



Louisiana Natural Resource News

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Newsletter of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists Louisiana Chapter of The Wildlife Society

LAPB Member News

2020 LAPB Fall Symposium and Business Meeting

Due to various issues related to COVID-19 response, including the inability to use reserved facilities in Alexandria, the Executive Committee has decided to cancel the 2020 LAPB Symposium. You can still renew your membership by visiting the LAPB website at: www.labiologists.org

Although we will not be having our annual meeting, we will still have officer elections, a student scholarship and outstanding publication awards. See below for more info.

LAPB Elections!

LAPB will be having officer elections in 2020. Candidate bios are on pages 2-3. If you would like to nominate someone, or be nominated, for one of these positions contact the nominating committee chair, Dr. Kim Marie Tolson, at: Tolson@ulm.edu no later than 06 July.

Special thanks to the nominations committee: Dr. Kim Marie Tolson, chair; Dr. Aaron Pierce; Dr. Andy Nyman.

Scholarships

The **LA Association of Professional Biologists (LAPB)/TWS Scholarship** is a competitive scholarship that awards \$500.00 annually to a student(s) pursuing or planning to pursue college studies in the following curriculums: Wildlife or Fisheries Management, Forestry, Wetland Science, Marine Biology, or other closely related field. For additional information and a scholarship application go to the LAPB website at: http://www.labiologists.org/scholarship_application.php

In addition to academic scholarships, LAPB/TWS has funding to send a student to the next **SE Deer Study Group** meeting in West Virginia in February 2021. Contact Larry Reynolds (lreynolds@wlf.la.gov) for more information.

Call for Publication Awards

The LAPB/TWS is inviting nominations from members for outstanding publication in the following categories: Popular, Basic Research, General Conservation, Fisheries, Wildlife. To be eligible publications are to be published during 2019 and at least one author must be a paid member of LAPB/TWS. **Note that this year we are restricting the number of submissions that an individual may send in to three total submissions.** This is due to the high number of entries that we receive. Send entries to: Jeff Duguay jduguay@wlf.la.gov

LAPB Executive Board Member Nominations and Brief Bios

President Elect:

Dr. Heidi Adams

I am an assistant (hopefully soon to be associate) professor of wildlife habitat management in the School of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry at Louisiana Tech University. I earned my BS and MS in 2004 and 2006, respectively, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I earned my PhD in 2011 from Mississippi State University. LaTech courses I currently teach include Wildlife Techniques, Wildlife Anatomy, Wildlife Policy & Law, and Wildlife Habitat Evaluation and Management. My research interests include forest management for wildlife and habitat management in wildlife-friendly agroecosystems. I currently serve as the faculty advisor for the Louisiana Tech Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society and president of the Louisiana Tech Chapter of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society (my term ends summer 2021).

Secretary:

Dr. Ashley Long

Dr. Ashley M. Long is an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Extension Wildlife Specialist with the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources and LSU AgCenter. She earned her B.S. in Biology from Northland College (Ashland, WI), her M.S. in Biological Sciences from Emporia State University (Emporia, KS), her Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M University (College Station, TX), and was a Research Scientist for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute before moving to LSU in 2018. Dr. Long's research and extension activities focus on wildlife responses to vegetation management practices, human activity, and infrastructure development, and her lab studies a wide-range of non-game species, including birds, bats, and amphibians. She teaches an undergraduate course in Wildlife Habitat Management, is a member of the National 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program committee, and is actively involved in several professional scientific organizations. Specific to The Wildlife Society, Dr. Long was a charter member of Emporia State University's student chapter, serves as the faculty advisor for LSU's student chapter, and is a current member of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists.



Malayan Flying Fox.
Courtesy of Lublee
Bat Conservancy.
Tracy Pope photo.

LAPB Executive Board Member Nominations and Brief Bios

Treasurer:

Larry Reynolds

Larry Reynolds was born and raised in Sacramento, California, graduating with a BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of California, Davis in 1986. He moved to College Station, Texas and completed a MS degree in Wildlife Science at Texas A&M University in 1989 while conducting research on waterfowl use of wetland habitats on coal mines in east-central Texas. He then moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to work on a Masters of Applied Statistics and a Ph.D. in Wildlife concurrently at Louisiana State University, but did not complete either degree. From 1994 to 1999 he did a variety of waterfowl-related projects in North and South Dakota, Indiana, North and South Carolina, and Georgia while working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and he assisted with diving duck research in Florida, Texas, and Louisiana while working for the USGS National Wetland Research Center in Lafayette Louisiana all while maintaining residence in Baton Rouge. From 1999 to 2005 he did coastal wetland restoration project monitoring and evaluation for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and served as LDNR's Management Board member for the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan before moving to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as the Waterfowl Section's NAWMP Coordinator. Since 2008, Larry has served as Waterfowl Program Manager at LDWF. He was elected and served as President-elect, President, and Past President of LAPB in 2002-2008 and has been LAPB Treasurer since 2010. He still lives in Baton Rouge with his wife of 34 years and 2 grown sons.

Newsletter Editor:

Dr. Jeff Duguay

I've served as the LAPB newsletter editor since 2014. During my time as LAPB newsletter editor I have managed, sometimes by the skin of my teeth, to produce two newsletters annually as per the bylaws. If reelected as newsletter editor I vow to continue this great tradition of somehow managing to barely make my deadline for two annual publications. I am also the President, soon to be Past-President, of LAPB. I also serve as the editor for the LDWF publication Louisiana Wildlife Insider which is published twice annually. I'm currently the Webless Migratory Upland Gamebird and Research & Survey Program Manager for LDWF where I greatly enjoy chasing woodcock around in the winter and trying to lure unsuspecting doves into traps during the summer. Since I have space to fill on this page I'll add that I received my BS in Wildlife Biology from Unity College in Maine, my MS in Ecology from Eastern Kentucky University and my Ph.D. in Wildlife Management from West Virginia University. Prior to joining LDWF I was an Associate Professor at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS where I started the Wildlife Management concentration within the Environmental Sciences program.

LAPB annually provides a student scholarship to one or more deserving students. In the “Where Are They Now” section of the LAPB newsletter we will highlight the accomplishments of former scholarship recipients. If you are a recipient, or know a recipient, of an LAPB scholarship consider sending us a note on Where You Are Now.

Where are They Now?

LAPB Scholarship Winner Realizes His Dream

Garrett Wilkerson

Garrett Wilkerson won the LAPB Scholarship in 2013 when he was a Junior at University of Louisiana, Monroe largely on the strength of an essay on his specific career goals and how his ULM education could help to get him there. He dreamed of being a Flyway Pilot, which is a trained waterfowl biologist who can also fly aircraft to conduct aerial surveys, track radio-marked birds, and conduct other airborne operations needed in waterfowl ecology and management. Few professional biologists have the skills and training for this, but Garrett’s dedication was evident even then.

During his Senior year, he used his scholarship money to get his first flying lessons. After graduating in 2014, he began a Master’s program with Dr. Kim-Marie Tolson evaluating the contribution of private land for meeting the energetic needs of wintering waterfowl in the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. While documenting the flood conditions and food production on 100,000 acres of private waterfowl habitat, he continued his flight lessons when he had time and money. When he defended his Master’s Thesis in 2016, he also earned his flight certification. He had secured the foundation of his targeted career.

As a student in the USFWS Pathways Program, he participated in pre-season waterfowl banding in Saskatchewan, Canada starting in 2014 and became the crew leader at the Pinehouse, SK banding site a few years later. This provided an avenue to work directly with USFWS waterfowl biologists, including pilots that flew the aerial waterfowl surveys. Garrett was able to convey his career interests while learning from them, and they learned of his skills and aspirations. (Continued on Page 5)

Cherokee flight with friends
(Garrett right).



Where are They Now?

After graduation, he worked a short time with the North Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex before landing a job with Santee NWR in South Carolina. He chose to commute to the refuge for work and live a short distance from Charleston, a city with a rich aviation community that offered the chance to expand his flight credentials and experience during evenings and weekends. Indeed, over the next 3 years, he flew over 500 hours, earned his instrument rating and commercial pilot certification, flew aerial waterfowl surveys for graduate student research projects at Clemson University, and established himself as a strong candidate for a Flyway pilot position.



In July of 2019, a position became available after retirement of 2 long-time pilot-biologists, including Louisiana's own Fred Roetker. Garrett successfully competed for that job, moved to Minneapolis, MN in December, and has continued his training. He was ready to fly his assigned portion of the 2020 Breeding Waterfowl and Habitat Survey, the single most important survey for monitoring waterfowl populations in North America flown across important breeding habitats in the U.S. and Canada, when it was cancelled due to concerns and logistic limitations from the response to COVID-19. So his training, preparation, and participation in other migratory bird projects continues.

Garrett had some great opportunities and a little good luck to go along with his work ethic and personal dedication to be sitting in the cockpit of a USFWS aircraft living his dream. "I appreciate the help LAMPB gave me early on", he said. LAMPB was glad to help back then, and we are proud of Garrett's success.



Who We Are

The Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists is a diverse group of natural resource specialists including, but not limited to, foresters, botanists, wildlife biologists, wetland scientists, fisheries biologists, and students who are dedicated to the economically sound and science-based protection, management, and use of Louisiana's natural resources through peer-reviewed research, mentoring, ecologically sound habitat management, and informed public policy.

We're On The Web!!!
www.labiologists.org

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions?

Contact Any Member of Our Executive Board

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