



Vol. 49, No. 2

East Ascension Sportsman's League Publication

February 2020

Guest Speaker Rebecca Triche February Presidents Message

Executive Director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Our February 2020 guest speaker will be Rebecca Triche, Executive Director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Rebecca will discuss the State's Feral Hog Task Force, which LWF help form. She will address the many unanswered questions and concerns



Rebecca Triche,
LWF Executive Director

about recent years of invasive feral hog propagation and their impacts on wildlife, agriculture and habitat loss.

Rebecca has been Louisiana Wildlife Federation's executive

director since 2012 and previously worked for several non-profit organizations in Louisiana and the US Department of State. Her resume also includes time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kazakhstan in central Asia. Rebecca holds a Master of Public

Administration from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from LSU. She grew up in Ascension Parish.

Where did January go? Here we are in February. I just watched the last football game of the season and could have cared less who won. Hunting season will be done soon too. Things sure do happen quick these days. I sure hope time will start slowing down. That's not the way I like my life to go. I want it to go slow as possible like when I was six and a day lasted at least a week.

Time is changing and we have to change with it. I know it's not just me, but everyone is running low on time. We are all so busy with our lives. There is so much to do and only so many hours in a day to do them. It's a problem that is only getting worse. The more we try to do, the more we want to do other things. We want to do everything and do it now. It is crazy. It makes it really hard for organizations like ours because it's just hard to fit it into our lives sometimes. It's hard for me sometimes so I know it is hard for younger people with young kids and their schedules.

I am optimistic though. With the team we have this year on the Board of Directors I think we can make necessary changes to make EASL easier on everyone and better in the end. We will simplify and make everyone's jobs as easy as possible. This paper will be replaced by a digital method of communication and an easier form of notifying our members of the news they need to know in a short and sweet message that will not take up a lot of their time. This is why it is important for us to have all EASL members E-mail addresses. It is our goal

to stop spending money on a paper newsletter and start spending it on the type of things this club was intended to do by the founders.

I came across a brief history of EASL that was in a bunch of papers that was handed over to me as president and was surprised to read about all the things that went on in this club in its heyday. EASL had a lot going on and a lot of people involved in doing it. It evolved from just a few men meeting in bars and places like that to hundreds of members, active members, who attended meetings regularly. Up until 1973, communication with the member was done by sending out a brief message by mail. Then the newsletter we have now was started and served us well for many years. Our membership is smaller now and we have struggled to keep our numbers up. We will have to go back to how it started and try again. At one time our membership was so large that an attempt to buy our own building was entertained.

I hope everyone will be patient with us as we rebuild EASL and will encourage other to join. If any of you has an idea that will help, let me know. Please come to our meetings and bring a friend or family member that may be interested in our cause. That's right, I



The EASL Meeting

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Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Meal sponsored by: **Gauthier Amedee Attorneys**

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The East Ascension Sportsman

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See **PRESIDENT**, page 1

said cause. We will have a cause again. We have been straying away from our cause for a few years. It's time to pick it up again and quit just worrying about saving our money for the printing of a paper. Let's get this done and have a club we can all feel good about again. We can do it by making it simple and easy. It never has to be like a job. It should be a pleasure. Please let me know where

you think we need to head. It's going to be alright.

You know every month I don't really know what to write but I write something anyway and it ends up being alright. I just say what comes to mind at the time. You do the same. Just tell me what's on your mind and we'll see what happens. Thanks for your time and take time to do something and slow your life down for a while.

Michael Lambert

Silhouette News

by Dustin Flint

First, congratulations to Cameron Braud for winning his second straight EASL Club Championship in 2019. Cameron will be presented with his prize sometime in the spring. I will send a separate email with final standings, etc. and info on the 2020 Club championship. Tomorrow's match will count! Gate opens about 8:30.

In 2020, class winners at each match will receive a 50-round box of match grade .22LR ammo (probably SK+). There will now be a scoreboard posted at the match; each shooter is required to write his/her score on the scoreboard. In order to win a prize, the class must have at least three competitors; if a class has one or two competitors, those competitors will move into the next higher class for that particular match. This is a non-handicapped match based on class using your raw scores. If there is a tie in the class, we will shoot off for the winner. Classes are determined by NRA classifications (for now). Unclassified shooters will shoot in B class, not Master class.

Second, we are considering adding smallbore & pistol cartridge lever action silhouette to the matches this year. These matches will be shot in conjunction with the smallbore matches (so you can shoot lever action while you would normally be sitting around waiting for your relay). There will not be additional relays to accommodate lever action shooting so if you need to spot or if too many people show up with lever guns, you might not get to shoot. We would like feedback regarding whether you'd participate and whether this is something you'd like. If you have an opinion, please let me or Joe know.

Third, there will not be a match in February as everyone will be at the Coop Shoot and there likely will not be a match in March as appears that the regional in Beaumont will conflict with our match date. An announcement will be made as soon as the Beaumont match date is official.

We are going to repeat the work day match we did last year but Push it back to May this time around. This is an effort to help out the folks that run the Louisiana Highpower State Championship in Zwolle, LA. We will paint all the targets on Saturday, May 30 to have them ready for the championship in October. Of course, we are also going to shoot a highpower match or two! You are invited to join us on Saturday, May 30, 2020 for the second annual "Zwolle Work Day HP Silhouette Match."

The range will be available on Friday, May 29 for shooting/testing/sight-in, etc. On Saturday morning we will shoot a 40- or 60- or 80- (whatever) shot NRA approved match then paint all the targets and put them away Saturday afternoon with time to hit the road early and get back home.

The painting should be easy this year as the targets have been stored under cover and have only been shot once since we painted them last year. There are only about 100 targets anyway so it's not much.

The farm will be available for camping and the house up on the hill will be available for a few folks to crash in. Of course there are lots of cabins in the area for rent. We will probably hit the Mexican restaurant for food and beverages Friday night.

The match will be free - your work will be your entry fee - and you'll get to shoot a match at the Fenway Park of Silhouette ranges! If you are interested, please email me so we will know to expect you. Also please pass the word around to anyone who may be interested.

Contact Dustin Flint, 225-719-1112, or Jerry Tureau, 225-803-2773, for Silhouette and Rifle competition info.



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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.



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THE BUFFEL-HEADED DUCK

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, LA

Buffleheads are diminutive diving ducks that folks encounter from time to time in the Ascension Parish area. The hens are basically gray brown birds with small white patches on their checks behind their eyes. The adult drake has a broad, bright white patch from the crown and downward behind its eye. The remainder of the head is dark bluish green. The wings are black and white and the body is white. Hard to miss this duck!



like modern weapons. He had great difficulty collecting Buffleheads. The following is an excerpt from his account of Buffleheads.

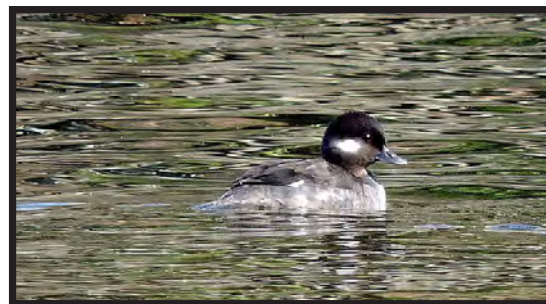
“... though they will then watch every motion, and at the snap of your gun, or on its being discharged, disappear with the swiftness of thought, and perhaps as quickly rise again, within a few yards, as if to ascertain the cause of their alarm. I have sometimes been much amused to see the apparent glee with which

The origin of the term “bufflehead” comes from contracting “buffalo head” based on its broad head shape. The famous bird artist John James Audubon used the name “Buffel-headed Duck” when he illustrated the species. In his account of the duck, he referred to the following common names: Spirit Duck, Butter-box, Marionette, Dipper, and Die-dipper.

You only have to watch Buffleheads a short time to understand the origins of the names “Dipper” and “Die-Dipper”. The birds bounce up and down from the surface like a float on a fishing line. A flock of as many as 20 or more birds will simply disappear from the surface instantaneously as you are watching them. A bit later, they will bounce back to the surface, again simultaneously.

To dive, Buffleheads compress their plumage to squeeze out air, give a slight forward leap, and plunge quickly downward. The tiny ducks hold their wings tightly against their bodies when underwater and use only their feet to swim submerged. At the end of their dives, they often bob to the surface like a cork.

Buffleheads seem to spring from the surface in flight but actually “run” a very short distance before rising into the air. They often fly in lines just above the water. Bird artists and naturalist John James Audubon had to collect birds with a flint lock shotgun. These weapons don’t fire instantly



these Dippers would thus dive at the repeated snappings of a miserable flint lock....”

Buffleheads nest in the far North. They build their nests in cavities, often originally constructed by Northern Flickers, near ponds and lakes. Once hatched, the mothers lead their ducklings to water and care for them until they are able to fly.

Buffleheads arrive in our region in October-November and depart in March-April. They are more common in large bodies of water, especially clear reservoirs, but can be found Lake Pontchartrain, especially around the North Shore. They are especially common in Kincaid and Caney reservoirs in central Louisiana.

Yes, Buffleheads are ducks. But, they don’t quack. Rather they make guttural call that sounds to me like “ruff, ruff, ruff”. Others describe the call as “cuk, cuk, cuk”.

So, what do Buffleheads eat? Well, they concentrate on mollusks – clams, mussels, and snails – and crustaceans – shrimps and crawfish. Roughly the size of Green-winged Teal, one might ask if they are “good to eat”? However, their animal-based diet suggests that they are not as tasty as dabbling ducks like teal that feed primarily on seeds and vegetation. I shot them in 1969 when stationed near Abilene, Texas. I was not enamored of their flavor.



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EASL BASS CLUB NEWS

By: Jim Hebert

"Tony Arceneaux and Jason Beck win January Tournament"

The EASL Bass Club met on January 14th to plan the upcoming Tournament on the 18th.

Since the Fire Department was undergoing renovations, we met at Donald Breaux's warehouse of a garage at his home. We also enjoyed a delicious chicken stew, potato salad, bread and drinks prepared by Terry Molea. Last but not least we were served a strawberry cake dessert prepared by Donald's wife. Thank you Donald and Terry for hosting the meeting for the Club.

Before the meeting got underway, George signed up members, Mike entered everyone into the tourney and Jim signed up members into the EASL.

Mike opened the meeting and asked for nominations for tournament location. Nominations were the "ditch" and "Amelia landing". Then the Club voted for the "Ditch". We followed that with a unanimous vote for a 3:00 PM weigh in time.

Saturday morning we arrived at the landing and found a crowded situation. As usual, there were two other tournaments using the landing. That situation, along with the cold



Tony Arceneaux & Jeff Beck 1st Place

morning made for a slow preparation for boating. By the time we got into the water, it was past time to leave and so we eased off on our own and headed to our first spot.



Bubba Rossi & Jase Barksdale, 2nd Place

We fished a spot and within a few minutes had one hit my crank bait. As luck would have it, he came off at the boat. We fished that area and eventually decided to move. We got

to our second spot and immediately caught a keeper. We continued fishing that area and never got another bite there, so on to spot number 3. Warren caught another keeper there and we spent the rest of the day fishing in that area. Later we headed for the landing with only two keepers for the day.

After pulling out the boat and preparing it for the ride home, we brought our fish to the scale where Terry and Ricky were weighing the fish. We were surprised to see how hard the fishing day had been on everyone. As it turned out, there was only one boat out of 14 that weighed 5 Bass. One boat weighed 4, another weighed 3 Bass, five boats weighed 2, one boat weighed 1 and the others had less than that.

When the weigh in was complete George announced the winners. Tony Arceneaux and Jason Beck took first place with 5 fish weighing in at 8.25 lbs. Bubba Rossi and Jase Barksdale were second with 4 fish that weighed 6.05 lbs.

Julian Day and Allan McGeehee took 3rd place with 3 fish that weighed 5.39 lbs. They also won "Big Bass" and the "side pot" with their lunger that weighed in at 3.49 Lbs.

Congratulations to the winners of the January Tournament. Our next event is scheduled for February 11th. For more information visit www.easlonline.org.



Left to right, Jeff Beck & Tony Arceneaux, Bubba Rossi & Jase Barksdale, Julian Day & Allan McGahee

THE SMORGASBORD

Outdoor Corner with Lyle Johnson

Last week was a really busy week for Team Ascension Outdoors TV as we traveled over 500 miles to take part in Louisiana's outdoor bounty. Our first stop was in Lake Arthur, Louisiana on the southwestern end of our state where we were hosted by Spoonbill Adventures Guide Service.

We met up with Glordun Hoffpauir, owner and chief guide at his lodge for a morning of hunting in the rice fields. Our intention was to do some duck hunting but the foggy weather was ideal for goose hunting so that became our plan for the day.

We loaded up our guns and gear and headed out to the blind which was a 10 minute ride as Spoonbill has over 90,000 acres that are available to hunt. Anticipation was very high as our adrenalin was pumping at peak levels while talking about how our hunt would pan out.

Glordun dropped off on a levee to take a 150 yard walk to the pit blind to get ready. We settled in and the wait began only increasing the anticipation. As daylight approached the geese began their morning routine of flying up and honking so the adrenalin was really in high gear.

Things started off a little slow but sure enough a lone Ross goose got a little too close to the blind and I killed the first one of the day. We settled back in the blind for our next round hoping it would be sooner than later.

A pit blind is down in the ground as a hole is dug out and the box is inserted. It's built with a bench along with a shelf on each side for storing of gear. The top is level with the ground and cedar branches are used to cover it with holes only big enough for your head and arms to take the shot.

So we're sitting down only able to hear the geese and calling from Glordun. So we wait and wait for what seems like a long time after the calling starts. "From the back, right side. Shoot them now," he barks the order and the shooting begins.

When a kill was made (which multiple times was



14 geese headed to the pot on our trip with Spoonbill Adventures in Lake Arthur with Glordun Ha Hoffpauir. *Photo provided*



The crabs we caught in a three hour effort on our trip down to Reggio. *Photo by Lyle Johnson*

2 or 3) the retriever takes off on the dry ground at full speed like a race is on. It was surely a sigh to see. Glordun's calling for the morning was spot on. I only wish our shooting was as good but we did finish the morning with 2 ross geese, 11 blue's and snow's and 1 speckled belly goose.

We also had the privilege of hunting with a pair of hunters sponsored by The Fallen Outdoors along with Dominick Kunze the Louisiana State Lead and Pro Staff for the group and a 16 year Army Veteran currently stationed at Fort Polk. Jeremy Everett along with Scott Kobylski, US Marine Corp veterans, were the pair hunting.

The Fallen Outdoors is a nationwide (39 States) Veteran volunteer operated 501c3 nonprofit organization that aims to connect Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines with a network that will serve them locally and nationally.

We live by the saying "Living our dream because they gave up theirs" which is a way for us Surviving Veterans to honor the Fallen by maintaining a fellowship of Outdoorsmen. Look them up at www.thefallenoutdoors.com to find out what they are all about, make a donation or see how you can get involved.

Spoonbill Adventures hosts many of our veterans to some great waterfowl hunting. You can get into the action as well by contacting Glordun at 337 368-5969 or www.spoonbilladventures.com. Overnight lodging is available as well as great Cajun cooking in their packages.

On Friday morning I got the opportunity to travel a little north of us to Greensburg for a short squirrel hunt with Robbie Johnson (no relation). It was a bit windy to say the least so conditions weren't great but I did manage to bag three cat squirrels which was enough for one gravy.

Robbie also has a ¾ pond that he's stocked with

bass, channel catfish and copper nose bream. So like any normal outdoorsman, two rods just happened to be loaded in the truck. We took a few minutes to fish as Robbie used night crawlers to haul in a pair of 2-½ pound catfish and I landed 6 of those big bream. Not bad for a two hour adventure.

Along with cleaning those three squirrels back home there were also 25 catfish in my live box that needed cleaning as well. Yea, that's right, 25. After last weeks gloomy report the catfish went on a tear and the live box got filled using crawfish.

On Saturday morning the team of Ascension Outdoors headed south to the Chalmette Nation. That's right; to Reggio, just south of Chalmette for a short crabbing trip along the side of the road.

It's an easy trip with six miles of roadway from Reggio to Delacroix that makes it easy to accomplish. Goosie brought some chicken necks and I brought some catfish heads and bellies from the cleaning at home.

We use rods and reels with the weights sized to the speed of the current. Use the minimum amount as it is important to keep the crab off the bottom as you reel them in. Everything was set up as five lines hit the water and the wait was on.

The tide was a little high but it was at the end of the low tide, about to turn around which wasn't exactly what we were looking for. It didn't take long for the action to start as I hauled in the first crab and it picked up as the morning went on.

Slowly but surely, one crab after another hit the ice chests and we piled up three and a half dozen crabs for the ride back to Ascension parish for their foray into a Cajun hot tub spiced with crab boil.

So both of these adventures will appear on Ascension Outdoors TV. The goose hunt will be aired next fall so you'll have to wait a little while. The crabbing adventure will be on EATEL channel 4 or 704 in Ascension and Livingston parish in February.

Ascension Outdoors can always be seen on Facebook in short segments and full episodes can be found on YouTube under Ascension Outdoors or Lyle Johnson. We had a full week in a great state to live in. So until next time, remember to keep the slack out and set the hook hard. Be safe in the outdoors and may God truly bless you!!



Jeremy Everett (R) along with Scott Kobylski (L) with Fallen Outdoors and their guide, Brady.

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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

by Goosie Guice

CATCH AND SHOOT - CLEAN AND COOK

"Put your beer in the refrigerator and hook up your guitar, I've got a good many people coming tonight for the jam" were the first words spoken. Wanting to cool down the refreshments in a hurry I opened up the freezer compartment of the refrigerator but there was no room for the "natty lights". The freezer was full of filleted sac-a-lait.

"Man, you need to cook some of those fish" was my reply to the findings.

To my surprise, the owner of the establishment, a long-time friend of mine, said, "I don't know how to and my wife doesn't cook them because of some present health problems she has."

I then said, "what are you waiting for, a hurricane to come and knock out the power so you can throw them away and go catch some more? Why don't we have a big fish fry at one of these music events and use the fish up? I'll even help pay and assist. A couple of our buddies will be glad to cook them up for the crowd."

A month or two passed and before you know it, a large gathering of local musicians and several spectators were assembled for a beautiful evening of music along with some fantastic fried fish dining. Two aluminum pans of Louisiana's finest fish afforded twenty five plus people a meal that day. Although it's a very minimal thing, those twenty plus people did not have to get food elsewhere for supper.

Thankfully we live in a great country, but in many ways we are a spoiled society when it comes to food waste. Believe me there's plenty of people in this world that has never had and never will have the opportunity to eat a meal like we had at the jam that night. Only by the grace of God I was born in a country whose society is not threatened, for the most part, with starvation. I'm very grateful for that.

It's always been a priority of mine, being a hunter and fisherman, to try in every



reasonable way to utilize all edible creatures that I take life from. Our hunting and fishing is great and it is sometimes possible to harvest more than you need.

Hunters For The Hungry (H4HLA) is a program where outdoorsmen can donate part or all of their harvest to a designated H4HLA processor with no cost to the sportsman. The game or fish are then distributed to the needy in the area of donations via food banks, soup kitchens, shelters and other agencies. If you have more than you want or need, then contact Hunters For The Hungry concerning the "Freshly Harvested Game Program", or the "Clean Out Your Freezer Day" event. These events usually take place in September. Visit their website for tips on packing your bounty for donation to our local food banks. <https://www.h4hla.org/> or <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/hunters-hungry>

As I walked away from that event later that night I felt that, beyond having a wonderful time playing music with some very good friends of mine, that we had succeeded in preventing the waste of such a great Louisiana resource. Now that freezer compartment is empty and ready to be refilled. Hopefully, I'll be there for the next fish fry. We'll see. It takes that guy a long time to catch that many fish...

*Till Next Time,
Can't Wait!*

James "Goosie" Guice

It's A Fact!

Alpha-gal syndrome is a tick-borne illness that makes its victim allergic to any mammal-based food product. The disease is carried by the Lone Star tick. <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/alpha-gal/index.html>

EASL Wild Game Recipe

VENISON STEW WITH BACON AND ONION DUMPLINGS

STEW

1 ½ pounds of venison cut into 1 inch cubes
All-purpose flour for dredging
¼ cup olive oil
1 red onion thinly sliced
3 tablespoons of unsalted butter
2 cloves of garlic
3 carrots diced
2 leeks (or green onions), cut into ½ inch slices
2 stalks of celery diced
2 bottles of beer, (nothing to hoppy; i.e., a nice porter)
1 cup of wild game stock, or beef stock
5 sprigs of thyme
3 bay leaves
1 tsp of whole juniper berries
2 tablespoons cranberry, currant or grape jelly

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
In a large Dutch oven heat 2 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Season the meat with salt and pepper, then dredge in flour. Working in small batches, fry the meat until golden brown on all sides. Add more oil if needed and cook all the meat. Set aside.
Add whatever oil is leftover and sauté the onions for 3-4 minutes. Add the butter, celery, leeks, garlic and carrots, and stir for 5 more minutes. Pour in the beer and the stock, then add the meat back in. Throw in the thyme, bay, and juniper. Bring it to a boil, then turn the heat down to a gentle simmer and cover the pot. Cook for 2.5 to 3 hours.
While the stew is cooking, you can start making your bacon dumplings.

DUMPLINGS

1 small white onion, finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic, minced
4 fatty pieces of bacon, finely chopped
4 cups of stale bread
¼ half and half
1 tablespoon of thyme
¼ cup chopped parsley
1/2 cup flour
2 eggs
2 quarts of game stock or beef stock
Start the bacon on low heat and render out some of the fat. Then turn the heat up to medium high and brown the bacon. Add the onion and garlic, and cook until the onions are soft and translucent. Pour the bacon and onion mixture into a bowl and add the remaining ingredients, except for the stock. Your dumpling batter should be easily formed into balls using wet hands. If your dumplings are too runny, add more stale bread; if it's too dry, add some stock,

a couple tablespoons at a time until it's the right consistency. Bring the stock to a boil and then drop the formed dumpling balls into the boiling stock. Cook the dumplings for 15 minutes. Remove the dumplings from the stock and set aside.

When you are ready to serve the stew, stir the jelly into the stew until well incorporated. Then mix the cornstarch and the vinegar together to make a slurry. Add the slurry to the stew and stir, the stew will thicken up. Place the dumplings in the stew and cook for ten more minutes. Then serve with a garnish of parsley.

*Courtesy of Outdoor Life by Jamie Carlson,
The Cast Iron Chef*



Sportsman Comic Corner



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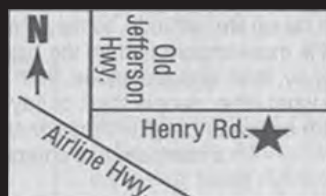
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LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION ACCEPTING 2019 NOMINATIONS FOR 56TH CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

(Press Release, January 27, 2020 - BATON ROUGE, LA) Nominations are open for Louisiana Wildlife Federation's 56th Conservation Achievement Awards. The program recognizes those persons and organizations making outstanding contributions to the natural resource welfare and environmental quality of their community, parish and the state. Nominations are accepted for conservation achievement in 2019 in nine award categories: professional, volunteer, business, educator, elected official, communications, organization, youth, and youth organization.

The nomination deadline is March 9, 2020. Nominations can be made online at: lawildlifefed.org. People may also call 225-344-6707 or email lwf@lawildlifefed.org for more information.

The program recognizes significant efforts to conserve fish and wildlife resources, enhance opportunities for citizens to enjoy outdoor recreation, improve the quality of the environment, or educate and advocate on behalf of our natural resources in Louisiana.

Award recipients will be honored on May 1, 2020 at a banquet at Ashley Manor in Baton Rouge. The awards themselves are handsome wildlife statuettes and are unique to the program.

"Recognition of conservation efforts in Louisiana encourages and promotes wise natural resource management and use. We encourage the public and our members to nominate an individual, organization or business demonstrating significant conservation achievement in 2019," said Rebecca Triche, executive director for Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide nonprofit organization representing a broad constituency of conservationists including hunters, anglers, campers, birders, boaters, hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Contact: Rebecca Triche
225-344-6707 (office); 225-362-9007 (cell) or email to lwf@lawildlifefed.org

Link to website for more information: lawildlifefed.org



Sportsman's Calendar

- Feb. 22 Silhouette Match (4th Saturday each month)
- March 9 Board Meeting, 6pm, Ascension Parish Library
- April 25 Silhouette Match (4th Saturday each month)
- May 16 (tentative) EASL Pan Fish Rodeo
- June 6 (tentative) Terry Melancon Salt Water Challenge
- July 25 (tentative) EASL Kid's Fishing Rodeo
- Oct. 3 EASL Squirrel Rodeo



Guest Speaker Emile P. LeBlanc with his hand-made longbow



Richard Gautreaux took 1st place for December 2019 Bass Club rodeo with a 3.17 lb. fish. Richard also won the 2019 Angler of the Year competition including a 10.70 lb. bass, along with a number of monthly strong finishes, earning him the top angler award.

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CASUAL OBSERVATIONS ODE TO THE "BLACK KNIGHT"

by Torrey Hayden



The word "ode" has the meaning of a serious poem done in a noble and dignified style honoring someone. The following piece of literature will fall far short of those lofty standards.

Craig AKA the Black Knight embraces his nickname that was bestowed on him many years ago by my fishing krewe. As far as pure fishing talent he is one of the best I have ever fished with ----- and he knows it.

I first met Craig while fishing in his back yard in the neighborhood pond. He was watching me catch about 15 sac-a-lait on consecutive casts and he felt compelled to saunter over and advise me on how to fish. Ellen was with me and invited him over to supper. Until he moved out of the neighborhood several years later, I think he ate supper over at my house more often than I did. He told Ellen she cooked like his momma, not like a white woman. To this day Ellen considers that one of the highest compliments she has ever received.

Going fishing with him is like going fishing with a wife. Always telling you what to do, when to do it and how it should be done. This is where the entertaining part comes in. Craig was a Marine in his younger days and is currently a prison guard among other duties at a state prison. He is accustomed to issuing commands and having them followed to the letter immediately.

I have never heard Craig say a cuss word or

talk bad about someone. When I am not following his directives to the letter, he just lets out a long sigh and a sound similar to that of when a doctor uses a tongue depressor to look down your throat "aaahhhh".

I heard that several times on our last fishing trip to the side of Highway 1 near Grand Isle. For boat propulsion we each had a paddle and he kept trying to tell a recipient of the Boy Scout canoeing merit badge I was doing it all wrong. After a little while I heard "aaahhh, just please put the paddle down". Worked out great for me as my arms were getting tired.

His favorite saying while fishing is "What you did wrong was..." An example of this we were fishing near Belle Pass in Bayou LaFourche. I anchored not exactly where he wanted to anchor. After we put about 15 trout each in the boat, he was still demanding we move about 50 feet. I challenged him to cast in any direction around the boat and not catch a fish. He caught fish in all 360 degrees around the boat but then commented they would be bigger where he wanted to fish. After we had our limit, we moved the boat to his



Craig the Black Knight with flounder

spot and did not catch anything. "What you did wrong was we should have moved earlier."

He likes to go in his boat, so he has complete control on fishing locations. He has a no-frills boat and is a minimalist. Two rods, a small day pack for essential tackle and

a cooler for fish. That's all he brings. Another source of amusement is to show up with six rods. a five gallon bucket for tackle, a five gallon bucket with aerator for live bait which he refuses to use, a dip net, paddle, seat cushion, and dry sack for other necessary items. "Aaaahhh - why do you bring all that stuff"

The one thing he doesn't complain about is the cooler full of sammiches, drinks and snacks I always bring. Been fishing with him for 19 years and have yet to see him bring so much as a potato chip. If not prepared you will go hungry and possibly suffer dehydration while fishing with him. Or course he instantly becomes a food critic after eating his third ham, bologna, or peanut butter and jelly sammich.

This is just one example of how the Bama Toad Strangler Fishing Krewe tempts fate while

fishing with the Black Knight. With his military and Department of Corrections training he could easily break any of us in half using just his eyelids.

It was a very cold, rainy day and we were fishing one of the pits off Highway 1 near Grand Isle. Craig and one of his sons showed up, paddled over to a small island and promptly caught a limit of fifty trout. As we were loading up Craig misplaced his keys and a frantic search begin. One of us who shall remain nameless for his own protection, found the Black Knight's keys on the bumper of his truck.

All the while, after several trips of paddling back and forth to the island looking around in the mud and weeds, searching all tackle boxes and buckets, making everyone empty our pockets the finder of the keys kept hitting the horn button on his key thingy. This was driving Craig nuts and we were rolling around laughing. Craig then announced his keys better show up or we were all going to ride back to New Orleans to retrieve his spare keys. Then he gave us his former Marine / current Prison Guard stare. The finder of the keys promptly put them back where he found them and asked Craig if he thought to look on his bumper. "Aaaahhhh" was the response when Craig located them.

Craig, known to many as "The Black Knight", is one of a kind (thank goodness). I am honored to have him as a friend.

12-year-old Ayden Fatherree wins big in the Wyoming Super Tag big game raffle

EASL members Jamie & Janet Kennison purchased a 2019 Wyoming "Super Tag" raffle ticket for their grandson, Ayden Fatherree, back in July. Not only did he win a tag, but he filled that tag with a trophy. Ayden had first thought that he drew a cow tag, but when they explained it to him, he said he nearly passed out.



Dad Jason and Pawpaw Jamie chose mid-October with Bruce Bolli at Wood River Ranch, located on about 4000 acres bordering the Shoshone National forest just outside of Meeteetse, WY. Ayden said, "We went to our hunting camp just about every weekend to practice shooting out to 300 yards with my pawpaw's 7mm rifle. I have been in 4-H shooting sports competitions for the last 4 years, so I was very comfortable with the rifle."

As for taking the trophy elk, Ayden described the moment:

"I set up my tripod shooting stick and was about to shoot when (my guide) Mr. Mike asked if I was on the bull on the opposite side of the pond. Thank god he asked me that because I had not seen this bull and he was even bigger than the one I was aiming at. I adjusted my position as the big bull turned broadside and I sent the first shot right over his back (ranged at 489 yards).

Mr. Mike called the shot and I adjusted my aim. The second shot I felt like I hit him perfectly, but he did not go down. They all said shoot again as the bull was starting to walk behind some brush, I shot, and the bull stopped behind the brush. It was at least 5 minutes before he stepped out from behind the brush, as soon as he stepped out, I shot again, and the bull was out of sight. (Later, they would discover he hit 3 of the 4 shots, 2 in the chest and 1 in the neck). Pawpaw

gave me 2 more bullets, which was all he had with him, as we had left our backpacks further up the hill with dad. Dad had stayed behind because he had the best vantage point to see the entire bottom and did not want to risk too much noise during the stalk to get closer. Me and Mr. Mike went downhill after the bull not really sure what we would see. Pawpaw went back up the mountain to get our gear and more bullets if needed. When pawpaw got to my dad, my dad told him that the bull was down, and dad knew exactly where he was. My dad and Pawpaw beat me and Mr. Mike to the bottom and showed us where the bull was. There were hugs, handshakes, high fives, and tears when we all laid our hands on the big 6X6 bull."

"This was truly the hunt of a lifetime. Thank you to all involved for helping me with this great experience in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming."