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Vol. 48, No. 9

East Ascension Sportsman's League Publication

September 2019

Guest Speaker Alayna McGarry

Alayna McGarry is a biologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the Fisheries Outreach section. Starting her career off six years ago with the Department, she organized the education and outreach for the



where she continued her career in Outreach for LDWF.

It was at this point that she began to coordinate the Aquatic Volunteer Instructor Program. Aquatic VIP was created to help LDWF spread its mission by working with the public. Trained volunteers go

Visitor's Center at the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery in Forest Hill.

McGarry cared for over 7,000 gallons worth of aquaria and gave tours to school groups, community organizations and any public that wandered in off the highway. After 2.5 years at the Hatchery, Alayna moved down to New Orleans

out to events across Louisiana to teach youth how to fish, introduce aquatic education topics, and to educate the public on how they can help manage our resources in Louisiana.

Since the creation in 2015, Alayna has trained over 300 volunteers.

2019 JOE L. HERRING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Barney Callahan accepted the award from president Mike Lambert at the August meeting. Barney's past service with EASL was celebrated with the presentation of a beautiful glass trophy and words of praise for all his accomplishments from fellow members at the meeting. We are all grateful of Barney's service and we wish we had more members like him. Thank you from all of us at EASL. I'm sure your service isn't over, and I look forward to many more years working with you in the future. Thanks again.

Michael Lambert



EASL President Mike Lambert (left) and Barney Callahan (right)

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 Highpower Silhouette State Championship in Zwolle is October 19-20, 2019; and 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.

The EASL Meeting

Held every 3rd Monday of the month at

The Gonzales Fire Department

724 Orice Roth Road, Gonzales, LA 70737

Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meal sponsored by:

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The East Ascension Sportsman

P.O. Box 446 • Gonzales, LA 70707

Published Monthly by The East Ascension Sportsman League (EASL)

Subscription Rates:

\$20 per year including EASL membership

Advertising Monthly Rates:

\$10.00 for 1/8 Page; \$20.00 for 1/4 Page;

\$40.00 for 1/2 Page; \$80.00 for Full Page

Newspaper Staff:

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September President's Report

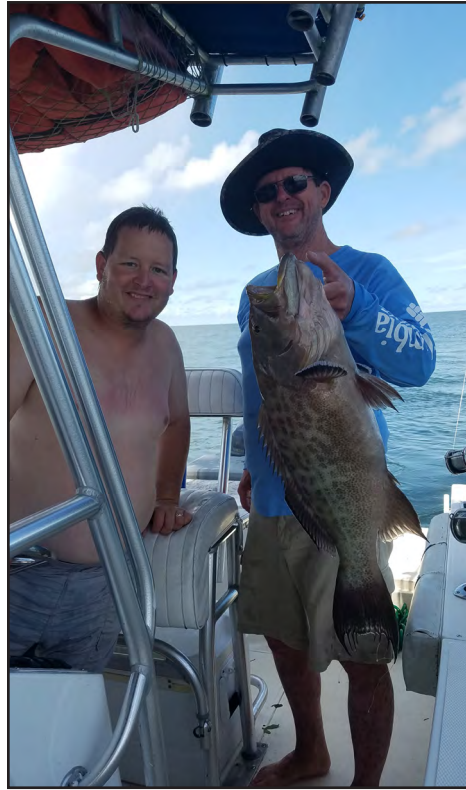
It's almost here. I'm talking about the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Soon hunters will be hunting for squirrels and other critters. Get ready for the squirrel rodeo the first Saturday in October. Opening day of the season. Hope you can participate in the hunt but if not be there for the squirrel stew the next day Sunday, October 6th.

I like to fish in the fall. It's cooler and the specks move into the marsh. Speaking of fishing. I made an offshore trip the weekend before Labor Day. We were targeting red snapper and amberjack. The red snapper were hungry but the amberjack were hard to find. When we did find one it broke off. There were five of us on the boat and we had nine snappers. We also lucked up and got some grouper. It was a real good day. The seas were light and we caught a lot of fish. Mangrove snapper, almaco jack, bearded Biotula, porgy, and of course sharks.

A funny story about sharks. Through the day several fish got bite off. One shark ate all but the head of a nice grouper. I hooked up with a hard pulling fish and fault him up from four hundred feet deep. About ten feet from the boat something bit the line and I lost the fish, are so I thought. Pulling a fish from that depth blows them up so they can't swim back



JP with a 22 pound snapper



Mike and Chris with an 15 pound grouper



Mike Lambert with an 18 pound snapper

down to the bottom. So as I was cursing the sharks, my fish pops up about ten yards from the boat. Everybody shouted, there it is. We were all looking at each other with a stupid look on our face as the current was carrying my fish away. Next thing you know, Chris jumps in and gets the fish, a nice grouper, and is fighting the current to get back to the boat. That is a serious fisherman. I asked him if he

wasn't worried about the sharks and he said he didn't think it was a shark that bite the line. I don't know about that. I'd give the sharks the benefit of the doubt. Check out the picture. Chris is the wet dude with no shirt. I'm the one holding the fifteen pound grouper.

Pray that fall gets here with no hurricanes. Pray for the people from my favorite place, the Bahamas, who got hit really hard. There's a high price to live in paradise but that is too much for anyone. Bettye and I have been trying to get in touch with everyone we know on Grand Bahama Island and as for as we know they have all made it through the storm in fare shape. I don't know about there property and stuff but at lease they're safe.

Hope you can get out and do whatever you do in the fall. Stay safe and have fun. Thanks for your time and hope to see you at the next meeting on the 16th. Join us.

Michael Lambert

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FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCKS IN LOUISIANA

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

Years ago, I recall seeing odd looking ducks in southwest Louisiana rice fields. Then, the odd-looking birds carried the common name Fulvous Tree Ducks. Well, now they're called Fulvous Whistling-Ducks. While they roost in trees, they nest on the ground. But they do have odd, whistling cries, not quacks.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are big, lanky, long-legged, long-necked ducks with broad wings. Ornithologists aren't all that sure how to classify them. Their generic name is *Dendrocygna* which translates to "tree swan" as they do somewhat resemble swans.

These are colorful birds being a mix of rich caramel-brown and black. If they're around, you'll surely know if as they are noisy with the whistling call described as kee-wee-ooo given on the ground and in flight.

I bird regularly along the coast in Cameron Parish in April. I almost always see at least one flock of incoming Fulvous Whistling-Ducks flying over the Gulf parallel to the beach. A conspicuous marking is a distinctive white "V" that separates the brownish-black tail from the dark-colored back. Look for it if you see a flock of odd-looking ducks at that time of year.

Few hunters ever have a chance to bag a Fulvous Whistling-Duck because most of them leave our area in September for Mexico and places further south. All whistling-ducks are actually found around the world in the sub-tropics and tropics. And, the Fulvous Whistling-Duck is found around the world.

To be sure, a few Fulvous Whistling-Ducks remain in our area through the winter. So, there's always a chance that you might see one over your decoys during the regular duck season. However, the



Fulvous Whistling-Ducks

only ducks you can legally shoot during the September teal season are teal – Blue-winged, Green-winged, and/or Cinnamon teals. If you're not sure of your target, don't shoot!

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks return to breed in our rice fields in March and April. In

the past, some farmers have complained that the ducks flatten large areas of growing rice. Unlike other ducks, both parents incubate the eggs. Pairs may remain bonded for many years.

When the ducklings reach the flight stage, they are similar in color to their parents but considerably lighter.

It's common now to find mixed flocks of Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Black-bellies have gray heads and bright pink bills, not the dark bills found on Fulvous Whistling-Ducks.

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks sometimes graze on vegetation like their black-belly cousins. However, much of their foraging is done by filter-feeding wherein they strain fine mud for seeds and invertebrates. This is the way Northern Shovelers feed. Adaptations in both species for this kind of feeding include well-developed lamellae (comb-like structures) in the bills as well as broader bill tips with strong "nails".

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are concentrated in southwestern Louisiana around working wetlands and northeastern Louisiana, again around working wetlands. They are rather rare in southeastern Louisiana and finding one or more there warrants a report to the LSU Museum of Natural Sciences. Their numbers declined in the 1960s apparently the result of pesticides applied to rice in Texas and Louisiana. However their numbers have stabilized since then and, seem to be increasing somewhat.

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EASL BASS CLUB NEWS

By: Jim Hebert

"BUBBA ROSSI & TIM GUILLAUME WIN OUT OF DOIRON'S LANDING"

Bubba and Tim took their chances in the Atchafalaya when all the other boaters stayed on the Belle River side. Sometimes you just have to be different to make a difference.

Even though the water was still two feet above flood stage, they had the confidence to give it a try. Turns out they were right. They reported seeing lots of "black water," but did manage to catch their fish in two small spots where the water was mixing. It was enough to win the Tournament and "Big Bass" on this hot Saturday.

The EASL Bass Club met on August 6 at the Gonzales Fire Station to plan for the tournament. Before the meeting started, everyone dined on Chicken stew, rice, sweet potato casserole, French bread, drinks and cookies for dessert. It was my turn to cook, and I believe everyone enjoyed it because some had seconds and there weren't a lot of leftovers. Pretty sure I heard a few compliments as well.

After the meal, George signed up 13 boats to fish the tournament. Mike opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Tournament location. Nominations were trailer anywhere, DesAllemands, Amelia and Doiron's either side. After a runoff vote between Amelia and Doiron's, the vote was tied.

That meant Mike had to break the tie, so he voted Doiron's either side. After that we voted for a 2:00 PM weigh in time. The weigh



Left to right, Tim Guillaume & Bubba Rossi, Jim & Warren Hebert, Ricky Dedon & Terry Molea

masters chosen were Roderick Saylor and Micha Mire. With no other business to take care of we adjourned and after a short clean up, everyone left looking forward to a good tournament.

Saturday morning we arrived at Doiron's to see quite a lot of boats already in the water and others parked around the store. This was a typical weekend crowd with several tournaments going on at all times. We managed to launch and got one of the last parking spots before dawn.

By the time we idled out to join the other members, Rod and Micha were already calling for boat No. 1. We were one of several boats that went south, and all of them peeled off at different locations while we kept going to our destination in the Marsh. I was determined not to be fishing with the jet skis,

party barges, ski boats, tube pulling boats, other Bass Boats etc. After fishing with all of those two weeks earlier, I wanted something different.

We arrived at "Plan A" location to see some pretty good-looking water. After fishing a few minutes, I threw my plastic lure out toward some rocks and got hung up. After pulling and jerking to get free, the fish that I was hung on decided to take off for deeper water.

I thought I had a redfish, but Warren suggested it might be a 10-pound bass, so I tried a little harder to get it in to see what it was. It turned out to be a giant Catfish that we estimated to be 15 or 20 pounds. Anyway, that would be the first of three large catfish that we caught that day. We fished on and slowly made our way around to different spots until we had three keepers.

Then we doubled back to try for two more. We caught our limit there plus culled a few and then decided to move to a spot to try and upgrade what we had. That was the right decision because we managed to upgrade three of our smaller fish. The last two keepers were reeled in simultaneously as we both had one on. After that, it was time to head back to Doiron's.

By 2:00 p.m., everyone was glad to be back after a grueling hot day on the water. We didn't get a break until around 9:30 a.m. when a breeze began to blow to offer a small bit of joy on a seriously hot day.

Everyone gathered under the shade of a small weigh station to weigh the fish. Micha and Roderick weighed them while George logged the weights. When the weigh in was complete, Mike announced the winners.

Bubba and Tim took first place with 10.37 pounds. They also won Big Bass and the side bet with theirunker that weighed in at 3.28 pounds.

Second place was won by Jim and Warren Hebert with their limit that weighed in at 9.46 pounds. Terry Molea and Ricky Dedon took third place with a limit that weighed 8.44 pounds.

Congratulations to the winners of the August Tournament. Our next event is scheduled for September 21st. For more information on the EABC, visit www.easonline.org.

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Outdoor Corner with Lyle Johnson

A few weeks ago, I attended the annual Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's conference in Morgan City. One of the events takes place on Saturday morning for members that usually takes in something unique about the area.

This year's was no exception as 15 journalists were invited to a tour of the Wax Lake Delta. Robert Twilley, executive director of the Louisiana Sea Grant Program and professor of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University, was our host for the morning accompanied by LSU Research Associates Andre Rovai and Alexandra Christensen.

"The Wax" as most of us call it, is very well known for the waterfowl hunting and many Ascension parish folks make this spot their duck hunting choice. The best thing about the location is the Wax is in the Atchafalaya Delta WMA so it's open to the public and will never be posted. The fishing is not too shabby either.

As great as the fishing and hunting are, it's secondary to the phenomenon of the new land that has been forming as a result of the natural sediment deposits from the Atchafalaya River that's been happening over the years.

I've never been to the Wax but I feel like I know it well as over the years many folks that I'm acquainted with hunt there and it's in the news because of land forming instead of



Map— (L to R) Robert Twilley, Andre Rovai, Alexandra Christensen & Gerald Gaspard of Pure Fishing with map showing the layout of the "Wax". Arrow points to where we are standing on Camp Island. Photo by Lyle Johnson

getting washed away. This foray into the heart of new land was an eye-opener for me in more ways than one.

With me in the boat was James "Goosie" Guice and John Flores, a writer for St Mary Now website and a local to the area. We were privileged to have as our host Andre Rovai. Andre comes to Louisiana via Brazil graduating from LSU, returning to Brazil before landing the job he has now.

Twilley led the caravan of three boats to Camp Island to pull out his map of the Delta and give us the lay of the land, pun intended, and the history of the Wax Lake Outlet.

The Wax Lake outlet is an artificial channel that was created by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1942 to divert 30 percent of the flow from the Atchafalaya River to the Gulf of Mexico and reduce flood stages at Morgan City, Louisiana.

The project design flood flow capacity for the outlet is 440,000 cubic feet per second. It receives 34 million tons of sediment per year. In the 64 years between 1941 and 2005, Wax Lake itself was completely filled with sediment, and the delta extended the land mass approximately 5 miles into the gulf.

The creation of the new land didn't really get its start until after the flood of 1973. In 1974 the first island formed its head and began the formation of what is called now Camp Island where we stood and heard the history, science along with the reason LSU Sea Grant spends their time here to mark the changes.

After the head forms, levees form next on each side of the head making the islands like arrow heads when you look on the maps. Each year if floods, the sediment lengthens the levees and forms more land. Willow trees are the predominate specie," noted Rovai. "They are very hardy and survive all types of weather as well."

As we idled down one of the islands the trees give way to marsh vegetation as the land elevation changes. "The interior remains mostly marshy and fills in with decaying matter," stated Rovai. "It grows but at a much slower pace."

In layman's terms, these three scientists spend a fair amount of time studying the growth and figuring out how things happened. But they do some pretty cool stuff as well. Rovai uses water level recorders to take measurements when the wetland is covered by water.

The data he collects is used in the calibration of sensors being flown on NASA aircraft that eventually will be placed on satellites. "If the sensors show good results monitoring what they see here in the Atchafalaya and Mississippi River deltas and the Terrebonne and Barataria basins, then they can be utilized around the world monitoring wetlands."

Of all the "scientific stuff" we learned that day, this beyond a shadow of a doubt is the coolest. Robert Twilley loves to take kids out to the Delta. Because of the elevation data concerning the vegetation, he can take them to a spot and show them land created the year they were born.



Camp Island—Looking out over land built up by sediment laden water from the Atchafalaya River on Camp Island since 1974. Photo by Lyle Johnson

Because the Wax Lake Delta was entirely created during an observable period and other than the creation of the canal, was not altered by humans, it has often been in studies of deltaic formation. In the time since Hurricane Katrina, it has also served as a model for delta regrowth in the Mississippi River Delta region in order to restore habitat and protect against storm surge.

There is another spot on the east side of the river from Buras to Baptiste Collette where the marsh is prospering and adding land instead of losing it. The levee took the river away so the only hope is to move the levee away where we can and let it flow through the marsh again. It's the only hope. "Let the river flow" has been the phrase repeated over and over in my mind lately as that is what's needed.

Nutrient-rich, freshwater being introduced back to the marsh is the only long-term cure along with pumped-in sand to help create land mass. But this will cause hardship for

many folks who live and make their sustenance from the salt water. Their concern is legitimate but if we don't do anything, their land and homes will disappear as well in time.

The Prophet Ezekiel sees a vision of a great river that flows from the throne of God. This is part of that vision, "Every living thing that gathers where the river goes will live. There will be very many fish, because these waters go there and make the salt water clean."

So everything will live where the river goes. "Fishermen will stand beside it. They will have places to spread their nets from the Biloxi marsh to the Sabine River." (Biloxi and Sabine added by me) Maybe we could follow the advice of the One who created it in the first place. Let the river flow.

Sportsman Comic Corner



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by **Goosie Guice**

SQUIRREL HUNTING WITH A 22 RIFLE

"You better leave that thing at home and bring your shotgun if you want to kill your limit."

I've been told that too many times in reference of me using a rifle to squirrel hunt versus the use of a shotgun. Yep, they're right. I would in most cases kill more squirrels firing a shotgun, but the fact is that I get all I want using a rifle.

There's nothing wrong with hunting with a shotgun. Squirrels can be very challenging no matter what type of firearm you use to hunt them. I prefer a rifle to hunt them. Although success with it can be very rewarding, failure can be very frustrating.

There's a big difference when it comes to choosing which method you use.

In a way, it's kind of like the difference between hunting deer with a bow versus the use of a high-powered rifle. I've messed up shots every way you can in the past and still make some of the same mistakes today. I've spent as much as a half hour before on a squirrel and never get a shot on him.

If you fool around with one long enough, he'll probably see you, and the game will be over for you.

There's been situations depending on the type of tree he's in, where I've just walked off and looked for another one because I could not get a shot. If a squirrel runs off because he sees you, or you finally take a desperate shot and miss him, then you're done.

You won't hit him on the run whereas with a scatter gun you'd still stand a chance. When aiming with a rifle, you better put the crosshairs exactly where you want to place the shot, or you will not hit him. Placing a shot into a clump of leaves with a tail hanging out of it isn't going to get it.

You'll come up empty 99 percent of the time. By the way, if you jump a rabbit while toting a rifle, which does happen at times, you'll have to enjoy watching him scamper away.

I find myself constantly talking to myself and saying words that you aren't supposed to say when trying to get a shot on some squirrels. Gray squirrels, in particular, don't like to sit still for very long. They are like the ever-ready bunny. When they do stop, it seems that something is always in your field of view.

Fox squirrels are a much larger, calmer and easier species to hunt.

The type of woods that you hunt and the type of trees that the squirrels are feeding in can also make or break you. In other words, rifle shooting fox squirrels out of honey locust or hackberry trees versus trying to get a shot on a gray squirrel eating in a tree full of vines makes all the difference.

I take a lot of pride in killing squirrels with a rifle. It's probably my favorite thing to do, and I am successful most of the time. I usually enter the woods with the thought of killing three or four per hunt. That's supper and to me is considered a success.

I'll have to put up with the harassment of shotgunners that may have done better from time to time, but I'm no fool. At times I'll outdo them with six or seven and about once a season when all the stars line up, I'll get a limit of eight.

I find that along with other things I used to do better, I now am not as good as I once was in the squirrel woods. This past season I was having pretty fair success but could have been doing much better. I'm not near as steady, even with a rest, than I was at one time.

I was missing shots that I really

should be making. I was using the rifle and scope that I've been using for years. After discussing the issue with my dad, he talked me into using a 22 magnum that he's had for some time. I took the rifle, and daylight, the next morning, found me creeping up on a cat squirrel cutting acorns in the top of a large pin oak.

As soon as I put the gun on my shoulder it occurred to me at that moment what the biggest part of my problem had been. The quality of the telescope was so much better than what I had been using for years. My eyes have not gotten better with age.

What was once alright for my eyesight has now changed. I could see that squirrel as clear as day through that glass. I made that shot, and by 8:40 a.m., I walked out with a limit of eight. Two reds and six grays. That was a great way to put an end to my squirrel season, and I can't wait to get after them next year with my new scope.

*Till Next Time,
Do It The Way You Want To,
James "Goosie" Guice*



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Sportsman's Calendar

- Sept. 16 Board Meeting, 6pm
- Sept. 16 EASL Regular Meeting, 7pm (3rd Monday)
- Sept. 28 Silhouette Match (4th Saturday)
- Oct. 5 EASL Squirrel Rodeo

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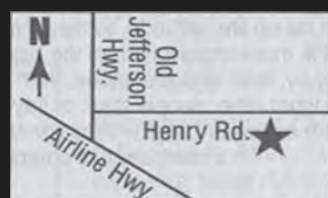
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PROGRESSIVE®

59th Annual Kid's Fishing Rodeo

This year our kid's fishing rodeo went very well. We only had one hitch that I'm aware of, and we got that sorted out. The weather was perfect for the event, until the end, but most of the things were done by then, so only a few got wet.

We had 134 children sign up for the event and a total of 536 fish were weighed and or measured. There were several turtles caught, but of course, those don't count. There was so much squealing and excitement going on, so we know the kids were having a great time.

When the kids arrived, they were greeted with warm doughnuts and a goody bag full of fun things. The doughnuts were donated by Thelma Diez of Diez Signs. The goody bags had fishing supplies donated by Strike King and Pure Fishing.

They had sunglasses and beach balls donated by Geico. From there, they got their crickets for fishing, which were donated by Fluker Farms, who have been a generous supplier for many years. Then they were able to get their fishing on.

The other things donated were from our special sponsor, Motiva Rec Club who made a delicious jambalaya and hot dogs for after the fishing. Warren and Jodi Singer donated the drinks and Vince Diez Jr. of Diez Signs got the ice and got those fruity drinks nice and cold.

The Shell Pipeline was there again handing out kolaches, which were great. They also had some yellow lunch bags with some prizes inside for the kids.

Ascension Credit Union was there with water and the donation of two bikes for ages eight through 10. Next to them, one of the ACU members was in another tent representing Ducks Unlimited. They donated eight \$25 gift cards from Cabela's. They are a new sponsor. They also had a sign-up sheet for the kids to become members at no charge.

Tower Place of Gonzales gave us a donation to purchase the remaining bikes for the winners. We bought six bikes for ages two through four, five through seven and 11-14. Some of our other sponsors that made monetary donations are Shell Pipeline, Mobile Electric Supply, Loyson Porta, Dr. Scott Kogler.

There are several that we need to thank



every chance we get. Mr. Bobby Dupuy owner of Twin Lakes and his daughter Chaney, representing him that day and Mr. Virgil Flowers manager of Twin Lakes. Also, the guys that cleaned the place up and had the grass cut and the ants taken care of. Thank you, Clay, Don, Louis and Ron.

Then there are the ones that were there filming. We had two groups filming all day. Lyle Johnson from Pure Fishing and Rodney and Leslie Dupuy from Cajunlivincookin. They both walked around the lakes and took pictures and film of the kids catching fish.

I would like to thank Parish President Kenny Matassa for supplying and coming out to give the trophies to the kids who caught the biggest and most fish. This is where our hitch came in, but it had nothing to do with the president. Our counters got a couple of numbers and names mixed up, so one child

who should have one did not.

While I'm here talking about the trophies there should have been a little girl named Sophie Bordelon in the five through seven age group who had the biggest fish weighing in at .34 pounds. She will get a trophy as well though, just not the excitement of the moment.



Sophia Braud



Natalie and Amelia Crawford



Our most important sponsor that we have to thank is the company that sent the port a potties. Without these, it would be a very uncomfortable day for all of us. Thank you, Benton Equipment Co. for your many years of sponsorship and relief.

Now for the fun part. We had, as I said, 134 kids sign up to fish. I don't know how many actually caught fish, but with counting 536 fish, somebody was definitely catching fish. Our biggest fish overall was from Hunter Jones weighing .46 pounds. Most fish overall for girls was Madison Lambert with 17 and for boys Phoenix Townsend with 51.

Age group two through four, biggest fish went to Parker Jones weighing .25 pounds, most fish for girls was Mikah Smith with 6 and most fish for boys was Warren Brumbaugh with 21.

Age group five through seven, biggest fish was Hunter Lambert weighing .33 pounds, most fish for girls Sophia Braud with 4, most fish for boys Hunter Jones with 16.

Age group eight through 10, biggest fish Caleb Brent weighing .33, most fish girls Brilynn Watts with 14, most fish boys Kace Brock with 47.

Age group 11-14, biggest fish was Benjamin Veazy weighing .37, most fish for girls was Kaylyn Carter with 11 and most fish for boys was Colin Puig with 16.

Our winners for the bikes were ages two through four girl Piper Andermann, boy Ellis Braud, five through seven girl Sophia Braud, boy Jett Brownlee, eight through 10 girl Braylee Lambert, boy Caleb Brent, 11-14 girl Lillian Billiot, boy Rowen LeBlanc.

This was one of the best days and the best turn out of kids that we've had in a few years. The weather is always a guess. We plan and hope and pray that all will go well, and I think this was a day of all things working well together.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our members that stepped up to help out with this most important function. Without all of you, this couldn't be done in such a fun and easy way.

I'd especially like to say thank you to my husband who helps me with this project and one of my daughters, Susan, who helped me with the goody bags and keeping the prizes straight, but especially taking pictures. It takes a team and a lot of commitment and time and I need you all.

One more that I was saving for last. A shout out to Herb Finnerty for the PA system and the music, but especially making that little girl happy when you played the Freeze, and no I don't mean me.

CASUAL OBSERVATIONS

ODE TO JOE T

by Torrey Hayden



Dad, referred to as Joe T by most of my friends, was always taking my buddies and I fishing. I thank him for introducing us to such a fine pastime. This was part of his master plan to ensure that when he became old, we would take him fishing and cater to him on those trips.

Before we took training wheels off our bicycles, my buddies and I could fillet fish as good as any high-dollar TV chef. Most kids on fishing trips got to go fool around and play once the trip was over. Not us, we were each handed a tool to clean fish. In assembly line fashion with Dad being supervisor and chief inspector, no one was allowed to go anywhere until all fish were cleaned.

When we first started out, bream was the fish of choice because we could usually catch a bucket full and biting fish kept a young boy's attention. The first person on the assembly line put the fish on the table, the second person used a spoon to scrape all the scales off and the third person had the knife to cut the heads off and gut the fish.

The knife man had to pass a certification test before he would be allowed to hold a knife. The first person also had the responsibility of washing the processed fish off and putting them in the bowl for final inspection. Dad has not had to clean many fish since we were in second grade.

He also let us know dollar value of each fish caught. He was Chief Cost Engineer for a large construction firm. I will keep the math simple to illustrate. Let's assume that \$20 was spent on gas, bait, food and miscellaneous items.

The first fish would cost \$20 each. The second fish would bring the tally down to \$10 each and so on. During our grade school years my buddies and I got to go fishing while improving our math skills.



Joe T with a Marsh Tuna

Every fish caught he would want an accounting update from one of us. If we got the dollar figure wrong, we would get whacked with a boat paddle.

Over the years, Dad has learned how to disappear just when work needs to be done and fish need to be cleaned. After we return to camp, he vanishes into thin air and magically transports himself to the recliner in the air conditioning.

After all the not so fun stuff of fishing is completed, he magically re-appears and wants to know what is on the dinner menu and orders someone to get him a beer.

Dad has really enjoyed that I live in south Louisiana, and he gets to go saltwater fishing. He lives on a pristine mountain lake in north Alabama. Water conditions there are somewhat different in the Gulf of Mexico.

I got a call from one of my fishing guide buddies in Grand Isle a few years back just as a tropical system was hitting the area.

"Torrey, I just saw Joe T at the boat ramp," my buddy said. "Storm's about to hit and his little boat will sink if he goes out in this weather. I'm gonna fetch him up and he can stay at my place until you retrieve him."

Dad sometimes confuses the capabilities of his small Bass Tracker with that of an offshore tuna boat. He also shows up for fishing trips several days early. A luxury of being retired and a man of leisure.

He is currently planning on bringing his Mobile Command Center (RV) with small boat in tow and stay a month in Grand Isle this fall. I need to work out a duty roster on who will watch him on each day.

2019 Squirrel Rodeo Set for October 5

The annual EASL Squirrel Rodeo, again this year, will be held on opening day of squirrel season, which is, as always, on the first Saturday in October, one half hour before sunrise.

This year it falls on October 5. Sunrise is at 7:01 a.m. in Gonzales, Louisiana. Weigh-in will be Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Merle Gautreaux's shed. Merle's is the second to last house on the left at the end of Fernand Road off Highway 74 in Dutchtown.

Prizes will be: 1st Heaviest Bag, \$25; 2nd Heaviest Bag, \$15; 3rd Heaviest Bag, \$10 and Heaviest Individual Squirrel, \$10.

Winners will be announced at the squirrel dinner held Sunday, October 6, starting at around 4:30 pm at Merle's shed. To compete, a hunter must be licensed with the LDWF and a member of the EASL prior to weigh-in.

This would be an opportune time to renew your membership, if lapsed, or join if not a member. Jambalaya, white beans and soft drinks will be served around noon on Saturday for participating hunters.

Hunters are encouraged to skin and gut the squirrels immediately after weigh-in. If needed, free lessons on this procedure will be provided. Further cleaning will be provided by the shed crew. By the end of the weigh-in and skinning party, we should know if we

have enough meat for Todd Breaux to cook a rich stew on Sunday.

If not, we would ask any hunters who hunt Sunday morning to add that bag to the stew at the shed by around noon on Sunday. That way, we again won't have to kill any of Merle's chickens to subsidize the stew for lack of squirrel meat.

This year there will again be a youth category for hunters under 16 years-old. There will be prizes awarded for this category. These young hunters must be accompanied by an adult member in good standing to compete.

The plans are to have the stew done by about 5:00 p.m. Sunday, give or take. Don't be afraid to show up early. Bring the family and any guests that you think we could encourage to join the League. Sunday at Merle's is the BYOB day, so the guns should be all safely stowed and the tall tales can commence at that time.

Also, feel free to bring some sort of dessert to be shared. Extra lawn chairs might come in handy, also. To help with costs of the meals, we will have a donation jar set up this year. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated. Questions may be directed to Byron Gautreau at 225-936-9291. Meanwhile, good hunting and be safe!

EASL Wild Game Recipe

Triple Sausage Pirogues Recipe

Comment:

These meat-filled pirogues are perfect for a meal at home or a snack at the big game. For portable sandwiches, stuff bread, enclose in plastic wrap and eat as-is or toast bread on a grill.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 pound bulk Cajun green onion sausage
- 1 pound bulk Italian sausage
- ¼ cup diced onions
- ¼ cup diced celery
- ¼ cup diced red bell peppers
- 2 tbsps minced garlic
- 2 tbsps vegetable oil
- Worcestershire sauce to taste
- salt and cracked black pepper to taste
- granulated garlic to taste
- 1 cup Cheddar cheese

- 1 cup Swiss cheese
- 1 large French bread

Method:

NOTE: If you cannot find bulk sausage, buy 6 links of each and remove meat from casing. Preheat oven to 350°F. Cut French bread into thirds. Cut each third into halves then scoop out center. Set aside. In a heavy-bottomed Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat. Sauté onions, celery bell peppers and garlic 5-7 minutes. Add ground chuck, sausage meats and Worcestershire. Cook 20-30 minutes or until meat is browned. Season mixture with salt, pepper and granulated garlic. Stir in cheeses and blend until melted. Stuff an equal amount of meat mixture into bottom halves of hollowed-out bread. Place top half on meat and wrap sandwiches in foil. Place wrapped bread on a pan and bake 8-10 minutes or until brown and crispy.



It's A Fact!

Squirrels may pretend to bury a nut to throw off potential thieves.