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Vol. 48, No. 4

East Ascension Sportsman's League Publication

April 2019

Guest Speaker Jay Wiggins, LA Manager for U.S. Law Shield

Jay Wiggins is the manager for U.S. Law Shield in Louisiana. According to Jay, "My priority is providing the state a service that many of us do not think about; what happens after you have to defend yourself? The fact is you may find yourself in a legal situation. U.S. Law Shield will step in and provide legal counsel, associated cost and support."

"I am passionate about helping people. That is why I took this job. I love the outdoors. I am an avid hunter and love to fish. I spend many weekends at my camp on the Tangipahoa river. I enjoy using and studying optics as a hobby."

"I was born and raised in Ponchatoula. I attended LSU and graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. I live in Ponchatoula with my wife Aimee, and our two children Brock (11) and Elizabeth (6). I volunteer for the Richard murphy Hospice foundation and do the IT



work for the organization. I am a cub scout leader and have helped my son and our troop gain the "arrow of light ranking" if you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me: jwiggins@uslawshield.com Phone: 985-320-7343 or check us our online at www.uslawshield.com."

April President's Report

Spring is here. The days are getting longer, the trees are getting greener, the birds are singing, and the bees are buzzing. All good, but most important, it's time to fish.

Fishing is good anytime, but plan on it May 18 for the fourth annual Pan Fishing Rodeo. Write the date down and remember it. Join us this year for all the fun. The rules are simple and there's no fee. All the rules are printed in this month's paper and will also be in May's paper.

Bring anyone and everyone. Everybody likes to catch fish, and we will have more fun eating them at the meeting on May 20. Chef KD will cook them at the meeting, so they will be good and hot.

You will need to bring your fish to Chef KD's place that Monday morning, so they can be prepped for cooking. Anyone can bring fish they may have in the freezer too, so we can be sure that we have enough. In the past, we had more people eating fish than catching them, but it all worked out well.

I would like to see as many people fish as possible.

Take the kids, grand kids or the kid next door. As long, as they are under 16-years-old, they don't need to be a member. They just need to be with a member. This has been a really fun outing for those who have participated in the past years - both the fishing and the dinner following. Please bring your favorite dessert to complete our feast. I would love to see you there.

Speaking of fishing, we have the Saltwater Challenge coming up June 8 at Grand Isle. Make your plans now to join us for a fun weekend of fishing and food. You can reserve your spot at the camp. Don't wait till the last minuet to get in. Also, for the kids, the Kids Fishing Rodeo will be held on July 27 so get ready. We all appreciate your participation and love to see you at all the functions EASL has to offer you. Thanks for your time and see ya'll soon.

Till next time, Michael Lambert



The EASL Meeting

Held every 3rd Monday of the month at
The Gonzales Fire Department
724 Orice Roth Road, Gonzales, LA 70737
Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meal sponsored by:



Sportsman's Calendar

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 15 | Board Meeting, 6pm |
| April 15 | EASL Regular Meeting, 7pm (3rd Monday) |
| April 27 | Silhouette Match (4th Saturday) |
| May 18 | EASL Pan Fish Rodeo (tentative date) |
| June 8 | Terry Melancon Salt Water Challenge |
| July 27 | EASL Kid's Fishing Rodeo |
| Oct. 5 | EASL Squirrel Rodeo |

The East Ascension Sportsman

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Silhouette Match Calendar

The dates have been set for the championship matches in Louisiana this year - so mark your calendars for the following - (contact Dustin Flint, 225-719-1112, or Jerry Tureau, 225-803-2773, for Silhouette and Rifle competition info):

The Louisiana Smallbore and Air Rifle Silhouette Championship in Gonzales is May 4-5, 2019; The Louisiana Highpower Silhouette State Championship in Zwolle is October 19-20, 2019; The Drue Wands Memorial Louisiana Lever Action Silhouette Championship in Gonzales is December 7-8, 2019. EASL Monthly Silhouette Match is the 4th Saturday; check with Jerry or Dustin.

EASL Wild Game Recipe John's Roasted Turkey



INGREDIENTS:

1 (15-pound) turkey, salt, ground black pepper & granulated garlic to taste;
1/4 pound butter softened;
2 tbsps garlic, minced;
6 basil leaves;
4 cups onions, diced;
2 cups celery, diced;
2 cups carrots, diced;
3 oranges, quartered;
8 whole cloves garlic paprika for color.

the breast skin of the turkey until all is used up. Place 3 basil leaves, in a decorative fashion, under the skin on each side of the breast. The leaves will show up nicely when the turkey is cooked. Place approximately 1/2 of the onions, celery, carrots, oranges and garlic on the inside of the bird, and place the remaining 1/2 around the bird in the pan. Squeeze juice of 2 orange quarters over the turkey breast. Sprinkle paprika lightly across the breast and leg portions and rub evenly for color. This will assist in even browning. Tie the legs in place using butcher's twine, then cover the roasting pan tightly with aluminum foil. Bake for approximately 3 1/2 hours, then remove foil and check for doneness. The bird is done when the legs pull away easily from the body and the internal temperature reaches 170 degrees F. The aluminum foil covering will allow the bird to cook evenly and retain moisture without over-browning. Once done, remove cover and allow turkey to brown evenly, approximately 1/2 hour. When done, allow bird to rest 1 hour prior to slicing. The bird may be served with its natural drippings, or the juices may be strained and thickened with a light roux. Normally, a turkey will require a cooking time of 12-15 minutes per pound. However, ovens differ and you should check 30 minutes prior to your calculations.

METHOD: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Remove the packet of giblets, which are normally packed in the neck cavity at the front of the turkey and covered with the neck skin. If a wire retainer is holding the legs in place, take care and remove it prior to seasoning the bird. Rinse turkey well, inside and out, with cold water. Place the bird in a baking pan and season generously, inside and out, using salt, pepper and granulated garlic. Extra seasoning should be placed on the inside cavity since the bone structure will prevent the majority of this seasoning from reaching the meat. Blend butter and garlic and rub under

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Richard Gautreau with 10.07 Lb. Bass
at Toledo Bend

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.

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GREATER ROADRUNNERS IN LOUISIANA

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

Yes, we have greater roadrunners in Louisiana – with the possible exception of zoos – you'll not find one in southeastern Louisiana.

They are birds of hilly country in western Louisiana with some found east of the Red River, including the Monroe and Jena areas. George Lowery, Jr., LSU Professor of Ornithology, said roadrunners arrived in Louisiana from Texas in the 1930s. Its numbers increased but in recent decades their abundance has declined.

Louisiana birders have a hard time these days locating greater roadrunners and have to depend on fellow birders to direct them to these intriguing birds. I live in amongst several Kisatchie National Forest locations in west central Louisiana, and that's where I find roadrunners most years. However, I may have to make several trips to roadrunner territory to find one.

Even though "Beep, Beep" the roadrunner has been a fixture in cartoons since the 1950s, the real McCoy doesn't look a lot like "Beep, Beep". The birds are about two feet long including a long tail and stand about one foot high. They are mostly brown above with black streaks and sometimes with pink spots.

The neck and upper breast are white or pale-brown with dark-brown streaks and the belly is white. The head features a crest of brown feathers with a bare patch of orange and brown skin behind each eye. With the exception of a bit of blue behind each eye, most of the blue is replaced by white in adult males. The color behind the eyes is often hidden by feathers.

Roadrunners aren't called "roadrunners" for no reason. They spend most of their time on the ground where they seek food like lizards, snakes, larger insects, small birds and small mammals. As a result, they have to be fast runners and are regularly timed at about 20 mph and have been recorded running as fast as 26 mph.

They don't need speed to catch, kill and eat venomous snakes, especially



Roadrunner Photo

rattlesnakes in the southwestern desert areas. They need dexterity to avoid the fangs and dispatch a meal headfirst. If the meals take too long to eat, it can dangle out of the bill as the other end digests.

Some people are surprised to learn that roadrunners can and do fly – very rarely. Being able to fly is important as these birds normally nest two 2-12 feet off the ground. These nests are platforms of sticks lined with grass, leaves and feathers. Some are rarely lined with snakeskin or pieces of cow manure.

Greater roadrunners don't "sing" in the way that most people associate with birds. They make a husky, dovelike, low-pitched cooing, often from elevated perches. They do respond to "playback" and birders can sometimes attract them into view by playing the song or call in the bird's appropriate habitat.

My hearing is not very good, but I can tell the difference between the calls of a roadrunner and a dove. However, I can confuse roadrunner calls with those of yellow-billed cuckoos, especially if the call is coming from some distance. And, this should not be a surprise because roadrunners are a form of cuckoo.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a spring, summer and fall resident of our region but migrate to the tropics during the winter. So, they're not around to confuse birders in the winter.

Coyotes are roadrunner predators and can run up to twice the speed of a roadrunner. Coyotes can't fly but the roadrunner, though an ungainly flyer, can take to the air to escape. Interestingly, coyotes – Wile E. Coyote – got to Louisiana in the early 1950s, about 15 or so years after roadrunners got here.

The greater roadrunner holds a very special place in the lore of Native American tribes in their original range in the Southwest. They were thought to provide protection from evil spirits and, in some areas brought babies to families.

EASL BASS CLUB NEWS

By: Jim Hebert

Dirk Anderson & Brandt Fairchild win again out of Amelia Landing

This makes 3 Tournaments in a row that these fishermen have placed this year. They are on a roll and have positioned themselves as the team to beat in each event.

The EASL Bass Club met at the Gonzales Fire Department on March 12th to plan for the upcoming Tournament. Before the meeting began, everyone enjoyed a meal provided by "yours truly" consisting of Italian style elbow macaroni in Ground meat sauce, cole slaw, French bread, drinks and Oreo cookies for dessert.

After that, Philip Valentine and Mike Guitreau signed up 15 boats to fish the Tournament. Guitreau called the meeting to order and took nominations for Tournament location. The nominations were, Amelia Landing, Bayou Segnette and Blind River Basin – with a twist. After a run-off vote, Amelia Landing was the winning location. We then voted to weigh in at 3:00 p.m.

After voting, we pulled numbers for boat positions and weigh master. Terry Molea and Ken Villenurve were chosen weigh masters



Donald Braud with 4.5# bass.JPG



Chase Barksdale & Bubba Rossi 2nd Place & Big Bass at 4.65 lb.

for the event. After the meeting adjourned, everyone helped with the cleanup.

Saturday morning, we woke up and looked at the radar. I was surprised to see that it was raining south of Gonzales – all the way to Amelia. That was supposed to be finished by midnight. Oh well, I threw the rain suit in with everything else I had to bring.

It rained the whole ride, and we found out the Highway 90 bridge was closed when we got there. Thank goodness for cell phones because in short order we were back-tracking to the new bridge which I had never been over.

We arrived at the launch and noticed

the water was all the way up to the top of the ramp. We got into the water just in time for take-off. We went north toward Verrett and stopped at our Plan A location. The fish weren't on fire, but the water was slightly moving. We caught 4 keepers there. We left that spot and stopped at our next location and caught our 5th keeper.

We moved around a little more looking and fishing. We culled once or twice but not with significant upgrades for sure. The weather was very nice once the rain went away early in the morning. The rest of the day was overcast with a slight breeze and a little sun to boot. All in all, it was a good day to be fishing. We managed to weigh in 7.5 pounds, so we weren't too embarrassed at the weigh in.

By 3:00 p.m., everyone had returned to the landing. Molea and Villenurve had the scale ready to weigh the fish. Most were focused on Mike Guitreau with his hands and arms full of grease due to a serious bearing failure on his boat trailer. It took borrowed tools, a borrowed hub and help from a host of others, but eventually he was back in business for the trip home.

After Terry and Ken got the fish weighed, George announced the winners.

First place went to the team of Dirk Anderson and Brandt Fairchild with a limit of fish that weighed in at 12.09 pounds. Second place was Bubba Rossi and Jace Barksdale with their limit that



Dirk Anderson & Brandt Fairchild 1st Place

weighed 11.02 pounds. They also had "Big Bass" with their lunker that weighed in at 4.62 pounds. Third place winners were Terry Molea and Ken Villenurve with 5 fish that weighed 10.51 pounds.

Congratulations to the winners of the March Tournament. Our next event will be at Toledo Bend on April 13 and 14. Hope to see you all there.



Terry Molea & Ken Villenurve 3rd Place



Left to Right, Brandt Fairchild & Dirk Anderson, Jason Barksdale & Bubba Rossi, Terry Molea & Ken Villenurve

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Outdoor Corner with Lyle Johnson

After a long, wet, winter things have really turned around. We've had some beautiful weather allowing things to dry out. Everything is greening up, pollen is everywhere and the birds and animals are preparing for new families. Spring is here and that means babies are everywhere. Nothing is more precious or cute than babies whether they are human or animal.

The sounds of birds chirping as they collect food for their broods are everywhere, and their young are learning to fly and fend for themselves. The mallards that have made their home here are sitting on their eggs. Heck, I even put a wood duck nest box in my yard, near the water.

Those animals and birds are so cute that it's very tempting to try and help out nature when we might find them in what appears to be distress. Young birds learning to fly might end up on the ground and seem to be defenseless. Trying to put them back in their nest seems to be the noble thing to do but nearly 100 percent of the time that's exactly the wrong thing to do.

Young birds need to exercise their muscles to be physically able to fly, and their parents can get them back in the nest if needed. Sometimes the birds are just not healthy and become food for others in the food chain. That appears to be sort of cruel to us humans, but that's part of the survival process that keeps things going in nature.

One of the biggest problems that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries experiences is people finding a deer fawn that's seemingly been abandoned by its parents. Their intentions are usually good but misplaced.

A fawn is a new born until it gets a couple of months old. It has no odor for predators to locate it by its smell. The spots on the brown coat act as a camouflage so other animals that might feed on them can't see them. It's perfectly normal for a fawn to lay motionless, even in the presence of

a human. It's their natural defense mechanism.

They think you can't smell or see them and usually its mother is not too far away.

Folk's good intentions usually mess with nature in a bad way. Every year the LDWF receives dozens of calls from concerned citizens who have found what they consider to be an "abandoned" baby deer or fawn. With the best of intentions, some concerned citizens bring fawns home and call the department to retrieve and raise them.

LDWF wants the public to know it's against the law to pick up baby deer or any other wild animal. If caught transporting deer without a permit, these well-meaning individuals will be subject to citations and fines.

Picking up fawns seriously diminishes their chance to live a normal and healthy life. When a baby deer is born it's weak, awkward and unable to move well enough to feed and escape predators. However, the newborn fawn has a coat of light brown hair liberally covered with white spots that provides excellent camouflage against predators.

The mother doe will remain in the area to feed and nurture the fawn. When the young deer gets older and stronger it will be able to forage for food with its mother. Until then, its best defense is to lay motionless in a thicket or grassy field.

Fawns turned over to LDWF must be hand reared by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator at considerable cost of time and expense. Initial mortality is high since fawns raised on a bottle in pens do not have the opportunity to learn important survival skills. The



Lyle Johnson of Ascension Outdoors

deer that do survive in pen-raised environments must be confined to a pen for the remainder of their lives.

When encountering baby deer in the wild, simply leave them untouched and quietly depart from the area. This action will provide the young deer its best chance to survive in the wild and prevent a possible citation for a well intended outdoorsman.

So, let's do a "State of the Pier" address, it's past time for a Diversion Canal report. It's spring in the river as well. I fish nearly every day and this phenomenon always amazes me. It's just like a light switch. One day the water is cold and the next, the

temperature is warm. This happened about two weeks ago.

Winter is usually pretty good for catfishing on the pier. This one has been way different. It was very inconsistent, and the harvest was really spotty. I would go for days without catching a catfish. I would catch a few then the cycle would repeat itself.

The really frustrating thing was that there was so much bait available, but it seemed like there were no fish to eat any of it. Usually, in the colder months, getting bait was a problem. Store bought night crawlers were the remedy, but this year I didn't have that issue to worry about. The issue was, "where's the fish?"

They made their appearance this weekend. It all started on Friday when the catfish bite picked up a little. Saturday, the action picked up more adding some nice bream and chinquapin to the live box that I keep in the water.

Even my neighbor got in on the action as he had some friends over. They were using crawfish and night crawlers to catch their nice mess of catfish and bream. On Sunday the scenario repeated itself – another neighbor joined in on the action.

This week marked the start of boating season, and the boat riding was out in full swing. Things are good in the river. Remember to keep the slack out and set the hook hard, be safe in the outdoors and may God truly bless you.

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PAN FISHING RODEO RULES

- 1) NO REGISTRATION IS NEEDED. JUST FISH ANY PUBLIC WATER YOU CHOOSE STARTING AT SUN RISE. REGISTER AT WEIGH IN.
- 2) MUST USE HOOK AND LINE, LIVE OR ARTIFICIAL BAIT.
- 3) MUST BE AN E.A.S.L. MEMBER. FISHERMEN UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER.
- 4) EACH PERSON WILL FISH INDIVIDUALLY, NO TEAMS, SO YOU MUST KEEP YOUR FISH SEPARATED FROM OTHERS YOU ARE FISHING WITH.
- 5) USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT AND KEEP ONLY FISH THAT ARE A SIZE YOU CAN EAT.
- 6) RETURN TO P.J.'s LANDING NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. WITH YOUR LIMIT OF PAN FISH FOR WEIGH IN. SOMEONE WILL BE THERE AT 2:00 P.M.
- 7) PAN FISH WILL INCLUDE BREEM, PERCH, CRAPPIE (SAC-A-LAIT), AND OTHER LIKE FRESH WATER FISH. NO BASS OR CATFISH WILL BE WEIGHED, BUT CAN BE DONATED TO THE FISH FRY.
- 8) EACH PERSON'S CATCH WILL BE WEIGHED AS A WHOLE AND RECORDED. THE WEIGHT OF YOUR BIGGEST FISH WILL ALSO BE RECORDED.
- 9) A CASH PRIZE WILL BE PAID TO THE WINNERS. \$25.00 FOR 1st, \$15.00 FOR 2nd, \$10.00 FOR 3rd AND \$10.00 FOR BIGGEST OVER ALL PAN FISH.
- 10) ALL FISHERMEN WILL PREPARE A SHARE OF THEIR FISH TO BE COOKED AT OUR MAY 20TH MEETING (Please get them, thawed, to Chef KD's early that day).

COME OUT FOR A FUN DAY OF FISHING AND JOIN WITH FELLOW MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR A FISH FRY AT THE MAY 20TH MEETING. FOR MORE DETAILS OR INFORMATION: CALL MIKE LAMBERT AT 225-644-3804.



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT by Goosie Guice

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

Each year, I typically try to make one scouting trip before the season opener of turkey season. I naturally go to several places that I've found turkeys and have had success in the past - along with maybe a new spot or two.

As I stood in one particular spot that I've hunted for probably thirty years or so, I began to reminisce about

some of my experiences there. One event spot took place about four or five years ago.

I missed opening weekend that year because of issues at work. My plan was to take a day or two off after working the weekend was approved by my boss. Monday morning daylight found me walking down the old logging road to my destination.

It was unseasonably cold for that time of year. Temperatures that morning froze the ground. Action was slow, and I had managed to get through the cold part of the morning until the temperature became more comfortable.

It was 12:10 p.m. when I spotted my first turkey. It was a hen followed by ten more ladies and a beautiful strutting male rounding up the rear of the line of fowl. The group headed for the corner of the clearing about sixty yards from where I sat - motionless and uncomfortable.

I placed a hen decoy in plain view of the entire gang, but they never paid any attention to it. The old gobbler remained in full strut during the entire scenario. Every time one of the eleven girls would try to walk away, he would herd her back into the group. During the span of hours, I had to continue to tell myself not to take a chance at shooting him at too far of a distance, even if it meant letting them leave



without getting a shot.

Around 4:00 p.m. another turkey started gobbling. It did not affect the flock that was in front of me at all. The gobbling bird was walking down an old logging road, and I felt that I could maybe work him. But there was no way to aggressively call him with all of the eyes in front of me.

At about six o'clock the

flock began to move away from the little corner that they had spent the evening at. In single file they walked back on the same trail they walked in on with the strutter at the rear. It had been a long six hours and just as I began to relax for a moment, they reappeared.

For whatever reason, they decided to walk the wood-line directly in front of me to exit. I already determined if this happened, the distance would still be too far to chance a shot at such a beautiful creature. So here they came one-by-one until the twelfth was left - strutting his stuff.

It was 6:10 p.m., six hours after my first sighting of the group when he broke strut for the first time. He began to walk a straight line to my decoy that had been in his full view for six hours. He was definitely going to round her up to join the gang.

At the moment that I clicked my safety off, I asked this question out loud to him and myself. Why did you do that? By being a male myself, deep down inside I knew the answer.

Till Next Time,
Don't Get Greedy
James "Goosie" Guice

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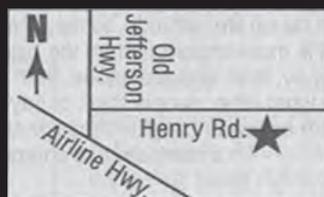
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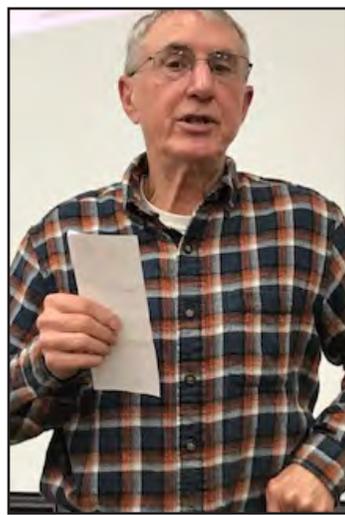
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PROGRESSIVE

EASL MEETING MARCH 18 HIGHLIGHTS



Guest Speaker Ashley Ferguson



Jim Hebert with Big Bass Award



President Mike Lambert



Our New Meeting Hall



Mike Brown with 6.63 Lb. Bass at Toledo Bend



Richard Gautreaux - another big bass!

OPEN LETTER FROM BETTYE LAMBERT, CHAIRPERSON, KIDS FISHING RODEO

Hello everyone! This is Bettye Lambert, the Kids Fishing Rodeo chairman. I'm getting things together for our annual kids fishing rodeo. It's scheduled for July 27th and hopefully some good weather will be coming our way. I wanted to touch base with all of you so you're aware that I will be chairing this event again. I would really appreciate those who always help, to put this date on your calendar. And anyone new that may want to help are especially welcome to do so. Please know that you are all greatly appreciated and I'm looking forward to working with you!

If anyone would like to contact me, my email is bmworks2011@hotmail.com. My phone number is 225-571-4588.

Thank you very much! Bettye

From the Scrapbook – 1967

submitted by Warren Singer

EASL FISHING RODEO A BIG SUCCESS

At the recently held E.A.S.L. Fishing Rodeo Charles Braud won the largest bass trophy. Russell Gautreaux won the Bream trophy. J. L. Babin won the Sac-a-Lait trophy, and J. B. Landry won the Rough Fish trophy. About 70 fishermen weighed in fish. At the barbeque outing held at Ormet, about 135 members were present. Over \$200 worth of prizes were won by members present. Some of the larger prizes won were as follows: Tucker Callagan; Ambassador 5000; Catherine Guice, Fiberglass Rod; Freddie Coppinex, Garcia 50 reel; Pearl Murphy, ice chest; George Fairchild, tackle box; Liz Bertholet, hand mixer; Wilson Henry, Bream net; Bessie Henry, life jacket; J.B. Landry, Breakfast set; Marvin Murphy, Soldering kit; Harold Carpenter, safety can; Joe Melancon, tool box, and Mrs. Charlie Fairchilds, minnow bucket.

CASUAL OBSERVATIONS

What is a Good Fisherman?

by Torrey Hayden



As part of my job, I must attend a lot of social functions in New Orleans and south Louisiana. Recently, I was at a party for someone who just opened a marina on Lake Pontchartrain that had a very nice bar overlooking the lake, the WWII Museum's PT Boat, several slips and dry storage for boats and an event venue space completely enclosed by big windows.

I was talking with a lady who owned a jewelry store on Magazine Street and the subject turned to fishing. I told her that one of her friends was a good fisherman and she then asked, "What makes a good fisherman?"

No one had ever asked me that before. My simplistic answer was someone who doesn't whine and brings good sandwiches. There were unattended free margaritas with bar tenders making them, so I elaborated at length.

"Everyone can catch fish if someone finds them," I said. "Catching fish is not the hard part, finding them is. A good fisherman is someone you enjoy spending the day with. Whether or not they put fish in the cooler is irrelevant. The very best fishermen go along enthusiastically without complaint no matter conditions endured."

About 15 years ago I reconnected and started fishing with my buddy, Len, from school. After graduation we had not seen each other for at least 10 years – we each went our separate ways. Len ran into Keelon, James and J.D. at a football game, and they told him about Grand Isle. They invited him for our annual trip.

I was unable to shake those three after graduation. At that time, we were fishing a cut on Elmer's Island that went from Barataria Bay through the marsh to the Gulf of Mexico. This cut was filled as a result of the BP oil spill to prevent oil from entering the marsh. The greatest fishing hole in the world, gone forever.

Len showed up the day before the rest

of the Krewe was scheduled to arrive and wanted to try the honey hole that afternoon. I told him it would be tough getting there since it was low tide, but we would go. We launched the boat on the side of LA 1.

By launching, I mean extracting the 1950 model Sears and Roebuck boat out of the back of the truck, attaching the ancient 9.9 Evinrude and then flinging the craft in the water. We made it most of the way, then as predicted we ran out of enough water to float the boat with us in it.

Len asked what to do, and he was instructed to hop out since we would have to drag the boat about 100 yards. When we jumped out, we immediately sunk up to our waist in mud. I expected this – Len did not.

He immediately started struggling and flailing about in the quick mud and was sinking with each movement. Another good quality in a fishing partner is that they take instruction well. I told Len to stop struggling and crawl like a baby on his belly to distribute weight. A deal of personal research and experimentation had gone into this method of getting around in the mud.

As we were crawling like two very large muddy babies, dragging the boat along as we went, Len turned to me huffing a puffing asking how much longer before we were able to fish. It was about 95 degrees with a higher humidity level percentage. I told him to stand up, look quickly before he sank back into the mud. He would be able to see the deeper water.

As Len was sinking back into the mud he replied "OK I see it" then he resumed the crawling position. Our efforts were rewarded with a limit of nice flounder, some trout and redfish thrown in.

When you find someone to fish with that does not complain no matter what, hang onto them. They are a keeper for life.

Join us June 7-8 for the Terry Melancon Memorial Saltwater Challenge

The East Ascension Sportsman's League will be holding the Terry Melancon Memorial Saltwater Challenge on June 8, 2019 in Grand Isle. If you have not been to this fun filled weekend of good food, good fishing, and friendly competition, you are missing out. It's not too late to make your reservations. Since EASL no longer pre-rents cabins for this event, we strongly suggest that you get with fellow members and coordinate and reserve accommodations as early as possible.

The Cajun Holiday Motel has three main camps that can be rented by groups, along with room rentals in the motel. If you'd like to book a camp or motel room at the Cajun Holiday Motel, please give Ms. Millie a call at 504-787-2002. The motel and cabins are a short distance on the left after crossing the Grand Isle bridge at 1737 LA Highway 1, Grand Isle LA 70358.

Cajun Holiday has graciously let us host the event at camps EASL members have rented, so we hope this relationship will continue. But if this space is not available for our meeting functions like registration, meals, and weigh-in, we have other options. I'll have those final details in the May newspaper, so look for that next month. Motels and rental camps are found throughout the island if you prefer other accommodations.

This year's tournament will follow the same rules and procedures as in the past, except that the hiring of professional guides is no longer allowed on the day of the tournament. You must be a current member of EASL to participate, and \$20 annual memberships will be available at registration.

Registration and an evening supper (location to be determined) will take place Friday, June 7 from 5:30 to 8:30pm. Please bring your own drinks. We also ask that each person eating pay \$5, which covers Friday's meal and Saturday night's fish fry and social. If you cannot make it to the island before the close of registration, be sure to get your entry fee to someone who can pay for you, or call Jodie Singer at 225-937-6237.

RULES:

- Entry fee is \$10/person.
- Any participant older than 15 must be a current member. Participants 15 or younger



must be accompanied by a current member.

- Each team can have no more than 5 people.
- No professional fishing guides.
- Team members must remain within sight of each

other while fishing.

- Fishing starts at 12:00am (midnight) Friday.
- Hook and line fishing only. No flounder gigging, netting, etc.
- Both artificial and live bait are permissible.
- Teams are allowed to fish any water within boating distance of Grand Isle/Fourchon/Leeville.
- One or more team members must be present at weigh-in no later than 3:00pm Saturday with your team's fish. Weigh-in site to be determined and detailed in May's newspaper.

CATEGORIES AND PAYOUTS:

- 5 largest speckled trout: combined weight (1st and 2nd place)
- largest trout (1st place only)
- 2 redfish under 27": combined weight (1st and 2nd place)
- largest redfish: any length (1st place only)
- largest flounder (1st place only)
- other "trash" fish: any legal fish except trout, redfish, or flounder (1st place only/\$20 payout)
- Cajun Slam (OPTIONAL): Combined weight of a participating team's largest trout, redfish under 27", and flounder. Requires an entry fee of \$10/team to participate. This is a side pot where the winning team takes all. Any fish weighed for the Cajun Slam can also be entered in other categories. All 3 species must be caught to win. If no team catches all 3, then 2 will be weighed, then just 1 if necessary.

This annual saltwater challenge was an event that Terry Melancon loved. Although he is no longer with us, we honor him by holding it in his name. Keith Saucier stepped in and took the helm after Terry passed away. He, too, is no longer with us. I miss both of them dearly, but have fond memories that I recall vividly each year when we all get together for this family friendly tournament. I hope you all come out to share some of those memories, and catch a boatload of fish. –Jodie Singer, Chair.