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East Ascension Sportsman's League Publication

September 2018

Guest Speaker EUGENE HOOVER, Youth Director for Louisiana BASS Nation

Eugene Hoover received his Master of Education degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1992. After 33 years, he retired as an educator for St. James Parish, his last position being Principal of Lucher High School from 2006 -2012. Mr. Hoover now serves as Youth Director for Louisiana BASS Nation, a position held since 2012. "After being a bass angler for many years, I wanted to share my knowledge with young people. It is my desire to teach them not only the art of bass fishing and sportsmanship, but also a respect for the outdoors." The State Youth Director is



responsible for organizing High School Fishing Tournaments and overseeing Junior Bassmaster activities in Louisiana. Over 50 Louisiana High Schools are currently participating in BASS Nation High School Fishing and that number has grown every year since the program began in Fall 2012. Louisiana also has 5 Junior Bassmaster clubs. Junior Bassmasters enjoy camaraderie and competition as well as education and conservation programs. Participants can also compete in the Junior Bassmaster State Championship as well as in the Junior National Championship.

NOTICE – WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Are you receiving emails from the East Ascension Sportsman's League? If not, we likely do not have your current email address.

To be sure, please go to our website, easonline.org and look at the bottom right side of the home page. You will see an application to type in your email address and your full name. (You do not have to be a current member to receive our notices, but we encourage everyone to sign up and also purchase a membership; see Membership Application in this paper).

This is important so that we may send out notices of events, changes, cancellations, etc. Thanks to our web site designer, Jon Hebert of NLX Media, we now have a bulk email software product to notify all membership at once.

Thanks, EASL Board

CROWS IN LOUISIANA REVISTED

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Crawfish, Boyce, LA

Few people don't know what a crow is – large black bird often found in huge flocks, especially in the winter. But, most folks don't know that we have two crows, the American Crow and the Fish Crow, in our region along with a colorful blue cousin, the Blue Jay!

Crows are corvid birds.

These include the ravens and jay birds. Don't worry about finding ravens in Louisiana because only one species, the Chihuahuan Raven, has appeared in extreme southwest coastal Louisiana fewer than 10 times in the past century.

If you are holding the two crows, it's obvious that the American Crow is much larger – chicken-sized – compared to the Fish Crow – pigeon-sized. The American Crow's bill is decidedly larger than that of the Fish Crow.

The American Crow's call is the well known "caw, caw, caw". This differs greatly from the Fish Crow's call that sounds like "uh uh, uh uh, uh uh". Fledgling American Crows can, however, sound a bit like a Fish Crow.

Fish Crows are typically found around water from the coast inland along major rivers. American Crows are rare along the coast, normally found some distance inland.

Crows eat almost anything that's edible with Fish Crows feeding more on fish, crustaceans and shellfish. Birders tend to not like them because they prey on the eggs and nestlings of more "desirable" birds. They are smart and will follow birds to their nests.

Although Fish Crows don't nest in colonies, per se, a number often nest in wading bird colonies. There they will rob the nests of anhingas, egrets, herons, spoonbills, and ibises of eggs and young.

American Crows tend to remain together as



family groups. They have family territories that they may leave during the day to seek food but return "home" in the evening.

In the winter, huge flocks of crows including both species congregate. They will roost in one location and spend the day foraging.

A surefire way to find crows

during the day is at sanitary landfills.

It's common to find crows foraging along roads, even in cities, seeking road kill carrion ranging from dead pets to all manner of wild animals. However, crows do not have the ability to tear open a dead animal. So, they depend on traffic, vultures, raptors, or carnivorous mammals to make the meat and internal organs available for them.

Although not widely advertised, quite a few people do hunt crows. This is a challenging endeavor because crows are very intelligent. Careful camouflage is a must and electronic calls along with an owl or hawk decoy draw crows close. But, unlike ducks and geese, crows can "turn on a dime" so stealth is critical to success.

Did you know that we have a crow season in Louisiana? Well we do and here are the details. The season is September 1-January 2 with no limit. However, they may be taken all year during legal shooting hours if they are depredating or about to depredate upon ornamental plants or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers to cause a health hazard.

People do eat crows. A quick search of the internet will provide a number of recipes. So, the next time you're at the camp during hunting season, harvest a few crows and have the resident chef prepare "crow and gravy".

The East Ascension Sportsman

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Message From Our President



Well hello again all of you EASL Members. I was sitting here looking at this computer and wondering what I was going to say this month and it came to me just like that. I know a lot of you use all types of electric high-tech stuff every day and are quite use to all the ways it helps you do what you do. I on the other hand, am new to this stuff. I got a smart phone after the flood because I needed it for my business. The land lines and phones in the shop and my house were all down. I didn't even know where I would be sleeping, so I got one. I never wanted one and I sure could just as easily do without it now but then no one would communicate with me probably. No one really talks to their friends that much anymore. They text each other an E-mail and stuff like that. I never really liked to talk on the regular phone that much. I like talking face to face. But anyway, we have GPS's so we don't get lost and can find spots where we've gone back to for hunting are fishing. We have game cameras that let us look at everything that's going on in the woods while we are at home. There is nothing that makes me madder than for a phone to ring while I'm fishing. It just don't seem right. I remember when we used a compass to find our way around open bodies of water and through the woods. We looked for signs of game and found the trails they use to move about the areas we hunted. It was a skill that may be lost. Let me share this funny story with ya'll. My bother-in-law, not saying who, and I would go squirrel hunting every Saturday morning during the season. We hunted till about 10:00 and then were supposed to meet back at the truck to leave. Well every time I got to the truck first and would wait for him for a while, then I had

to go hunt for him. He could not find his way out for nothing. I always told him, you have to come out the same way you went in. Finally, one Christmas I gave him a compass as a gift. The next time we went hunting I asked him if he had it and he said yes. Then as we started to go our separate way I asked him to look at the compass and see what direction he would be heading. He said west. I said remember that. So the time came for us to meet back at the truck and there I was, waiting. I waited about half an hour and decided to go find him. When I finally caught up with him he was still going west. I asked why he was heading west and he told me, because I always said you have to come out the same way you went in. Now I can't say anything bad about someone who can't use a compass when my 5 year- old grandkid knows more than me about any smart phone are computer. These kids know how to work a smart phone before they know how to tie their shoes. It is really funny when you think of how much we depend on this tech stuff and how it wasn't even around 10 years ago. Seems like all these really smart people could do more for the world besides inventing a new phone every week. Don't get me wrong, this stuff is great, but don't depend on it all the time. Power down and take in all that we have around us and Be thankful for all the real things in our life. Hope to see ya'll soon. Thanks for your time.

Michael Lambert



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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.



LOUISIANA RIFLE SILHOUETTE TEAM REPORT

By Dustin Flint

louisianasilhouette@gmail.com • 225-719-1112

The EASL Club Championship Standings after the August match are: Cameron added 16 points to extend his lead to 30 points over Yumi. Cameron does not have it wrapped up by any means and lots of people are still in it. Second - sixth place are only separated by 10 points and I believe that the top 13 shooters are still in the hunt to win the grand prize case of SK or Lapua ammo. The key is to keep coming and keep scoring points. Things will tighten up considerably as shooters reach 8 standard and hunter score and begin dropping matches. We had 24 total shooters at the August

match, including three brand new shooters that shot from the bench and had a great time. Jacie has come on like a wildfire since she got married and Fred continues to improve VERY quickly. We welcomed Jonah to the club as he starts college at LSU - always nice to pick up another Master shooter.

In case anyone is wondering, our club match is as competitive as anywhere in the country - the scores are great and getting better as our shooters improve.

Thank you for being part of it!

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DEER HUNTING IN LOUISIANA

REALTREE Outdoors gives Louisiana a "D"

Louisiana, admittedly, is not known as a deer hunting hotspot across the nation, but it does offer a good opportunity for success, especially for residents or others with access to private land. Even so, there are not a lot of true trophy bucks taken in the state, although there is a very high percentage of older-age-class bucks taken. Louisiana has 1.6 million acres of DMAP properties, which are private lands that are part of the Deer Management Assistance Program. On these properties, some 67 percent of the bucks harvested last season was age 3 1/2 or older and that placed Louisiana second in the nation for that statistic. The year before, it was 68 percent, which placed Louisiana first in the nation.

Season Dates (2018):

Season dates will vary depending on the area you are hunting. Louisiana divides its hunting into 10 of these areas and the individual area seasons are known as schedules. Traditionally, depending on the area, archery season opens in most areas in late September or early October and will vary in length, but other areas have different opening dates. The primitive firearms and regular firearms seasons vary tremendously from one area to another. Check for specific dates. Both the still-hunting seasons and dog seasons vary by area as well. Season dates had not been set by the

publishing date, please check the state DNR's website.

Antler Nation Knowledge:

Louisiana is one of the top three states in the nation for older-age bucks according to Jonathon Bordelon of the LDWF. There may not be staggering numbers of massive-racked Booners coming from the state, but there are plenty of mature bucks to challenge even the savviest of hunters. About the best hunting for trophy bucks comes along the Mississippi River and the parishes within the floodplain. Whitetail numbers and body size are best in the state along the river basin. The river bottomland has the nutrients and food sources to produce better body sizes and antler development. There are also a few hotspots in the middle of the state, but the coastal areas have a smaller deer population, both in number and in size.

Statistics:

Est. Whitetail Population 500,000
No. Licenses Sold Annually 195,000
Basic resident hunting & big-game licenses are \$29; bow and primitive firearm license are \$10.50 each.

Basic non-resident hunting and big-game licenses are \$300; bow and primitive firearm licenses are \$26 each.

Reprinted from <https://www.realtree.com/deer-hunting/antler-nation/2018/louisiana-deer-hunting>

Hunter Safety Course Taught In Ascension Parish by Thad Bellow of the EASL

It's only the first week of September, but already, on the first day of squirrel season in Brushy Creek, Iowa, the news is reporting that a man mistakenly shot his brother, rather than a squirrel. Such news becomes national headlines these days and it is important for us sportsmen to try to limit these negative stories if we can.

That said, there is always a lesson to be learned by reviewing such experiences, in hopes that we can prevent it from happening again. Such is the "aim" of the hunter safety course (pun intended).

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries offers hunter education at no cost. This is one of the benefits of your hunting license fees. The course involves 10 hours of classroom instruction with an integral "field class", where hands-on gun safety and shooting takes place.

There is an option to take an online course, which is not recommended for younger students, and the cost is \$17.95. For this option, the classroom portion is completed online, including a test, then attendance at a "field class" is required to complete the process.

In 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was enacted and signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This act created an excise tax that provides funds to each state to manage animals and their habitats, but also requires the state to fulfill certain requirements. Mainly, none of the money from the federal government or from hunting license sales may be used by anyone other than the state's fish and game department. The Hunter Safety Course is but one of the worthy uses of these dedicated funds, not to mention the many species of wildlife saved from near extinction by hunting pressure and/or habitat degradation.

A "Hunter Education Card" is required by anyone purchasing a hunting license in Louisiana if born after September 1, 1969. This date may be different in other states, so check the laws for out-of-state hunting trips (Colorado is January 1, 1949). The Louisiana Hunter Education Card is accepted in all fifty states.

Ascension Parish's most recent course was offered at the end of August at the Ascension Sheriff's Range Complex on St. Landry Road in Gonzales. This particular course was presented by EASL member and past president Thad Bellow, along with other EASL members. LDWF officers and other officials greatly enhanced the live course presentation. There

are typically four "public" offerings of the course from June through September, with some of the other instructors being Ryan Schilling, Geno Gordon, John McCoy and JoAnn Hullum. These instructors also offer additional courses to 4-H and other organizations.

An errant shot is not the only way to have a hunting trip turn sour. In addition to firearm and hunting safety, topics presented include wildlife management principals, ethics, game identification and outdoor survival. Many among us have become hunters with little or no "formal" education, other than what we learned from others and actual experience over many years. This course has assembled these lessons and experiences in a single offering in an effort to start off each young hunter with a solid understanding of the principles most of us take for granted. And it doesn't hurt us "old guys" to brush up on these standards!

The EASL, LWF and all hunters and sportsmen are fortunate to have these instructors in our midst.



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EASL BASS CLUB NEWS

By: Jim Hebert

“Jim & Warren Hebert win Two in a Row in the Atchafalaya Spillway”

Believe me, it's hard enough to win just one Tournament against the great fishermen in the EASL Bass Club, but to win back-to-back is humbling for sure. We may never accomplish that ever again but for now we'll enjoy it.

The EASL Bass Club met at the Gonzales Fire Department on August 7th to plan the upcoming tournament on the following Saturday. We enjoyed a delicious meal of Meatball gravy with rice, bread, cookies and drinks. The meal was cooked and provided by Julian Day. Thanks Julian for being the chef for the night.

Warren stood in for Eddie that night and signed up 13 boats to fish the tournament. We called the meeting to order and took nominations for the location. We had three nominations and those were Spillway public landing,

Doiron's either side, and the Ditch. After the voting was complete, the wining location was the Spillway Public Landing with a 3:00 PM weigh in time. The weigh masters chosen for the event were Phillip Valentine & Cameron Koenig.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter and everyone pitched in to clean up and take out the trash.

Saturday morning everyone met at the Landing and got the boats launched. It was crowded as there obviously was another Tournament being held that same day. As daylight approached everyone gathered in the Intracoastal and Phillip let everyone go one boat at a time.

We headed North toward our destination with hopes of a good day of fishing. I was hopeful after a pretty successful scouting trip into the Spillway on Thursday of that week. When we shut the boat down I wasn't thrilled with what I was seeing. Like the previous tournament, the salvinia was covering the two spots that we were hoping to fish crankbaits in.



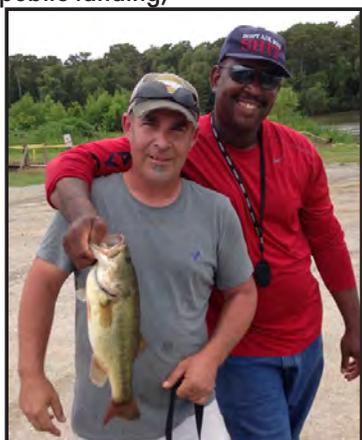
Jim & Warren Hebert with some of their fish.



Royce Babin with 5.25 lb Bass caught at Poverty Point



Left to right, Warren & Jim Hebert, Micha Mire & Roderick Saylor, Mike Guitreau & Ronald Gautreau



Micha Mire & Roderick Saylor with their 3.47 lb. Bass

I was happy about the water movement through the area though so we just started fishing with some adjustments. We quickly put our first fish in the boat and it was a "good one". We fished that spot until I thought we needed to make a move up the canal. That resulted in our second fish and it was "another good one". Our next bite was soon after that and it was the largest fish I had on but getting

it into the boat was another matter as it just came un-buttoned for some reason. We continued moving with the water and caught two more "good ones". Then we caught our limit fish and it was smaller than the others. Our last fish came on a crank bait on a point and it was another "good one". That one enabled us to cull out our smallest fish and that left us with 5 "good ones".

We only caught 6 keepers but they were the right ones so we were hopeful that they would get us a check. We left the area and checked one more spot before heading back to the landing.

At 3:00

Phillip announced the winners.

First place was the Hebert Brothers with 5 fish that weighed in at 11.90 lbs.

Second place was won by Micha Mire and Roderick Saylor with a limit that weighed in at 10.44 lbs. They also won Big Bass and the side pot with their lunker of 3.44 lbs.

Third place went to Mike Guitreau and Ronald Gautreau with 5 fish that weighed 10.37 lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the August Tournament. Our next event is our two day Tournament on Lake Bruin. This will be our first two day event held in the Fall of the year and I expect that everyone will have a great time there.

For more information about the EASL Bass Club you can visit www.easlonline.org.

PM everyone had returned to the landing and gathered for the weigh in. Phillip and Cameron did a great job weighing the fish. That was their first time as weigh masters, but then there was a complaint from a member about the results.

It seems that Phillip Valentine had beaten his Dad, George Valentine and George said "there was no way", but yes George it did happen.

This was an excellent day of fishing for everyone that participated. There were 13 boats and 11 had limits, one had 4 fish, and one had 3.

When the weigh in was complete,

From the Scrapbook – Gonzales Weekly, Gonzales, La., November 12, 1971

submitted by Warren Singer

LOCAL DUCK CALLERS WIN

Three local duck callers won awards in the La. Wildlife Federation sponsored State Championship Duck Calling Contest held recently in Baton Rouge. James Guice, senior champion of the East Ascension Sportsman's league placed second in the senior division. Denise Guice, sister of James, won the junior division and was the first female ever to take a first place in the contest. Also winning an award in the junior division was James Kennison Jr. taking a third place trophy. The contest is staged annually by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and is attended by outstanding callers from all parts of the state. Judges for the event was Dr. Leslie Glasgow, Fred Parnel, Joe Herring and Jim Thompson president of the Baton Rouge chapter of Ducks Unlimited.

THE MAJESTIC EAGLE

Outdoor Corner with Lyle Johnson

In the spring we talked about the wild turkey being in the running for our national bird and how its character was more desirable than the bald eagle. But that majestic, white-headed bird is truly a great sight if you happen to see one flying or perched in a tree.

When I was a kid (long, long ago) eagles were only seen by folks in Louisiana on a National Geographic documentary or maybe the legendary Omaha's Wild Kingdom. But I remember like it was yesterday when a pair of bald eagles took up residence in the Spanish Lake swamp.

The buzz was all over as folks wondered how they could get a look at them. The East Ascension Sportsman's League had a few members that were interested in viewing the nest but that wasn't as easy to accomplish.

As the desire to view the eagles rose, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries had to do something to regulate the attempts. They were very concerned about the effect that people messing with them (even with good intentions) and the possibility that all the attention would be detrimental to the nesting process.

This was as rare of a wildlife phenomenon as anyone back then had ever witnessed. The decision was made that if a person got within 200 yds. of the nest, a citation would be issued for harassment of wildlife. That has certainly changed today but it wasn't always that way.

At the turn of the 20th century, eagle feathers were very desirable so killing of bald eagles became a big problem, not just in Louisiana. They were given federal protection but the numbers still decreased. Not only were "outlaw hunters" contributing to the fall but the pesticide DDT took some of the blame as well.

In the early 1970s, there were only five to seven active nests recorded in our state. Only four eagle pairs were known in Louisiana in 1960 and five in 1973. The banning of DDT along with the paradigm change of killing them for their feathers, things changed dramatically.

The bald eagle was removed from federal listing under the Endangered Species Act in August of 2007 though it remains federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

So Louisiana's bald eagle population continues



A majestic eagle preens itself perched in the top of a tree.

Photo by Lyle Johnson

to flourish, according to the latest bald eagle nest survey conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). The survey was done in southeast Louisiana where the majority of bald eagles in the state reside. The survey showed that there were 264 active nests.

"The productivity and nesting success continues to be good in Louisiana for the bald eagle," said Michael Seymour, LDWF's non-game ornithologist. "The most recent survey (in 2017-18) for eagles show the number of chicks to be very high. The productivity was close to 100 percent in both the maximum and minimum values of the survey."

In 2014-15 the LDWF conducted a statewide survey and surveyed 647 nests, including 355 that were considered active. The parameters changed in the latest survey as the department only studied the most productive areas.

"You'd say the current survey is almost 100 nests fewer less than the last time we flew (in 2014-15)," Seymour said. "But the 2017-18 survey is a much-reduced land area. We surveyed 647 total nests back in 2014-15 in the statewide survey. This time we surveyed 599 nests in a much smaller survey area."

"To get the most bang for our buck, we flew the area where they are concentrated. We basically surveyed around the New Orleans metro area through west of Morgan City. Terrebonne and St. Mary parishes have some of the highest densities of nests. Lake Palourde and Lake Verret have a lot of nests concentrated in small areas."

Once unheard of then changed to a rare sight, spotting bald eagles in Louisiana has become commonplace. The most famous pair that is easy to spot is along I-10 traveling to New Orleans. Just before the I-310 merge on the right-hand side, a nest that's been there for years can easily be seen, usually with one of the pair perched on a branch.

The species typically begins nesting in the southern U.S. in September. Bald eagle pairs will mate for life although they will re-pair if one dies. In November and December, they'll usually lay two or three eggs. Typically, the chicks have hatched by February.

"Once those chicks reach about 10 weeks of age, they're just about fully grown and there aren't many predators that would attempt to take them," Seymour said. "For us, once a bird reaches about 10 weeks we consider it a successful nest. At about 12 weeks they're able to fly."

The survey starts in the late fall as biologists look to time it when the birds have eggs in the nest. The surveys are flown again in the spring to see how many chicks have successfully hatched and nest success and productivity rates are calculated.

"The nice thing about bald eagles is that they're fall-winter-spring nesters, they have a protracted nesting season," Seymour said. "So we're able to go out before leaf out (in the spring) and see the nests fairly well."

There is an active nest in Flat Lake at the end of the Diversion Canal so we get visited by them on a regular basis. There is an active nest where the Diversion and Blind River connect, so eagle sighting in the fall and winter is fairly easy to do in our area.

As a matter of fact, eagle viewing has become so popular in south Louisiana that every spring, the "Eagle Expo" in Morgan City draws more than 100 bird watchers and photographers to one of the hot spots for bald eagles in the South. St. Mary and Terrebonne parishes account for about 100 nesting pairs.

Louisiana now ranks as one of the population centers for bald eagles, with only Florida hosting more eagle nests annually. The number of nesting pairs in Louisiana now has surpassed 350.

Lyle Johnson is a free lance writer, Chairman of the Board LOWA, Fish Records Curator LOWA and can be reached at reelman@eatel.net



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by **Goosie Guice**

MIND OVER MATTER

It was 8:00am and July hot as approximately one thousand participants lined up for the start of the annual Spillway Classics 5K Trail Run. This run is held at the Bonnet Carre Spillway in Norco, Louisiana. You could have heard a pin drop as the Star Spangled Banner blared out of a set of speakers to the crowd of anxious runners of different races, cultures, ages and sexes. Everyone gave respect to our nations' colors presented on a small flagpole on which the flag was hanging dead still in the hot July heat. From what I could see there was no one sitting or in any way showing any disrespect for our flag at this event.

I had gotten in not many hours before the start of the race from a long night of playing music. This would not be an easy task for me, but I knew I would somehow find a way to succeed. The first mile and a half was on the levee into a big ball of fire known as the July sun over Lake Pontchartrain. Several runners passed me on this stretch. At the mile and a half mark is where I begin to feel like I'm more in my environment.

From that point on you have to track through waist deep water, several ugly mud holes and a slippery trail through the woods along the edge of the water to the finish line. Many who had passed me on the levee

were carefully picking their steps while trying to avoid the worst of the holes on the trail. At this point I figured it was time to make up some time. Mud holes and things of that nature don't intimidate me because of my outdoor nature like it does some folks. I hit the holes full force and began to pass some participants who had gotten ahead of me on the levee. Many of those runners never got ahead of me again.

Age, staying out the night before, and not being in tip top shape begin to take a toll on me at about this point



and I was only halfway through the race. Yes you should be physically fit, but a lot of it has to do with your head. As I was running down the slippery trail I began seeing many spots where hogs had been rooting. To

take my mind off the exhausting feat at hand, my thoughts of how many hogs must be there and if anyone had been hunting them kept my mind busy. Although the trail through the woods is shaded with the exception of a few open areas, it is very still and humid there. I was "dying on the vine" so to say, when I shifted my attention to the waters of the Bonnet Carre Spillway. I began watching for garfish to roll and looking for crabs in the shallows along the bank. I reminisced over the times I'd been there fishing and crabbing

throughout the years. I wondered how many crabs I could catch today if I were fishing and before long I was looking at the finish line. I'd done it again. Talked myself out of quitting by thinking of other things in life that I love.

Running is not for everyone but some type of physical exercise should be part of every outdoors persons' agenda for the upcoming hunting season. I'll continue to be a runner as long as my joints allow me to do so. The benefits of doing so will soon pay off when ole man winter comes along and it's time to make those long walks to the duck blind or deer stand or get to that ole tom five hundred yards off in the woods next spring. Who knows, my exercise program might even pay off again this year if the opportunity presents itself, dragging that ole buck out of the woods by myself. I'm sure I'll have to take a break or two, but I'll find a way to get my mind in gear. After all, it's mind over matter...

Until Next Time,
"Don't Think About It"
James "Goosie" Guice

Sportsman Comic Corner



EASL Wild Game Recipe

TEXAS TURKEY JERKY

Ingredients (vary based on personal taste):

- 1 turkey breast (or any meat type)
- 2 Tb. of brown sugar
- 1/4 c. of soy sauce
- 1 tsp. of honey
- 1/2 c. of water (&/or pineapple/orange/lemon/lime juice, red wine, etc.)
- 1/2 tsp. of onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. of garlic powder
- 1 tsp. of black pepper
- 2 tsp. of Worcestershire sauce

Directions:

1. Remove the fat and skin,

place in freezer for half an hour, remove and slice into strips.

2. Combine ingredients, refrigerate/marinate for approximately 12 – 18 hours.

3. Place the marinade and meat into a pot, and let simmer until 160 degrees is reached and preheat the oven to 150.

4. Drain, pat dry and lay the slices out on the oven racks.

5. Cook for 3-6 hours leaving



the oven door propped open for ventilation.

6. After about a couple of hours, check a piece. Jerky should bend but not snap but not be too chewy.



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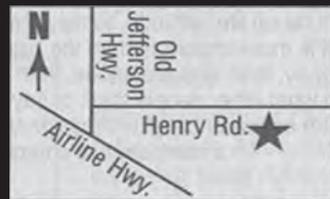
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EASL BOARD MEETING

August 20, 2018

Present: Mike Lambert, Barney Callahan, Herb Finnerty, Vince Diez Jr., Warren Singer, Jodie Singer, Darlene Bourgeois, Kevin Diez, Warren Hebert, David Miles, Charlie Moore, Guest Bettye Lambert.

Mike Lambert called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Kevin Diez said the guest speaker for the September regular meeting will be Eugene Hoover, the Louisiana State Director of High School Bass Clubs.

Vince Diez Jr. is working on a meal sponsor for September.

David Miles asked for all newspaper articles to be in by September 7th.

David explained how the Civilian Marksmanship Program worked, and the

opportunity to potentially purchase used military Model 1911 handguns as EASL fundraisers.

Jodie Singer had sent the board financial statements through July 31st and fielded questions.

Barney Callahan passed out ballots to vote whether or not to allow professional guides on tournament day of the Terry Melancon Memorial Saltwater Challenge; and whether or not to change the format from pay-out to a fundraiser for EASL. When the votes were tallied, both issues received a majority NO vote.

Warren Hebert said he was out of promotional hats and wants to order more.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Highlights of Our Last Meeting



Walter & Bobbie Leftwiche receiving the Joe L Herring Distinguished Service Award



Cody Braud and his Venison Sauce Piquante

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CASUAL OBSERVATIONS DOVE SEASON OPENING DAY

by Torrey Hayden



The opening day of Dove Season was always greatly anticipated in Alabama. It ranked right up there with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Alabama/Auburn game. It was a rite of passage for a young boy to go on his first dove hunt. Kids also served well as bird dogs. Great at fetching with a little guidance and a few moon pies as treats for bringing back a dove that had been shot down.

My buddies and I would go each opening day. The following is a representation of a typical opening day hunt for us. Legal hunting time would start at noon. James would wake us up at 5:00 am to get started so that we could get to the field and survey the layout for five hours. Dove season usually happened the first week of school therefore it was fraternity party season. We usually did not go to bed the night before.

First order of business was to pack the cooler. The evening before the hunt, James' wife Sherry would go buy us each a subway sandwich. James would put things in the cooler based on when they would be needed in reverse. Not the best method but it is what he went with. First the sandwiches were thrown in bottom of the cooler, a case of cheap beer on top of the sandwiches, a canteen of water (this was before bottled water), ice over everything then one Mountain Dew and one Honey Bun each for breakfast carefully laid on top.

He always put the Subway sandwiches in first, by the time we ate them they were squished and water logged. To this day I have an aversion to Subway sandwiches because of this.

Where we grew up it was big business for farmers to sell dove hunts. The usual going rate was \$10 per gun. Upon arrival the farmer would ask "what y'all doing here so early, the hunt don't start for another 5 hours." At which point James would reply "surveying the battle field sir" Farmer would look at him and reply OooHH Kayyy then cautiously walk away. James was dressed in full military fatigues head to toe right down to his shiny combat boots. The rest of us wore shorts, t-shirts and tennis shoes.

James' grandfather, General Mason, was a multi Star General, war hero and fought alongside Patton in WWII. James' father was a Colonel and decorated war hero. James always took charge of the dove hunt and considered it a military operation. His chance to command.

Keelon, Robert, and I would follow James down the path to where the dove hunt would take place lugging the cooler, two cases of shotgun shells and our shotguns. Right when we got to the field he would put his hand up military combat style and suddenly stop at which point we all ran into the back of him. James then shouted "weapons check" which meant for us to make sure we had plugs in our shotguns so that they would only hold 3 shells. Robert stated he took care of this back at the car and did not need to check his gun.

The set up was good, large rolled hay bales to hide behind, a pond, mowed down corn field surrounded by a tree line over hilly terrain. We each picked our spot and James issued

ammunition, five boxes of shells each. Once settled, we had our Mountain Dew and Honey Buns for breakfast. Then took a four-hour nap.

At noon we were awakened by a constant barrage of gun fire. After about 30 minutes James came over the hill running full tilt towards me. He shouted, "Zips in the Wire, we're about to be overrun, and out of ammo." Never was sure what that meant and my sincere apologies if it offends anyone. James was quoting a war movie he saw. As he ran by I tossed him a box of shotgun shells and he disappeared back over the hill never breaking stride leaving a dust trail to continue his assault on the invading doves.

I looked over at Keelon who was carefully aiming at his first dove of the day. The dove fell from the air. Impressive since he was kind of wobbling while he was standing trying to shoot. As soon as the gunshot went off he threw his Winchester shotgun to the ground, grabbed his head then let out a screech similar to that of a red tail hawk. This was the result of a pounding headache and being hungover from the fraternity party the night before then napping in the sun for four hours. I was assigned to be medical officer since I had earned First Aid merit badge on the way to achieving Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. I stood over Keelon and made him drink most of the canteen of water to get rehydrated.

I walked over to where Robert was set up under a tree. He was cautiously sneaking out and shot a dove that was about to land in a tree not far from him. There was a dad taking his young son on his first dove hunt under that tree. The bird Robert shot landed on the kid. The Father quickly grabbed his son and gear and went to the other side of the field. As I approached Robert I realized a tactical error had occurred. We left the cooler with him. There were about 18 empty beer cans scattered on the ground where he was sitting.

After a couple of hours, we had a limit of doves and convened by the cooler to eat our sandwiches and drink a few beers. Being a generous soul Robert saved us each a beer — a beer — just a beer out of 24 beers. James held a field Courts-Martial for Robert on the spot for drinking all the beer. This was a serious offense because we were hunting in Cullman County which was a dry county. Which means beer cannot be sold in that county. We would have to drive back to Jefferson County if we wanted more than a beer, which we did. James then fished our sammiches from the water in the bottom of the cooler, wrung the water out as best we could and ate lunch before going to check out with the Game Warden.

Alabama Game Wardens are very thoughtful. They set up a nice canopy have a table and chairs set up to check everyone upon leaving the dove field. This is a lot better than having to

stop everything while you are hunting to make sure everyone is conforming to all the rules.

As we reached the parking area James commanded everyone present arms, government issued identification and permits to kill, to the officer. The officer looked up at James and said, "I remember you from last year. First let me see your doves" James then ordered, "Robert front and center to present today's killed- in - action for inspection." Robert



Torrey - Dove Season Opening Day

then poured a cooler full of dead doves, empty beer cans and the liquid swill at the bottom of the cooler onto the nice clean table of the game warden. He counted out sixty doves which was our 4-man limit and congratulated us on a good hunt. Then the Game Warden handed Robert a rag and bucket of soapy water and instructed him to clean his table end to end top to bottom.

We found this amusing.

Once Robert had the Game Warden's field office spic and span we had to present our guns with hunting license and driver's license. "Mr. Mason, Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Hayden all paper work are in order and your guns hold only three shells. Have a nice day". "Mr. Cary (Robert) I must write you a citation for shooting Federal migratory game birds with a gun chambered for more than three rounds"

Robert's reply, "huh what?" by this time Keelon was fully functional which can sometimes be rough on those who are targets of his sarcasm and ire. He was focused on Robert who was not fully functional after drinking twenty-one of our twenty- four beers. Keelon then translated what the game warden had said to Robert. "You Drunk Bastard, you refused to check your plug when the rest of us did, so now you're getting a ticket for being a dumb-ass" Robert understood Keelon's translation then tried to explain he had put a plug in his gun before going hunting.

The game warden instructed Robert to disassemble his gun and produce this plug. He took the gun apart and pieces of a broken No.2 pencil fell out of Robert's gun which was being used as a make shift plug. Everyone including the Game Warden fell about the place laughing. The Game Warden instructed us to put Mr. Cary in our vehicle and remove him from his sight before he found his ticket writing pen.

We finished the day by grilling dove breast wrapped in bacon, having a few drinks then watching the Alabama Crimson Tide football team beat whoever they were playing first game of the season by about sixty points. Those dove hunts will always be looked back on fondly. Such a great experience.

Robert passed away several years ago. He was known for wearing colorful Hawaiian Shirts. I did not know of his passing until I got a package from his wife with a note explaining one of his last wishes was that he wanted Keelon, James and I to have one of his shirts to remember him by.

Sportsman's Calendar

The last event for 2018 is the Oct. 6 EASL Squirrel Rodeo.
Get ready for the fun and squirrel stew!

It's A
Fact!



Squirrel Rodeo,
Oct 6

A squirrel's "home" is not called a "nest" but a "drey" (or dray). Built from twigs and small branches, their drey is constructed with leaves still attached which they cut directly using their sharp teeth.