \$400 to Operation Game Thief and sentenced him to 90 days in prison with 80 of those days suspended.

Yeager also ordered Miller and Bordelon each to pay \$1,573.62 in restitution to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for the deer they killed illegally. Judge Yeager placed both men on supervised probation for two years and ordered them to pay a \$55

per month supervision fee. Yeager then ordered the 12-gauge shotgun used by Miller and Bordelon to be forfeited to LDWF.

The guilty pleas stem from an investigation by LDWF Enforcement Division agents, which began on June 22, 2007. According to statements from witnesses and those involved, the violations were the result of Carlos A. Pickering, 38, of Boyce, allegedly asking Miller to get him some deer on June 21, 2007.

Miller then killed one deer while driving along on Hwy. 8 around 10 p.m. Miller later got with Bordelon and they killed two more deer in Kisatchie National Forest near Flatwoods between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m.

Miller and Bordelon then took the three deer and dropped them off in the Pickering's yard. When the Pickering's awoke and found the deer, two of the deer had already spoiled. The two spoiled deer were hauled off and the other deer was cleaned and divided among relatives. Pickering is currently awaiting trial on three counts of possession of illegally taken deer in this case.