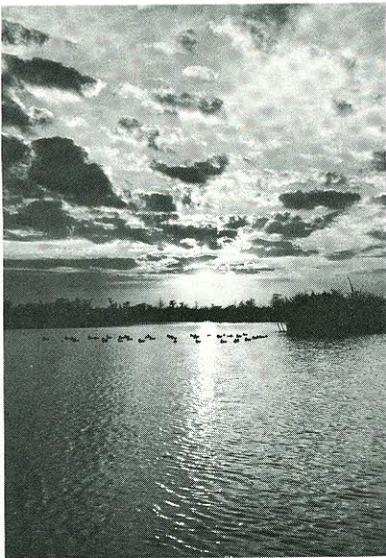


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Conservation Pledge

I give my
pledge as an American
to save and faithfully to
defend from waste the
natural resources of
my country—its soil
and minerals, its
forests, waters
and wildlife

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in the interest of conser-
vation of Louisiana's nat-
ural resources by the
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isiana, 70130.*



Waterfowling in Louisiana is a popular sport for an estimated 90,000 duck and goose hunters. Louisiana winters approximately 20 per cent of the continental waterfowl population. Its lush marshes are home for millions of ducks, geese and coots. Shooting hours this year are from one half hour before sunrise to sunset. This is a typical scene in a Louisiana marsh just at sunrise. It's the sort of picture that sets the pulses of waterfowlers tingling with anticipation. (Cover photo by Joe Herring.)

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PASS-A-LOUTRE PUBLIC SHOOTING AREA



ESTABLISHED BY the Louisiana Legislature in 1921 the Pass-a-Loutre Public Shooting Area has provided waterfowl hunting opportunity since that time. Pass-a-Loutre is a 66,000 acre tract of delta marshland in the south eastern part of the State, and lies 15 miles south-east of Venice, the closest automobile access point.

Since 1954 the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has conducted a Public Waterfowl Hunting Program on Pass-a-Loutre and has provided boat transportation from Venice to the hunting grounds. Again this year the Commission announces the program will be made available to the public.

Crippled by Hurricane Betsy in September, 1965, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission operated six out of nine public camps during the 1965-66 waterfowl season, but yet played host to almost 500 waterfowl hunters. The average daily duck kill per hunter (2.36) was slightly higher for the 1965-66 season as compared to 2.16 for the 1964-65 waterfowl season.

The marshes of the lower delta appear to be in excellent condition at this time despite the tremendous storm tides experienced as a result of the hurricane of last year. Because of its unique location the high river stage last spring flooded the lower delta, and created ideal conditions for the production of desirable waterfowl food plants, such as delta duck potato, and fresh-water three square.

Two-day hunts will be conducted again this year on Tuesday-Wednesday, and Saturday-Sunday of each week thus providing a rest period between hunts so that the ducks will have an opportunity to resume their normal activities. This has proven to be very desirable in past years in holding large numbers of waterfowl on Pass-a-Loutre throughout the season.

Each Pass-a-Loutre camp is capable of accommodating up to 8 men with utensils, beds, decoys, boats, and butane provided by the Commission. The use of these camps is restricted to duck hunters who make application to the Commission and are selected by drawings.

The three public camps destroyed by the hurricane have been rebuilt and will be ready for service this waterfowl season. Also six of the original camps were renovated as needed. The system of ditches behind each camp which provided very beneficial access to hunters during periods of low tides was expanded.

The schedule for the drawing for each hunt during the season is as follows:

Application Period	Drawing	Hunting Dates
Oct. 31-Nov. 7	Nov. 10	Nov. 19 & 20; 22 & 23
Nov. 7-Nov. 14	Nov. 17	Nov. 26 & 27; 29 & 30
Nov. 14-Nov. 21	Nov. 23	Dec. 3 & 4; 6 & 7
Nov. 21-Nov. 28	Dec. 1	Dec. 10 & 11; 13 & 14
Nov. 28-Dec. 5	Dec. 8	Dec. 17 & 18; 20 & 21
Dec. 5-Dec. 12	Dec. 15	Dec. 27 & 28; Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

Letters must be postmarked between the dates

Ted Joanen

specified in the application period for applicable hunts and received prior to the drawing.

The rules governing the public shooting ground program are as follows:

1. The area will be open to hunters through applications: preference in drawing will be given to resident hunters, although any spaces unfilled by resident hunters will be made available to non-resident hunters for the standard set fee.

2. After drawing and up to one week prior to the hunt, any space unfilled may be had by applying to the New Orleans office.

3. Transportation from Venice to the hunting ground and return will be furnished.

4. Beds, cooking utensils, fuel, stove, drinking water, and lights will be furnished, but *no linens, fishing equipment, guns, shells, or food*—bring your own.

5. One duck boat, paddles, pushpoles and decoys will be furnished for every two hunters.

6. Camps will be assigned by the supervisor in charge.

7. Duck, goose, and coot shooting only will be permitted. Waterfowl retrievers are the only dogs allowed.

8. All hunting or shooting on the Pass-a-Loutre area is limited to morning hours and must stop by 12:00 noon. Violation of this provision will result in the immediate expulsion from the area and denial of the privilege of returning to the area in the future.

9. Applicants may apply for the hunts throughout the season but not more than one application per hunt.

10. A fee of \$5.00 will be charged each hunter selected for the trip. The full amount must accompany each application. Reimbursement of the full fee will be made if the hunter is not selected.

11. All hunters will be required to sign an agreement releasing the Commission from the responsibility for any bodily harm or personal loss and agreeing to pay for any Commission property lost or destroyed.

12. Permits may be transferred from one person to another upon endorsement. No refund will be made for permits which have been issued.

13. Hunting is restricted to men 16 years or older; anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by his father or guardian.

14. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the boat or the camp.

15. Valid Louisiana hunting license or overage permits and waterfowl stamp will be required.

16. No boats, motors or rifles are permitted on the area.

17. Simple camp rules must be observed.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Make application direct to Ted Joanen, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

2. You may apply in a group not exceeding eight (8) persons, naming each person in the application. Full remittance of fee at \$5.00 per hunter must accompany the application. Send personal check or money order—*no cash*. Reimbursement in full will be made within three days after the drawing if the hunter or group is not selected.

3. Submit only one application per hunter; if the name of any person is received in more than one application for the same hunt, it will be disqualified.

4. Application for the hunts must be made in advance through the mails and postmarked during the application dates according to the schedule in order to be considered for the drawing.

5. Specify the dates desired, and indicate whether or not the other hunt during the week of your request will be acceptable if your preferred dates are filled.

6. The quota for each hunt will be selected by public drawing in the Refuge Division office, between 10 A.M. and 12 noon, on the designated dates. Decisions of supervisory personnel are final.

7. Permits and specific instructions will be mailed to selected hunters within three days after the drawings.

Free Permit Hunting Area

In addition to the section of Pass-a-Loutre reserved for the public camps, 30,000 acres of the area will be open again this year to those who wish to make a hunt using their personal equipment and facilities. Permission to hunt in this area must be obtained from the Refuge Division



This is typical of one of the nine camps located on the Pass-A-Loutre Public Shooting Grounds. Hunters receive transportation to and from Venice for two-day hunts. Each camp is capable of accommodating eight men. Cooking utensils, beds, decoys, boats, blinds and butane gas for cooking are furnished by the Commission. The fee for a two-day hunt is \$5. Hunters are selected at a public drawing, following application in writing.

of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and all hunters must provide their own transportation as well as other hunting essentials. Give the name and address of each hunter. Permits must be in possession while hunting here.

This year hunters on the open area will be asked to keep a daily record of each hunt as to the number of ducks, geese, and coots killed on each hunt, and at the end of the waterfowl season send this information to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission office in New Orleans. This information will aid the Commission in planning its overall waterfowl management program in Louisiana as well as on the Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area, and will also be used in an attempt to obtain a more realistic waterfowl season for Louisiana hunters.

Area Boundaries

Northern boundary, Pass-a-Loutre; western boundary, Jackson Bayou from Pass-a-Loutre to Blind Bay then along the western shoreline of Blind Bay, across the Southeast Pass to and including the western shoreline of Redfish Bay, numerous small bayous, ponds, lagoons, and the coastal mud flats constitute the portion open to the general public.

All parts of the Pass-a-Loutre public shooting grounds west of the above established boundary line are restricted entirely for the controlled hunting program. In addition to the above defined land the area west of South Pass will be included in the free permit area again this season. This area is one of the few spots on the lower delta where hunters may expect to get occasional blue and snow goose shooting.

Regulations for the use of this area have been held to a minimum in the interest of facilitating its use. They are as follows:

1. The use of airboats on these two areas is strictly prohibited.

2. Hunting must stop at noon of each day, except west of South Pass where afternoon shooting is also permitted. This measure is for the benefit of all hunters using the entire area and it allows afternoon and night feeding and resting by waterfowl in the entire Pass-a-Loutre area.

3. Federal and state hunting regulations pertaining to waterfowl must be observed.

4. Hunting will be permitted in this area seven days a week during the entire duck season.

5. Duck, goose and coot shooting only is permitted. Waterfowl retrievers may be used.

6. No rifles are permitted on the area.

7. Hunting must be confined to the designated open area so as not to conflict with the established controlled hunting program.

8. Permits for the use of this designated area will be issued by the Refuge Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana and no hunting will be permitted without the required permit which will be issued free on application.

9. Violation of these regulations will result in the immediate expulsion from the area and denial of the privilege of returning to the areas in the future. ✱