

# Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Newsletter

Volume 1 No. 1

October, 2003

Welcome to the first official registry newsletter. The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program gained the support and funding to continue the natural areas registry program this year. The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry was created by the Legislature in 1987 and is managed by the Natural Heritage Program (LHNP), which was founded in 1984 through a partnership with the state of Louisiana and The Nature Conservancy. The Registry enables the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to recognize contributions made by Louisiana citizens who are working towards protecting our state's natural legacy. The staff with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program headed by program coordinator, Gary Lester, has changed faces over the past few years. We would like to take time in this issue to introduce you to the new staff members and the Natural Areas Registry contractor – Judy Jones (225) 765-2822, jjone49@lsu.edu. Finally, in each quarterly newsletter, we will introduce you to a different Louisiana natural community (combination of different plants growing together having a unique appearance that is characterized by the presence of certain dominant species) and one associated plant and animal species.

## Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Mission

The mission of the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program is to work with landowners toward the conservation of ecologically sensitive lands in Louisiana.

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**M. B. “Blue” Watson** has been an employee of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for over thirty years. He is an LSU graduate in the fields of zoology and physiology and has been the supervisor of the Habitat Section (formerly the Environmental Section) of the Department since 1979. His primary professional interests are in the fields of terrestrial and riverine ecology. He was originally employed with the Wildlife and Fisheries’ Division of Water Pollution Control, which was incorporated into DNR under reorganization in 1979/80, and subsequently incorporated into DEQ in 1983/4. He chose to remain with LDWF as supervisor of the Habitat section in 1979, but represented the Department on the Environmental Control Commission during its existence from 1980-1983. The habitat section has been moved and reorganized several times and has included the Statewide Environmental Investigations program, the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers program, the Seismic exploration program, the mariculture program, the urban and non-game wildlife program, the nuisance animal control program and the Natural Heritage program. Currently, only the Statewide Environmental Investigations, Natural Heritage, Scenic River and Nuisance wildlife control program are included in the duties of the Habitat Section.



Front row from left to right: Connie Dunn, Jill Kelly, Patti Faulkner, Ines Maxit, and Judy Jones. Back row from left to right: Eric Baka, Chris Reid, Nancy Higginbotham, Josh Concienne, and Blue Watson.

**Connie Dunn** is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a graduate of Redemptorist High School. Connie has worked for the State of Louisiana for 29 ½ years. In 1980 she came to work for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as a Secretary for the Inland Fisheries Division. In 1992 she transferred to the Habitat Section of the Fur and Refuge Division and is currently the Administrative Specialist for the Habitat Section which is comprised of four programs: The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, The Louisiana Scenic Rivers Program, The Environmental Program and The Nuisance Animal Control Program. Connie also served as Secretary for LAWRA, The Louisiana Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association for 5 years. Connie and her husband have a rehabilitator's permit from the Natural Heritage Program for rehabilitating squirrels, which they have been doing for 7 years now.

**Jill Kelly** has worked as a biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) since 1994. Originally from Pennsylvania, Jill relocated to New Orleans in 1993 to work in the saltwater husbandry department of the Aquarium of the Americas. She fell in love with the food, culture, and beautiful natural areas of Louisiana and decided to make it her home! As a biologist in the Marine Fisheries Division of the LDWF Jill worked with

commercial and recreational fishermen, identifying catch, recording morphological statistics and retrieving otoliths and gonads for ageing studies. LDWF projects that Jill has worked on include the Commercial Fisheries Trip Interview Program (TIPS), the Commercial Fisheries Trip Ticket Program, the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), Fisheries Independent Monitoring, SEA MAP cruises, and served as a department representative on two National Marine Fisheries Service Shark Surveys in the Gulf of Mexico. Jill joined the Natural Heritage Program in 2001 as the data manager. She is responsible for maintaining the database of rare, threatened and endangered (r/t/e) species of plants, animals, and natural communities of Louisiana. She also responds to all data requests and reviews statewide-proposed activities for their impact on rare, threatened, and endangered species.

**Joshua Concienne** is the Assistant Data Manager for the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program. He assists Jill Kelly in maintaining the database and reviewing statewide proposed activities. Joshua is a native of South Louisiana and has recently received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences (with minors in Chemistry and Theatre) from Louisiana State University. During his years at LSU, Joshua was involved in a wide variety of activities. He held small roles in Swine's Palace's production of *Romeo and Juliet* as well as LSU Theatre's *Trojan Women* and performed with "The Improvisors", a small troupe of improvisational actors. When not on stage, he held a few student jobs such as lab assistant in a genetics research lab and computer technician at the Paul M. Hebert Law School. Joshua is a former member of the Golden Band from Tigerland and both he and his wife are die-hard LSU fans. Go Tigers!

**Patti Faulkner**, a native of Louisiana, has an educational background in forest management and forest ecology, and received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees both from LSU. Her previous employment included jobs with Louisiana State University, the U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Geological Survey, and has led her from the marshes, swamps and bottomland hardwoods of LA to the piney woods of North Carolina, and mangrove forests of Florida, Belize and Honduras. Patti came to work for Louisiana's Natural Heritage Program in February 2001 as the Program's Natural Community Ecologist. The Natural Heritage Program has identified 66 different natural communities within LA with 40 of those considered rare. Patti's job involves locating, surveying, and documenting the rare communities remaining in LA, and to do the same with the very best remaining examples of the more common community types. She also helps landowners with environmental assessments of their properties, and management recommendations that combine habitat conservation with multiple land uses.

**Nancy Higginbotham** is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife in 1994 and a Master of Science degree in wildlife in 1996 at Louisiana State University where she studied neotropical migrants under Dr. Nobel. Nancy was hired with the LDWF in Baton Rouge as an upland game biologist where she was responsible for managing various research projects. She came to LNHP in 2001 as a non-game biologist and is responsible for issuing permits for wildlife rehabilitators, scientific collection, and special possession. She represents the department for Partners in Flight, joint ventures, and many other special non-game committees. Nancy also participates in biological surveys to aid in the development of management plans and wildlife habitat enhancement.

**Ines Maxit** After working on mammals in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, Inés Maxit received her Master degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida in 2001.

Inés joined the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) in February 2002 as the Program's zoologist. Inés is in charge of updating and collecting data on rare animal species in Louisiana by field surveys, through contracts with universities, or from current scientific literature. The Louisiana Rare Animal Species List contains 162 species of invertebrate (mollusks and snails, crustaceans and insects) and vertebrate animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, bird and mammals). More than half of these species are considered by LNHP to be critically imperiled or imperiled due to their rarity or vulnerability. Furthermore, there are 27 species presently listed, as federally Threatened or Endangered, and three are candidates for federal listing. Since last year, Inés has been working or coordinating projects on the Gopher tortoise, manatee, Louisiana pearlshell mussel, fishes, crawfishes and bats.

**Chris Reid** was born on 31 May 1974 in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He grew up in St. Francisville, Louisiana and is a 1992 graduate of West Feliciana High School. After high school Chris earned a B.S. in Forestry from LSU. During forestry school he developed an interest in botany, particularly in plant taxonomy (identification and classification of plants). After completing undergraduate work entered University of Louisiana, Monroe (then Northeast Louisiana University) and in May of 2000 earned a M.S. in botany. Chris worked on a Ph.D. at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for two years before accepting his current job as botanist for the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program. He still plans to finish his doctorate eventually. Chris' main botanical interests are the grass family, aquatic and wetland plants, and the flora of the southeast United States.

**Eric Baka** is a native of Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State University (MSU), and has an educational background in wildlife biology. His previous employment included jobs with Dr. J. H. Carter III and Associates-Environmental Consultants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and MSU. Eric graduated from MSU in 1998 and began working with colonial nesting waterbirds. During the past two and a half years he has worked as an environmental consultant specializing in red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) management, before joining the Natural Heritage Program this fall. He now implements the statewide RCW Safe Harbor Program.

**Judy Jones** has lived in Louisiana most of her life and was previously employed by Union Carbide Corporation as a piping designer / engineering technician for almost 18 years. She decided to change her career so went back to college in 1994 and quit her job three years later to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology / Zoology at Nicholls State University in 1999. Judy completed an internship with Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species (ACRES) in New Orleans, LA before applying for graduate school. She graduated in August 2003 from Louisiana State University with a Master of Science degree in Wildlife. Judy began working with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) staff in January 2003 as a contract biologist for the Natural Areas Registry, and has been updating the registry files and contacting existing members to determine the status of their membership. Judy also works with the LNHP staff to contact landowners, assists with ecological surveys, registers those landowners who want to protect their property with a natural areas registry, will start inputting natural area registry into ARCVIEW database this year, and works with other organizations to provide help to landowners who want conservation easements or other for greater types of natural areas protection.

#### **Natural Areas Registry Update** by Judy Jones

Before the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry lost its funding several years ago, it had 75 distinct registered natural areas

containing 71,897.58 acres located in 32 of 64 parishes. Today, 10 previously registered landowners that together make up 3,136 acres, have provided stronger protection for their land by developing them in either a land trust, easement, refuge, or a preserve.

At the beginning of the year, I began contacting all previously registered members with a short newsletter and questionnaire to determine the status of each registry. Originally, 69 surveys were mailed out to previously registered natural area members and we have received 32 responses by mail and a few by telephone. We would like to thank all the natural areas registry members who returned their surveys. I am happy to hear that registry members are so enthusiastic and appreciative of the natural areas registry program. Your efforts are helping to preserve Louisiana's natural heritage such as: river basin swamps, marshes, chenier woodlands, pine savannahs, ravine forests, remnant prairies, and more.

### New Natural Area Registries

Two new natural areas have been officially registered thus far this year. Both landowners were commended for actively protecting, managing, and conserving the natural heritage of their property. The first natural area registered this year is HooShooToo Forest owned by Juliette Navratilova, who agreed to register 152.5 acres in East Baton Rouge Parish. The HooShooToo Forest is a good example of a spruce pine-hardwood mesic flatwoods and water oak/palmetto flats that is considered to be one of the most interesting forest occurrences in Louisiana because of the forest type "mixing", species composition and diversity, and undisturbed character with old trees. Juliette was presented with a certificate of registry in July.



HooShooToo Forest Dedication. Left to right are: Chris Reid, Judy Jones, Juliette's niece - Malia Carmack, Juliette Navratilova, Patti Faulkner, and Ines Maxit.

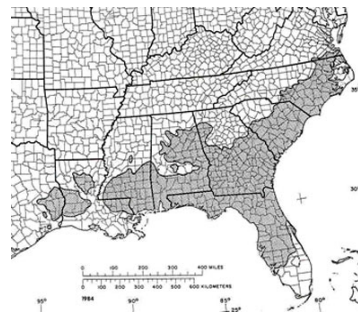
The second natural area registered this year is the Barnes Creek Savanna Natural Area owned by L. Neil Conrad, who agreed to register 680 acres in Allen Parish. The Barnes Creek Savanna is a good example of a western longleaf pine savanna. It contains an impressive diversity of ground cover plant species such as: diverse grasses, sedges, orchids and insectivorous plants. It also contains some rare plant and animal species such as: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Henslow's Sparrow, Roughleaf Loosestrife, Cooley's Meadowrue, American Chaffseed, and Canby's Dropseed. Neil Conrad was presented the certificate via mail because he resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, Ken Rich, a forest manager with Farmcraft Forestry Corp., was awarded a certificate of excellence by the state for doing such a great job of managing Neil Conrad's property that has benefit both wildlife and the longleaf forest ecosystem.

### Louisiana Community Information Longleaf Pine Forests in Louisiana

by Patti Faulkner

Longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris*, is known for its long needles of up to 18" in length, large cones of up to 12", and adaptation to fire. The natural range of longleaf extends along the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from southeastern Virginia through the Carolinas and

Georgia, dipping through Florida, and extending across Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and into east Texas. Longleaf once existed in extensive pure stands covering at least 70 million acres with another 10 million acres in stands mixed with other southern pines and hardwoods. As the southeastern United States was settled, longleaf was cut to produce tar, pitch, and turpentine, and was heavily logged for construction materials. Today less than 1,000 acres of virgin longleaf pine remains, and the longleaf pine ecosystem covers less than 3 million acres, a 96% loss from its original extent. Louisiana has two major longleaf pine regions. The first region occurring in the Florida Parishes, and the second in the upper southwestern and central portions of the state, with the Mississippi River floodplain dividing the two areas.



### Natural Range of Longleaf Pine Forest

Silvics of North America,  
Vol. 1 Conifers. USFS  
1990.

### Characteristics of Longleaf Pine

Longleaf has long, dark green, shiny needles in clusters of three that form tufts with a brush-like appearance at the tips of the stout branches. The large cones of this species are produced once the tree reaches 20 to 30 years of age. Upon release from the cones, seeds longleaf germinate quickly when in contact with bare mineral soil. Young seedlings begin life in what is called the "grass stage" when they resemble a dense clump of grass. They can remain in this form from 3 to 15 years, and their thick candle-like terminal bud makes them resistant to fires. During this stage, the seedling develops a long, heavy taproot, and once released from the grass stage, young longleaf saplings will grow at least 5 feet per year. Depending upon surrounding habitat conditions, a mature longleaf can reach to a height of 100 to 120 feet, and live up to 400 years. This species is shade intolerant, and for successful regeneration requires an open area with only sparse woody competition. Longleaf pine grows on a variety of sites ranging from wet, poorly drained flatwoods with clayey soils to dry, sandy ridges.



### Biodiversity & Fire Hallmarks of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems

One of the most notable features of the longleaf pine community is its extremely high biological species diversity or biodiversity, which is rivaled only by the tropical forests. Upwards of 50 plants species per square meter have been observed in these ecosystems, with the dominant ground cover species being grasses. Since the longleaf pine community type is greatly reduced from its original extent, many of these associated plant and animal species are now considered rare, and some are even listed as threatened or endangered. Twenty-five percent of Louisiana's rare plant species are found in the longleaf pine forests. The red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and American chaffseed

(*Schwalbea americana*), both listed as endangered on the Federal Register, are natives to the longleaf pine forests.

Fire plays a crucial role in defining and sustaining the longleaf pine ecosystem. Spring and summer fires occurred naturally in longleaf forests because of frequent lightning strikes. These fires were essential in maintaining the open, park-like appearance of this ecosystem and thus allowing for regeneration of longleaf and development of the species-rich herbaceous layer. In the absence of growing season fires, woody shrubs and trees invade causing increased competition for moisture, nutrients and sunlight. Overtime, these woody invaders will dominate a site once comprised of longleaf pine unless halted by regular fires of every 1 to 3 years. With increased development in rural areas, fire suppression has become the norm and has also hastened the demise of longleaf forests. Controlled or prescribed fire is now the best method of maintaining a healthy longleaf ecosystem.

How can you help maintain the longleaf legacy?

If you own a longleaf forest, or wish to establish one...

- Develop a long-term management plan for your longleaf forest. A forest consultant or professional forester can help with this plan, but the landowner must work closely with the forester to assure that their objectives are clearly understood and met.
- Develop a prescribed burning plan for the area creating permanent fire breaks using existing roads, trails and natural fire breaks such as ponds, lakes and streams. Initially reduce any high fuel levels created by thick woody undergrowth with a series of dormant season burns, and then maintain a regular growing season burning schedule of every 1 to 3 years.
- Choose a harvesting method such as shelterwood, group, or single-tree selection that is appropriate for the conditions of your particular stand. Again, the forest professional can help with method selection that should incorporate plans for natural regeneration of your longleaf.
- Incorporate wildlife enhancements into your management plan by maintaining an open canopy, burning regularly to stimulate flower and seed production of groundcover species, periodically leaving some areas unburned to provide escape cover, and retaining a few scattered hardwoods to produce acorns and fruit.
- Contact the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (225) 765-2821 or The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (225) 338-1040 for a free copy of TNC's booklet, [Managing the Forest and the Trees: A Private Landowner's Guide to Conservation Management of Longleaf Pine](#), detailing specifics of longleaf management and providing resources to help the longleaf pine landowner.

#### Associated Longleaf Forest Plant by Chris Reid Savannah meadow beauty (*Rhexia alifanus*)



Savannah meadow beauty is a perennial herb up to three feet tall with showy lavender-rose petals that are about 1 inch long. It blooms throughout the summer months. The anthers (pollen bearing organs) are sharply curved. The fruits of this and other species of *Rhexia* are

distinctively shaped like chemistry flasks or vases. The stems are glabrous (smooth, without hairs) with the leaves arranged opposite each other. Savannah meadow beauty occurs on the Coastal Plain from North Carolina to east Texas. It is a facultative wetland plant, which means that it usually (estimated probability 67 – 99%) occurs in



wetlands but occasionally occurs in uplands. Savannah meadow beauty is often abundant in longleaf pine flatwoods savannahs and pitcher plant bogs in Louisiana. There are several other species of *Rhexia* in these habitats. Yellow meadow beauty (*Rhexia lutea*) has yellow flowers and short stems and is also usually abundant in savannahs and bogs. Maryland meadow beauty (*R. mariana*) has light pink flowers and is about a foot tall. It grows in association with Savannah meadow beauty but is more widely distributed. Handsome Harry (*R. virginica*) is a robust plant with light pink flowers and nearly square stems that are slightly winged.



#### Longleaf Pine Forest Animal Red-cockaded Woodpecker by Ines Maxit

The Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) was once found throughout Louisiana in mature pine forest. Today, nearly all known colonies are on the 4 districts of Kisatchie National Forest. The dependence of this species on old-growth pine forest is the single most critical factor leading to its endangered status. This woodpecker inhabits open, mature pine woodlands, rarely deciduous or mixed pine-hardwoods located near pine woodlands. Optimal



habitat is characterized as a broad savanna with a scattered overstory of large pines and a dense groundcover containing a diversity of grass, forbs, and shrub species. Midstory vegetation is sparse or absent. Nesting and roosting occur in tree cavities. Active cavity trees are almost exclusively old, living, flat-topped pine trees. Roosting and nesting cavities have been found in longleaf, loblolly (*Pinus taeda*), shortleaf (*Pinus echinata*),

slash (*Pinus elliottii*), pond pine (*Pinus rigida*), and even bald cypress (*Taxodium distichus*). Some evidence suggests longleaf pine is preferred even when mature stands of other pine species are available. Red-cockaded woodpeckers show a clear preference for older trees. The average age of cavity trees ranges from 63-126 years for longleaf pine, 70-90 years for loblolly pine, 75-149 years for shortleaf pine, 62-130 years for pond pine, and >70 years for slash pine. The diameter of cavity trees at breast height (dbh) is usually at least 35 cm. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are unique among woodpeckers in the use of living pines for cavity excavation. The selection of older trees for cavity excavation sites provides several benefits presumably related to ease of excavation and cavity quality. Cavity trees are generally infected with red heart disease, a fungus (*Phellinus pini*) that attacks the heartwood, destroys cell walls, and causes the wood to become soft and pithy and presumably this facilitates the excavation of cavities. In addition to requirements for old pine trees, appropriate habitat also includes open, park-like conditions extending across the area surrounding a cluster of cavity trees. Foraging occurs in a diversity of forested habitat types that includes pines of various ages as well as some hardwood-dominated habitats. It has been found that the removal of forest cover within 800 m of cavity clusters was associated with cluster inactivation.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers live in groups containing a single breeding pair and zero to four 'helpers', rarely as many as nine. Helpers help incubate eggs, feed nestlings and fledglings, and defend territories. Mated pairs are monogamous. Each member of a group usually has an exclusive roost cavity. Access to a cavity is critical to the nesting success of males, since the nesting cavity is almost always the cavity of the single breeding male. Almost all young females and most young males disperse and find an existing cavity with a new group. Another strategy, employed by young males, is to remain on the natal territory in hopes of inheriting the territory or another nearby territory. Only very rarely do young

birds disperse to new areas and excavate new cavities. Birds that remain in natal territories may do so for many years and help the breeding pair raise and care for new birds. Once a male attains breeding status in a group, it usually retains that position until death. Females may switch groups after attaining breeding status, particularly when an offspring male inherits a territory; this may help avoid close inbreeding.

**A Second Chance for the RCW, Red-cockaded Woodpecker**  
*Picoides borealis*

by Sean Kinney (edited by Eric Baca)

Most of Louisiana's residents have never seen a Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), and for those who have it is usually from a distance. An RCW cluster, the center of a breeding pair's activity, is typically off limits to all but authorized personnel. The RCW has been federally listed as an endangered species since 1968 and therefore is legally protected from disturbance. Concern for the survival of the species has prompted several states to initiate Safe Harbor Programs, which entice private landowners to manage their land for this endangered woodpecker.

RCWs were once common in the extensive longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) forests of the southeastern United States. In the early 1900's most of the longleaf pine forests were harvested leaving the RCW little habitat. Somehow the species survived and today through recovery efforts the population is in better shape now than in the past. RCWs are the only living woodpecker that builds its nest cavities in living trees and prefers longleaf pine that is 60 years or older. The need for mature trees directly conflicts with the short rotation of timber growth and harvest that most private and commercial landowners have adopted. Hence, a reason to establish a Safe Harbor Program (SHP) for landowners and RCWs.

SHPs are used by a state conservation agency to allow some private landowners to manage their lands without the fears associated with RCWs. SHPs work by assessing a landowners' property for the number of RCW groups at the time of enrollment (their baseline) and providing "safe harbor" from any further Endangered Species Act (ESA) mandates for any new RCW groups that develop while enrolled in the SHP. This is beneficial to the landowner because their property can be managed, outside of the baseline clusters and foraging areas, to their wishes and not have to worry about violating the ESA. RCWs benefit from SHPs because enrolled landowners voluntarily manage habitat that is suitable in which the bird's can nest and forage. The landowner agrees to specific management practices, and reports accomplishments yearly to LDWF. Landowners are also required to contact LDWF 60 days prior to any major management actions that will take place on property. This allows LDWF to move, if it so wishes, the affected RCW groups. It is important to note that certain management activities can occur within the baseline clusters with some restrictions (eg. the depth of tillage, tree removal, etc.). Louisiana's Safe Harbor Program is in the last stages of review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and we anticipate implementation will start in early 2004.

At the present time, the majority of Louisiana's RCWs are located on Federal or State-owned lands, but there are clusters of RCWs on private lands. The exact number of RCWs on private lands is not known. With authorization by the private landowner the SHP will allow LDWF to inventory private lands for birds. Current tracts of mature pine located on federal or state-owned lands will not be sufficient to allow the number of RCWs to increase enough to be taken off of the endangered species list in this state. Hopefully the program will attract adjoining landowners and let them see the benefits mature pine trees contribute to the continued survival of the RCW.

A voluntary cooperative effort among Federal, State and private landowners is necessary for the complete recovery of the RCW. Allowing the landowner to continue to manage the land as they

desire, while participating in the recovery of an endangered species on their land, should be an uplifting and positive experience for the landowner. The Safe Harbor Program is specifically designed to do this by helping the landowner be free from maintaining habitat for above-baseline RCW groups and at the same time addressing the needs and concerns for the RCW on private lands. All parties involved must work together if there is to be any hope in restoring the RCW to its historic range.

If you think that you have seen a Red-cockaded Woodpecker on your property, have trees that exhibit candling, or want more information about the Louisiana Safe Harbor Program please contact Eric Baca at the following address:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Natural Heritage Program  
Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Coordinator  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
(225)-765-2359

**Additional Information**

Many natural areas registry members requested additional information by checking off on the back of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries envelopes, which included:

- 1) Wild LA Stamp is a non-consumptive stamp used by those who want to hike, bird, bike, or other outdoor activity that does not include hunting or fishing. These stamps are issued at any vendor who also sells hunting and fishing licenses and cost \$5 for annual license and \$2 for a day license. More information can be attained at (225) 765-2887 in the sports license office of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- 2) Louisiana Conservationist Magazine is published bimonthly and includes articles on fishing, hunting, and outdoor activities. See enclosed order form.
- 3) Lifetime Licenses are valid anywhere in the state and cover basic and saltwater fishing, basic and big game hunting, bow and muzzleloader hunting, state duck license, turkey stamp and the WMA hunting permit. See enclosed application.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) recently updated its web pages located within the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) website ([www.wlf.state.la.us](http://www.wlf.state.la.us)). LNHP's mission is to maintain a comprehensive database of rare, threatened and endangered species, natural communities and other natural elements of conservation interest, such as rookeries, in Louisiana and to utilize these data to work with public and private entities toward conservation of LA's native biological diversity. The LNHP web pages allow the public to view the fundamentals of this information and explain how to request more detailed records from the LNHP database if needed. In order to navigate to the new pages, locate the "Programs" section on the LDWF home page and click on "Natural Heritage Program." Then follow the LNHP links to the newly updated web pages.

Our revised web pages will be helpful to a multitude of groups including the general public, teachers and students, scientists and researchers, environmental resource managers and engineers, and conservation planners, to name a few. The site provides separate pages for Louisiana's rare plants, rare animals, and natural communities, with checklists for each category, as well as identification tips, lists of field guides and references, and rare species fact sheets. Listings of rare species and natural communities by parish are updated periodically. Additional web pages give information on how to deal with injured or orphaned wildlife, how to obtain wildlife handling permits, current projects involving LNHP, Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program, and available publications, reports and posters. We encourage everyone to explore our web pages, and provide any suggestions or comments you may have.