



Vol. 47, No. 1

East Ascension Sportsman's League Publication

February 2018

EASL's February 19th Membership Meeting Guest Speaker

Mr. Ron Duplessis, President and General Manager of Duplessis Buick-GMC in Gonzales, will speak about his plans to develop a shooting sports facility in Carville, La. The facility will offer Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays along with pistol and rifle target ranges up to 600yd distances. All will be built to competition regulation standards and is expected to attract local, state and national competitive shooting events.



East Ascension Sportsman's League, Inc.

P.O. Box 446
Gonzales, LA 70707-0446
www.easlonline.org



January 23, 2018

Commissioners:

Chad Courville
Joe McPherson
Bart Yakupzack
Bill Hogan
Al Sunser
Robert Samanie
Robert Bourgeois

Fisheries Permit Manager:

RE: Adding sterlet sturgeon to the list of approved domestic aquatic organisms in Louisiana.

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Bourgeois,

On behalf of the 385 members of the East Ascension Sportsman's League, we wish to join the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, American Fisheries Council's Louisiana Chapter, and the several LDWF staff biologists, Louisiana legislators and private citizens in opposing the permitting of sterlet sturgeon for aquaculture in Louisiana.

We believe the many safeguards that have been mandated to help prevent their release into the wild only shows how dangerous this organism could be to our already threatened or endangered native pallid, shovelnose and gulf sturgeon. We already have a long list of invasive species in our wilds, many of which were accidentally released, and we spend many millions of dollars a year to try to control or eradicate them. We fear the one million dollar bond requirement would not be sufficient to get the situation under control if there were a release.

Inadvertently released sterlet sturgeon would compete for food and nesting resources the native species rely on, and hybridization is a very real danger.

Even without a release of sterlet sturgeon into the wild, creating this market for caviar in Louisiana could tempt individuals to illegally harvest our protected native sturgeon and create a black market for their roe. The money could be too great for some to pass up.

Respectfully yours in conservation,

Warren L. Singer
Board Secretary, East Ascension Sportsman's League
P O Box 446
Gonzales, LA 70707
www.easlonline.org
warren@icscla.com

The EASL Meeting

Will be held every 3rd Monday of the month at

**Chef KD's at 38278 Hwy. 74
in Dutchtown**

Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Meal sponsored by:

Thad Bellow (Fins to Feathers Taxidermy) 225-675-6276

The East Ascension Sportsman

P.O. Box 446 • Gonzales, LA 70707

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Sportsman's Calendar

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 19 | Regular Meeting at 7pm |
| Feb. 19 | Board Meeting at 6pm
(before regular meeting) |
| Feb. 24 | Silhouette Match
(Sheriff's Rifle Range in
Gonzales) (see Jerry Tureau) |



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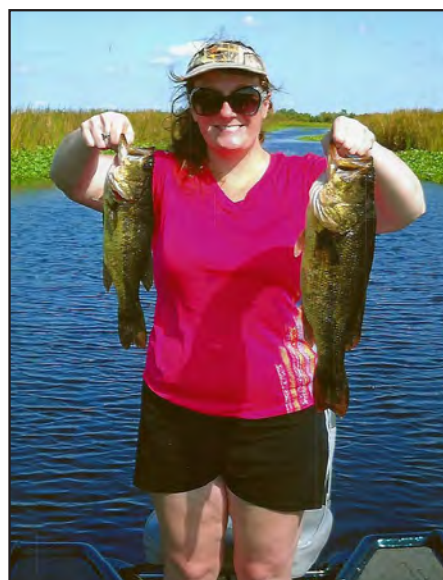
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EASL Big Fish Contest Contacts

Deadline for entry is 7 days after month end

To report weight for Big Bass call
Jim Hebert at 225-717-6037.

To report weight for Big
Speckled Trout call
Warren Singer at 225-715-1707;
email: warren@icscla.com.



Caitlyn Guice with 2 nice bass at
Falgout Canal, August, 2017



Paul Melancon with limit of teal,
Venice, Sept. 2017



Goosie Guice, St. Helena Gobbler,
March 2017



Ryan Falsatta with a couple of
redfish, Lake Decada, Nov. 2017



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Message From New President

Dear members of EASL,

The question came to my mind as I sat in the house during the cold weather we've been having this winter. What makes us go outside? I thought about it for a while and thought I might share my experiences and thoughts on this topic.



floating in space. It makes you really think about who could have created this. That's why you go outside.

Another time I was in the swamp near my home. I was hunting squirrels and it was getting late. The light was fading away and a thin layer of very thick fog was

hanging right above the water. A pretty, peaceful picture, unless you have just recently watched the movie "Swamp Thing". Well as I was walking out through the cold water, I saw this huge black figure, about ten feet tall, and it was moving! So, I shot it. Three times with a twenty gauge. It quit moving but it didn't fall. I'm thinking, now what? Did I just make it mad? It knows I'm here now. So, I just froze and watched it for a while. It still wasn't moving. I reloaded and started to move closer. As I got near the beast, I could see that it was a big, moss covered, black, burned out cypress stump. Just when I thought I just bagged a bigfoot. You can't do that inside.

I can think of more reasons that outside is better than inside, but, for now, I've strained my writing skills enough. So, challenge the outdoors and bring the young ones too. Show them that it's the outdoors that makes the indoors so great anyway. Especially when it's really, uncomfortable out there.

Be safe and take time to bring the kids outside. See ya'll at the meeting. Come visit with us. Thanks for your time.

Michael Lambert

First thing, I need to let you know is that I don't consider myself as a sportsman. I like the outdoors, but I never looked at it as a sport. I fish when I want to eat fish and I hunt when I want to eat squirrel, rabbit or doves. I'm not competitive, so all I want to do is please myself. I guess I do compete. With myself. We all do that. We want to be our best. The cold weather is an obstacle that challenges us to go out and do our best in spite of the discomfort. It makes you feel good to know that, no matter what the conditions are, we can do what we need to do. That's why I think the cold weather calls us to go outside. It's a rite of passage for us. Everyone else probably thinks we're crazy, but we don't care. It only matters, to us, what we think.

To me, and probably for many of you, the outdoors is a spiritual place. Even if you may not go to church every Sunday, you know what I mean. I remember one cool morning, while fishing in the marsh, the weather was gray. The water was as smooth as a mirror and there was a light fog. Everything was gray. Looking all around this small pond I was in, I couldn't tell where the water ended, and the sky started. Everything was just gray except for the floats on the crab traps which seemed to be

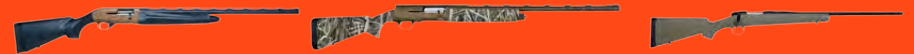
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Past President Torrey Hayden presents EASL's newspaper editor, David Miles, with the V.J. Bourque, Jr. Outstanding Member of the Year Award for 2017. In addition to receiving an engraved plaque



to commemorate the achievement, David will be able to display the beautiful bluebird picture in his home or office until it's turned over to the next award recipient. Congratulations David!

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EASL BASS CLUB NEWS

By: Jim Hebert

"Julian Day & Mike Achord win out of Doiron's Landing

The EASL Bass Club kicked off the 2018 season with their first Tournament out of Doiron's Landing either side. The Bass Club met at the St. Amant Fire Department on Hwy. 431 on January 9th to enjoy a good meal, sign up members for the year, and to plan the upcoming Tournament.

We enjoyed a delicious pork stew with rice, potato salad and dessert cookies. The meal was sponsored by Murray Alexander so "thank you" Murray for providing the meal for the club.

The meeting was called to order, with the first piece of business being to award the winner of the "2017 Angler of the Year". Mr. Chick Edmonston presented Donald Braud with his Jacket as everyone applauded Donald for the accomplishment. After a short speech by Donald, he turned around and awarded an identical jacket donated by Terry Molea and himself to Terry's son-in-law Mike Guitreau with the inscription "Rookie of the Year" on it. It seems that these three like to harass each other throughout the year and wanted to surprise Mike with his jacket. It's all in good fun.

Thad signed up members into the EASL, I signed up members into the Club and Eddie signed up the members to fish the first tournament of the year. This was a good way to keep the confusion down and the money straight by separating these three tasks.

We signed up 22 members and 11 boats to fish the first tournament of the on January 13th.

We had a discussion about new rule changes and the weather for the Tournament before cleaning up and leaving for the night.

Saturday morning the temperature was 28 deg. F. with north wind already blowing and predicted to be upwards of 20 mph during the day. Everyone was bundled up with foul weather



Winners, Mike Achord & Julian Day

gear, chemical warmers and some even had portable propane heaters for the boat. It was a very challenging day to fish and limited my choices of where I wanted to fish. We decided to fish dead end canals that were protected from the wind. My expectations were to have good time fishing, soaking up the sun, and to hopefully catch a few fish as the water warmed up during the day.

We started up fishing crankbaits and slow moving plastics and jigs. After fishing a couple of hours without a bite, I noticed what appeared to be a fish hitting a shad on top. I switched to spinner bait and caught the first keeper soon after that. We both started throwing spinner baits and caught our limit by 9:30. Little did we know that

we would fish the entire day until time to leave, without another bite at all. We moved around and kept trying but it just wasn't to be. We drove back to the launch having met my expectations for sure.

We were the weigh masters so we set up the scale and weighed everyone's fish. Out of 11 boats, 5 of them left early due to the weather. three boats brought in a limit, two boats weighed 4 fish, one weighed 3 and one weighed 1.

When the weigh in was completed I handed out the checks. First check went to Donald Braud for his winning Angler of the year.

Julian Day and Mike Achord took first place with a very nice stringer of 5 fish that weighed 15.47 lbs. Julian also won the Big Bass check and the side pot with his lunker of 4.22 lbs.

Second place was won by Jim and Warren Hebert. We weighed in 5 fish that weighed 10.17 lbs.

Third place winner was new member Tim Fatheree fishing alone and weighing 4 fish that weighed in at 9.85 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the January Tournament. Our next event is February 24th. For more information about the EABC you can visit www.easlonline.org.



Chick awards Jacket to Donald Braud



Left to right, Tim Fatheree, Warren and Jim Hebert, Julian Dan & Mike Achord



Mike Guitreau with his Jacket

Deacon Finnetry takes his first deer



**Deacon
Finnetry
showing
off his
first deer**

On November 18, 2017, seven-year-old Deacon Finnetry harvested his first deer, hopefully the first of many. Deacon is the grandson of EASL Board Member Herb Finnetry and the son of EASL member Darryl Finnetry.

Deacon's deer was taken at the Wild Turkey Hunting Club in Greensburg, St. Helena Parish, LA. And, before you get bothered about a 7 year old at a hunting club named after a popular liquor, relax, the club is named in reference to the numerous birds of that name in the area, not the whisky.

Actually, Herb, our board member, was instrumental in the establishment of the hunting club some 38 years ago. The 35 members and their families enjoy 3,240 acres of hunting ground and, yes, turkeys are one of the many critters hunted on their land.

Young Deacon was hunting that day with both Dad and Grandad when the deer stepped out. Herb was trying to get his .223 Remington in Deacon's hands, but Dad Darryl gave the boy his 30-06. Dad braced Deacon's back but it didn't help much. The recoil left a nice scope ring on his eye and cheek. Deacon took it like a man, though, and said, "it didn't hurt at all because I got the deer". Spoken like a true outdoorsman!

The deer was a doe and weighed in at 140 pounds. Needless to say, Deacon is enjoying the meals cooked with that delicious organic venison that he put on the table. What more could a young man ask?

Decisions



As outdoorsmen we must pay attention to our surroundings and make decisions based on current opportunities or

conditions. Recently we had a couple of cold spells that made it quite unpleasant to be in the outdoors if not properly prepared. As I was clinging to a tree 20 feet off the ground in 18 degree temperatures deer hunting I observed that deer decided to stay bedded down and keep warm. They made a better decision than I.

Nowadays we have to make too many decisions. Why do corner drug stores devote entire isles to soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other items for basic hygiene. I had to go purchase such items not long ago. As I stood in between the row of shampoo and row of soap I observed and had this question, why are we made to make all these meaningless decisions in our lives.

How many people would prefer to have the opportunity to walk in and pick up soap, shampoo and toothpaste with no decisions having to be made. I don't care if I smell like lilacs or if my shower makes me tingly.

Same with hotels. Went on a business trip just recently and the place I stayed had a pyramid of soaps, shampoos and lotions in the bathroom all majestically stacked up. I bet almost every guest in the place would like to go in the bathroom to take a shower and have only two items on the counter,

soap and shampoo. I like most everyone else just want to be clean

without the decision making process.

Fast food restaurants are a major source of irritation. Just think about all the options for a simple hamburger meal. You want a burger with or without cheese – two options. Dressed with onions, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard offer 49 more possible combinations. Multiply the 49 combination times the 2 options of cheese burger or hamburger you have the mental exercise of working through 98 different possibilities just to eat a basic burger.

Want a drink, 3 size options small, medium or large. Now you are up to 294 possibilities. Seven drink flavors run the option count up to 2,058. If you want fries you will have to choose big or small which runs all the options for a basic burger, drink and fries up to grand total of 4,116 possibilities. I will stop there as my head is hurting now.

I like the old days if want it on your burger, add it. If there is something on the burger and you don't like, scrape it off

Sportsmen don't want to use brainpower to eat a burger or get clean. We have more important issues to worry about such as what gift can I give my current wife to keep her off my ass while I spend most of my weekends hunting or fishing.



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by
Goosie Guice

HABITAT

I had the pleasure of knowing, in my opinion, the best conservationist that our area has ever produced. His name was V.J. Bourque Jr. He was an outdoor writer and he wrote a monthly column for the East Ascension Sportsman's League paper. Virgil was more a giver than a taker

when it came to his usage of our natural resources. As I grow older I can really appreciate more than ever his understanding of wildlife and habitat. Many of his writings were about sightings from a small portion



of his yard that he let grow to its natural state. Time and time again he wrote of the different animals and birds that visited the small portion of land that was never manicured in any way.

During those days our Ascension Parish still had several more undeveloped areas than it presently has today. Looking back, I can reminisce about wildlife at my house that I don't see today. There is a small portion of land between my neighbor and myself that we did not at one time keep mowed. Back in those

days it was not uncommon at all to see rabbits, opossums, raccoons, or bob whites on that small piece of habitat. That's not the case anymore since the small piece of property now gets regular grass mowing. But even with that being said, there is a thick area around a hollow tree on that

property that does allow enough habitat for a family of opossums and squirrels. Amazing! Just one thirty foot circle of habitat is all it takes for an animal or two to call home.

During the work week before daylight I pass by a parcel of land, about three acres, of woods that has yet to be developed. A drainage ditch practically splits the property in half. This supplies the area with a continuous supply of water. Across from the acreage is a typical subdivision with a pond, etc. It's unbelievable the types and

amounts of wild animals I see in the darkness in that area. I've seen rabbits, raccoons, opossums, coyotes and just recently some beautiful red fox. The fox sightings became very common for some amount of time, and I still see them every now and then. On one particular morning two of the fox sat under a light post as I slowly passed by. Daytime sightings: add squirrels and even a cottonmouth to the list. Small patches of woodlands and thickets like this are a direct testament that, if given the proper habitat, all wildlife

species will thrive and survive. Animal rights groups should take a strong look at habitat acquisitions and donate their effort and money towards that reasoning. Instead they protest against the groups of hunters and other outdoorsmen and women that are responsible for footing the bill for wild creature habitat...

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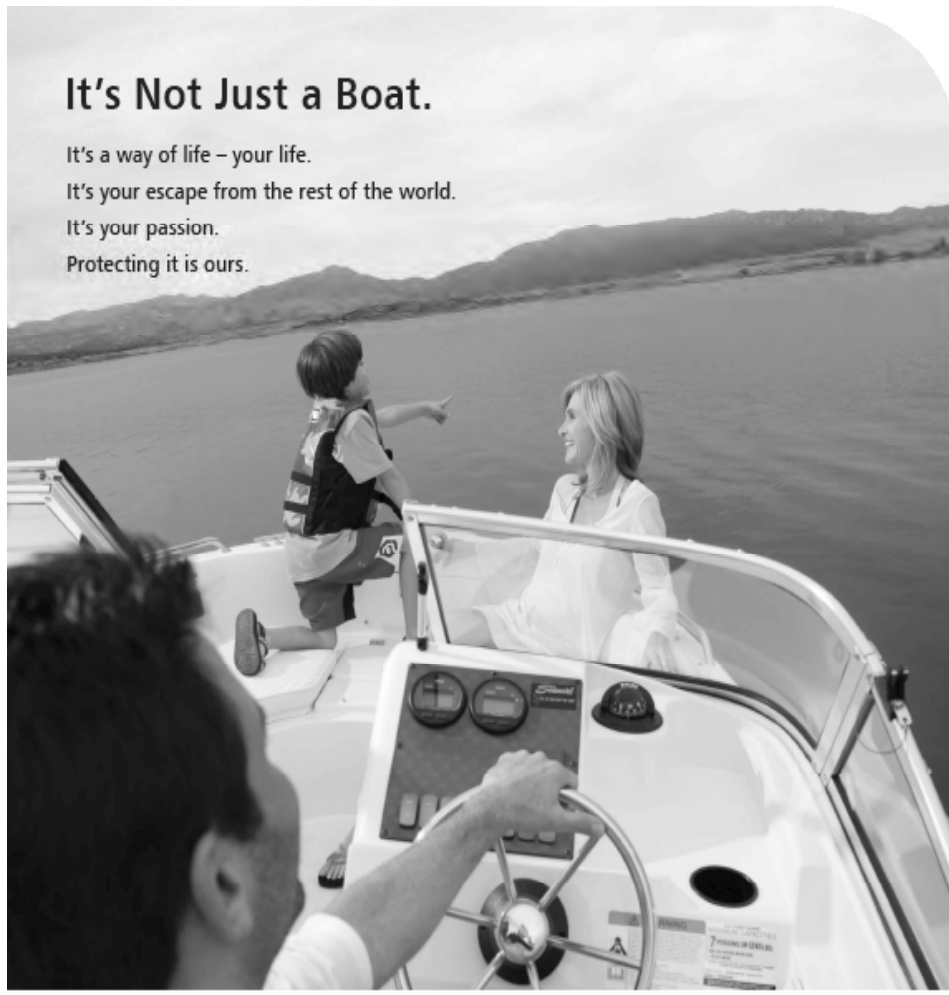
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EASL BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2018

Present: Mike Lambert, Barney Callahan, Herb Finnerty, Vince Diez Jr, Warren Singer, Jodie Singer, Darlene Bourgeois, Kevin Diez, Byron Gautreau, James 'Goosie' Guice, Torrey Hayden, Warren Hebert, David Miles

Mike Lambert called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm

Barney Callahan said the tentative guest speaker for the February regular meeting is Ron Duplessis, who is building a new shooting range in Carville.

Vince Diez Jr said the meal sponsor for the February regular meeting will be Thad Bellow, owner of Fins to Feathers Taxidermy.

Barney said Kristen Butcher with Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation will speak briefly at tonight's regular meeting about the upcoming derelict crab trap removal event. This will be in addition to our regularly scheduled speaker.

David Miles said he needs newspaper

articles by Friday, February 9th.

Jodie Singer reported we ended the year with 385 members. Jodie also had emailed the final financial reports for 2017 to the board. There ensued a discussion about newspaper advertisers and some receivables cleanup work to be done.

Jodie then led a discussion of the proposed 2018 budget she made and had emailed the board. Barney Callahan made a motion, second by Herb Finnerty to approve the budget. Motion passed.

The board asked that the advertising manager make a monthly status report at the board meeting so we can help if there are slow paying advertisers.

David Miles discussed a fund-raising gun raffle idea and he will check into this further. He also suggested we acquire a large email list of potential members that he can email the newspaper to in hopes of increasing our exposure and membership.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

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TWO KINDS OF SNIPE HUNTS

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

I like to hunt snipe. They are odd looking, long-billed shorebirds about the size of a robin but with short tails. The species we hunt is now called Wilson's Snipe but the older field guides refer to them as Common Snipe. However, that name is now reserved for a similar species found in Europe and Asia.

The brown back and sides make for perfect camouflage for birds that often hold tight in boggy ground until the passer by or hunter is almost upon them. Then they leap up calling "skaipe - skaipe - skaipe" flying away in a zig-zag pattern. They are challenging targets and unless crippled, sometimes impossible to find after they are shot. But, Wilson's Snipe are quite tasty game birds and make delicious meals whether wrapped in bacon and grilled over charcoal or smothered in a gravy.

There are a number of shorebirds that visit our region every year. These include plovers, stilts, oystercatchers, sandpipers, snipes and woodcock. But, only Wilson's Snipe and the American Woodcock, a more upland species, can be legally hunted. Once very common the other species never fully recovered from overhunting in North America in the 1800s. So they are protected.

Snipe arrive from northern breeding grounds in October and remain into April. The hunting season in Louisiana extends from November to the end of January. This long season provides for plenty of hunting opportunities in soggy fields and short grass marsh. Hunters often walk a field shooting at birds that flush ahead of them. It's common to have some hunters stay behind the moving hunters because flushed snipe will often return to a field.

Wilson's Snipe breed in the High Arctic. The males fly high above the earth and dive down making a non-vocal, "winnowing" sound as air rushes through two outermost tail feathers modified to produce this sound. This establishes the bird's breeding territory. The "whoo-whoo-whoo" coming, seemingly from nowhere can be quite spooky especially since the birds are very hard to see well up in the sky.

Now, there is another kind of snipe hunt but it's for a small, mythical creature that, as far as I know, no one has ever seen! I found out about this critter when I was around 10 years old. I was raised in south Baton Rouge near University Lake. Wild areas were close at hand back then. Several of my friends and I were at a party after dark where there were a number of older boys. They asked if we'd ever been on a snipe hunt?



Of course, none of had ever been on a snipe hunt.

So, we got to go on a snipe hunt. No one really explained if a snipe was a mammal or a bird. We were given burlap "croaker" sacks and taken out into the woods by the older fellows. We were told to hold the sacks open and, without flash lights, to periodically call "snipe, snipe, snipe". We were assured, as they left, that the snipe would come to us and we could catch them in our sacks. Needless to say, there were no snipe and it was a long, dark hour or so before the snickering older boys came back for us!

Sportsman Comic Corner

