



Louisiana Natural Resources News

Newsletter of the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
September, 2009

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LAPB 2009 Fall Symposium

Mike Carloss, LAPB President

The 2009 Fall Symposium was held on August 13th and 14th at the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center in Lafayette. Nearly 100 scientists, managers, educators and students met to discuss some of the leading topics in the world of natural resource management, renew old friendships and professional acquaintances and make new ones. We heard 12 student



presentations on recent research topics including colonial waterbird nesting on barrier islands, grassland birds, lichens, forested wetlands, waterfowl, shorebirds, parasites on river shrimp and coastal marshes. The social Thursday evening had

over 40 participants that enjoyed a wonderful jambalaya dinner, great food and company which followed with award presentations and announcement of scholarship recipients. Matt Pieron from LSU was awarded 1st place for the best student presentation, Scott Walter (ULL) 2nd place and Matt Pardue (ULM) 3rd place. Charles Battaglia of ULM was awarded for the best student poster.



President-elect Kim Marie Tolson presents awards to (left to right) Matt Pieron, Scott Walter, and Charles Battaglia.

Publication award winners for wildlife category were to John Quinn and Dr. Kim Marie Tolson for their paper entitled “Proximate Mechanisms of Parasite Egg Rejection by Northern Mockingbirds” and for the general conservation category to Steven Gabrey, Noel Kinler and Ruth Elsey for their paper entitled “Impacts of Nutria Removal on Food Habits of American Alligators in Louisiana”. Student awards were presented by Dr. Kim Marie Tolson, scholarship awards by Tony Vidrine and publication awards by Mike Carloss.

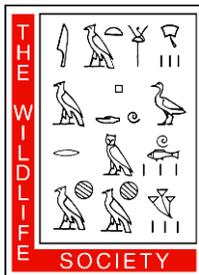


Mike Carloss presents Kim Marie Tolson the wildlife publication award.

For the Friday morning poster session we had 10 student posters as well as several professional posters on display. Following the poster session we heard four professional presentations given related to invasive exotic species in Louisiana. For those of you who attended, I thank you for supporting LAPB and the Symposium. We had an excellent group of presenters, both students and professionals alike. For those of you who were not able to make it I would encourage you to do so next year. It is a great opportunity to get involved in some of the ongoing research in Louisiana, to socialize with fellow biologists and most importantly to support your organization. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you who helped in making this symposium a success including the presenters, judges, attendees and especially to President-elect Dr. Kim Marie Tolson for organizing the entire event and to the entire Executive Committee for their participation and assistance.

For the Fall LAPB Business meeting, and the entire Symposium, we had a special visitor, Mr. Billy Minser, Southeastern Section Representative for The Wildlife Society (TWS). Billy addressed the group on the name change and other issues that have been ongoing for some time. I am pleased to announce that the issue was resolved and that it was decided that our organization would use both names for the time being, LAPB and TWS-La Chapter. The attached letter from Billy and LAPB Business Mtg. notes contain more of the details.

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in preparation and anticipation for upcoming hunting seasons, fishing trips or whatever your endeavors may be; cooler weather and outdoor activities at the very least.



SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

William G. Minser
Representative
Southeastern Section
The Wildlife Society
275 Plant Sciences Bldg.
University of Tennessee

18 August 2009

Mike Carloss
 President
 Louisiana Chapter,
 The Wildlife Society/Louisiana Professional Biologists Association

Mike,

I want to thank you for having me down for your TWS Chapter meeting. I thought the student papers covered diverse, relevant topics and were extremely well done. I am certain that the best student paper awards for the meeting and the scholarship program set up by your Chapter are promoting professionalism and development of our future leaders, which our national TWS Council has also identified as a very high priority item in our long range strategic plan.

I am happy that we have resolved concerns that TWS national staff has had about the perceived merger of the Louisiana Chapter, The Wildlife Society (La TWS) and the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists (LAPB). I know that your Chapter had previously voted to merge with LAPB and so the combined group was operating with one executive board and under the new LAPB Bylaws. However, since no formal request had ever been made by La TWS to TWS Council to change its name or revise its Bylaws, according to TWS records in the national office your name, La TWS, and its original Bylaws of 1984 still stand. Your unanimous Chapter vote of 13 August 2009 to continue to operate only under your 1984 Bylaws I think resolves the issue.

I have known many biologists in Louisiana over the past 40 years and know how much they have contributed to the profession regionally and nationally. And, given the commitment and professionalism of your current Board and membership as well as past La TWS members, natural resources and our profession are stronger and healthier than they would have been otherwise. I believe that we can achieve even more through the combined energies of La TWS and the Southeastern Section TWS, which has traditionally been a strong link, and by forging a stronger collaborative partnership with TWS on the national stage. Through the combined energies and collaborative power of TWS and allies we can more effectively accomplish our overall mission of wise use and management of wildlife and habitats in Louisiana and throughout North America. For example, as we discussed, there is no other place in North America that has stronger needs for resolution of wetland issues or that has greater expertise in wetlands management than Louisiana. I think there is great opportunity to address these issues through the combined energies of La TWS and TWS. Maybe the first step would be to establish a national wetlands working group through TWS. As you know, a Wetlands Committee already exists in the Southeastern Section and so a link-up with a new TWS Wetlands Working Group and that committee would seem to be the right thing to do. I will contact Southeastern TWS President, Steve Rockwood and will work to get that started. Steve is a wetland person himself and has been the SE Wetlands Committee Chair. As we discussed, once the working group is established we could have an early meeting in Louisiana and invite TWS leadership on a field tour to demonstrate the seriousness of coastal wetlands degradation. Hopefully, the result of those combined energies will result in improved science-based decision making and improved wetlands policies and funding at state and national levels.

I know you had a question about recommendations of our TWS Executive Director Michael Hutchens' 28 April 2008 letter concerning elections of officers. One of his recommendations was that nominations include 2 nominees for Newsletter Editor. Unless something has changed that I am unaware of, according to your 1984 Bylaws, nominations are only for president elect, secretary-treasurer and board member at large. Newsletter Editor has always been an appointed position by the president. I will check to make sure.

As you know my term as Southeastern Section Representative ends in late September. Darren Miller is your newly elected Representative. I have known Darren for a long time. He is very dedicated and passionate about wildlife resources and is a strong advocate. He

is full of well-directed energy and I know he will represent Louisiana and the entire Southeast very well. Darren would have been to your TWS meeting last week as well but had a prior commitment. He lives just up the road in Mississippi and will be very accessible. I will pass this information along to him as he has been part of the discussion on our efforts to do more for the Louisiana Chapter. Also, Bruce Leopold, a Professor at Mississippi State, will be taking over the reigns from Tom Franklin as President of TWS in September. So, I will keep them informed as well of our interactions.

Best to you and your Chapter and I look forward to our continued friendship as colleagues in the wildlife profession.

Sincerely,

Billy Minser
Southeastern Section Representative
The Wildlife Society

Mans Best Friend and Endangered Species.....

Gary Lester, LDWF Louisiana Heritage Program

He's a working dog. He's my personal pet. He wears both hats.

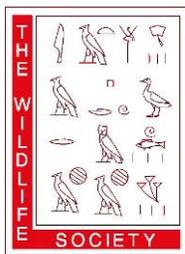
In 2007, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Natural Heritage Program was awarded a \$20,000 Section 6 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for canine training. The money, which is being matched 75:25

(federal:state) with state Conservation funds, has been used to train Patches, a 4-year-



old Australian Shepherd to detect the odor of an endangered animal. The Louisiana pine snake (*Pituophis ruthveni*), currently found in Bienville, Winn, Natchitoches and Vernon parishes in Louisiana and in 3 counties in eastern Texas is a candidate for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act, and is already listed as endangered in the state of Texas. Training was conducted November 2008-March 2009 in Tampa, Florida under the direction of Bill Whitstine, Master Trainer, known internationally for his work with training dogs for sniffing out bedbugs, Formosan termites, mold, and indigo snakes. Since his return to Louisiana, Patches has been transitioning between the artificial laboratory setting to the natural environment at a site in Bienville Parish, currently

owned by an industrial timber company. The Louisiana pine snake is associated with areas of deep sandy soils housing pocket gophers (*Geomys bursarius*), it's primary prey. Since much of its life is spent in gopher burrows, traditional trapping methods are inefficient at capturing this secretive species of snake. We are currently working with US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service in Louisiana and Texas, US Department of Defense (Fort Polk Military Installation) and others to determine the protocols for using the dog to search for the snake in the wild. Initial protocols should be finalized soon, and we anticipate field surveys to start in the fall of 2009. An additional \$20,000 of federal funds has been granted to the Natural Heritage Program to continue this work.



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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Final Position Statement

Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

Lead has been used in ammunition and fishing tackle for centuries. It is an effective and inexpensive element for the manufacture of projectiles and weights. Although it is a naturally occurring element in the environment, lead has no functional or beneficial role in biological systems, and at very low levels of exposure it can be toxic, depending on the species and the health and age of an individual. At toxic levels lead damages the nervous system, causing paralysis and eventual death; at lower levels it is known to cause a variety of sublethal effects such as neurological damage, tissue and organ damage, and reproductive impairment.

Realization of the hazards of lead ammunition to waterfowl and some upland game birds can be traced to the late 1870s, while the hazards of lead fishing sinkers to waterfowl became apparent in the 1970s, when lead was found to poison swans in the United Kingdom (UK). In the 1970s and 1980s, the UK and some jurisdictions within the United States and Canada began placing restrictions on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Today lead from ammunition and fishing tackle provides a small fraction of total environmental releases, but it exists in a form that can be readily ingested by some species of wildlife.

Metallic lead can remain relatively stable and intact for decades, even centuries. However, under certain environmental conditions (e.g., acidic or basic water or soil) lead from shot or tackle can be readily released and taken up by plants or animals, causing a range of biochemical, physiological, and behavioral effects in some species of invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Lead that is adsorbed or incorporated into food items through the soil, as well as lead fragments in carcasses or deposited at shooting sites, is known to be consumed by some birds and small mammals, resulting in elevated lead concentrations. Ingestion by reptiles, birds, and mammals of spent ammunition and lost fishing tackle has also been documented and can cause a range of negative effects in individuals, potentially leading to population-level consequences in some species (e.g., waterfowl, eagles, condors, mourning doves, and loons).

From a public health perspective, lead potentially can lead to a variety of human health problems, such as neurological effects and stunted growth, particularly in children. Although the extent is still unclear, recent research indicates that consumption of game taken with lead ammunition may increase blood-lead levels in humans. When lead that is imbedded in game meat becomes exposed to acid in the human stomach, lead may be absorbed into the system. Even if a lead pellet or bullet completely passes through an animal, a small amount of lead may be left in the tissue and may be absorbed by a person consuming the meat.

Lead poisoning related to spent ammunition and lost fishing tackle has been extensively studied in birds, and at least two studies indicate that the ban on the use of lead ammunition for hunting waterfowl and coots in North America has successfully reduced lead exposure in waterfowl. Nonetheless, other species such as upland game birds (e.g., doves and quail) and scavengers (e.g., vultures and eagles) have been documented to be exposed to lead, and the California condor population may be at risk. Despite the prohibition on lead shot for waterfowl hunting, current data for raptors and avian scavengers indicate increases in lead exposure in these species, especially during hunting season. Accordingly, 24 states (as of 2008) have instituted restrictions on the use of lead ammunition to minimize effects to upland game birds, eagles, and other species. The hazard of ingested lead sinkers and fishing tackle is well-documented in swans and loons, and restrictions on the sale or use of lead weights have been instituted in parts of the UK, Canada, several other countries, and five states in the U.S. (as of 2008) in order to minimize effects on these and other potentially vulnerable species. There are only limited data on the adverse effects of lead ingestion at shooting ranges, and reproductive and mortality rates at these sites have not been adequately investigated.

There has been an extensive effort in the development, efficacy testing, and regulation of alternatives to lead-based ammunition for hunting waterfowl and waterbirds. Several effective nontoxic alternatives have been approved and currently are available in North America and elsewhere. Several manufacturers have developed nontoxic ammunition that can be used safely in all gauges of modern shotguns, as well as nontoxic rifle bullets for hunting large game. However, the widespread manufacture of this shotgun and rifle ammunition depends on assured markets provided by regulation and enforcement.

Nontoxic shot may be used in all clay target sports and currently is required by some shooting facilities. Dozens of substitutes for lead fishing tackle have entered the marketplace in recent years. A few, but not all, alternative metals in fishing tackle have been deemed safe if ingested by waterfowl and some other birds and mammals.

The policy of The Wildlife Society in regard to lead in ammunition and fishing tackle is to:

1. Recognize that lead has been known for centuries to be a broad-spectrum toxicant to humans and wildlife.
2. Advocate the replacement of lead-based ammunition and fishing tackle with nontoxic products, while recognizing that complete replacement may not be possible in specific circumstances.
3. Recognize that the removal of lead for hunting, fishing, and shooting will require collaboration among affected stakeholders (including wildlife professionals, ammunition and tackle manufacturers, sportsmen, policymakers, and the public). It may require a phased-in approach, and will require explicit and targeted educational strategies at both the national and international levels, thereby acknowledging and supporting the crucial role that hunters and anglers play in wildlife management and conservation.
4. Encourage studies on reducing barriers to the development of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle, additional research that generates toxicological and environmental chemistry data, monitoring and modeling of exposure effects, and studies predicting consequences of exposure and long-term population-level effects. The need for additional information, however, should not delay the educational efforts and the phasing-in of nontoxic ammunition and tackle where practicable.
5. Support educational efforts to promote greater public awareness and understanding of the consequences of lead exposure to wildlife populations, and emphasize the potential gains for wildlife and environmental quality from use of nontoxic ammunition and fishing tackle.

Approved by Council July 2009. Expires July 2014.

A Disaster in the Making

Bill Herke

In 1992, Congress authorized a Reconnaissance Study for the Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Protection Project. This is deceptively named because the project area is nowhere near Morganza; it is located in lower Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. A feasibility Study was completed in 2002 and preliminary engineering and design studies are ongoing.

The plan includes 72 miles of earthen levee, 13 navigable flood gates, 13 multibarrel water control structures, and a lock system in the Houma Navigation Canal. Apparently about 80 % of the levee system follows existing levees, roads and other impediments to the movement of aquatic organisms. The floodgates and water control structures are supposed to be left open whenever there are no storm surges. To see the Corps of Engineers plan for this project, enter "Morganza to the Gulf " into Google.

So what concerns me? The water control structures. Because of my concern about the Morganza to the Gulf project I recently summarized much of my group's 30 years of work at LSU on fisheries passage through water control structures. If you are interested in this 20-page summary, email me at jbherke@cox.net and I will email it to you. My conclusion from the summary follows.

"Larval and tiny juvenile fishery organisms are largely dependent on tidal currents to carry them into the marsh nursery. The provision of 13 multibarrel water control structures in 72 miles of levee is highly unlikely to provide sufficient daily tidal currents through the broken marsh, and overland when the soil supporting emergent vegetation is flooded, to adequately stock the area inside the proposed levee alignment with larval and juvenile fishery organisms. Inadequate immigration of tiny organisms into the marsh results in reduced emigration of large juveniles and adults back toward the Gulf. The proposed Morganza to the Gulf levee alignment encompasses over 1,000,000 acres of existing wetlands. It has the potential to seriously reduce fisheries production both landward and Gulfward of the alignment." I believe an alignment much less damaging to fisheries could be used. . The Morganza to the Gulf project may never be built. Pre Katrina, the cost estimate was just under a billion dollars. Since then the cost has escalated tremendously.

Unfortunately, local Terrebonne interests are already building levees on the authorized alignment in anticipation that they will be reimbursed when Congress appropriates funding for the project. Even if the federal project is never built, levee building by local interests will already have damaged fisheries. This is especially true because local interests are now saying they cannot afford to install the water control structures. The levee, with water control structures, would seriously damage fisheries; the levee without water control structures, would completely destroy saltwater fisheries production on possibly hundreds of thousands of acres.

Announcement from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation: More Conservation “Action” than Expected in the Legislative Session

The 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature that wrapped on June 25 held more interest for conservationists than is normally anticipated in the short 45 legislative-day “fiscal” session that occurs in odd-numbered calendar years. Despite the relatively small number of bills introduced, approximately one-third of the bill volume of a general 60-day session, and a similarly reduced portion of bills related to conservation and the environment, there were some significant issues raised by the 100 or so bills and resolutions tracked by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. For more information on this subject go to: http://www.lawildlifefed.org/articles_detail.cfm?id=76

TWS Newsletter Report August 2009

News from the Southeastern Section Representative
Billy Minser

This is my last report as Darren Miller has been elected to replace me as your Southeastern Section Representative to TWS Council 24 September 2009. It has been an honor to serve you and our wildlife resources the past 2 years. Darren will represent you well. Special thanks to Jay Exum who agreed to serve the section as one of the nominees for the Southeastern Section Representative in the last election.

Council Retreat, July 2009. Council met for a special retreat at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation in Illinois to attend to needed business in a relaxed setting. Much was accomplished in the 3 day meeting including: The **Strategic Plan** is a prioritized guide to TWS national staff and Council on the most important business to accomplish in the coming years to accomplish our mission of science-based, wise use and management of wildlife and habitats. Here are the priorities Council identified – in order of priorities:

- **Government affairs** - to influence governmental policy on wildlife issues, regionally, nationally and internationally. Rationale – governmental policy affects our ability to manage the publicly owned wildlife resource and habitats. We can influence policy through **Technical Reviews, Position Statements** and **Working Groups and MOUs** (memorandums of understanding for TWS partnerships with agencies and organizations).
- **Publishing and information resources**- our profession is science based. To do our job we need scientific facts and information. Therefore high priority is given to our publications – Journal of Wildlife Management, Wildlife Monographs, The Wildlife Professional, the Wildlife Techniques Manuel, The Wildlifer, Wildlife Policy News, and others as well as information on the TWS website.
- **Annual TWS Conference** is a place for scientific information exchange, continued education through symposia and seminars and networking with other professional for stimulation and an exchange of ideas.

- **Membership service** - a variety of services are provided including Certification review, professional ethics standards, leadership institute for professional training of young professionals, student chapter services, state and section services and interactions, student conclave support, sponsoring continuing education and other.
- **Marketing** – In order to serve members and support a staff to help carry out or mission we need a strong membership to financially and fundamentally support TWS. Publications, conferences, and public affairs initiatives require staffing and funding. That requires marketing. Our membership now nears 8000 and is growing with over 160 chapters in the US and Canada to support TWS efforts.

What Can the Wildlife Society Do for You? I am often asked “why should I join The Wildlife Society; what can it do for me?” I think most of us chose the wildlife profession because it was a job worth doing and that maybe we could help conserve and or restore wildlife populations and habitats for the betterment of humankind and the world in which we live. Most knew going into the profession that we would not earn a huge salary - -that was not the point.

Sometimes it seems like we are spinning our wheels in our daily wildlife jobs. We see decisions being made in government and see the land being abused and we just seem helpless to make a difference by ourselves. That’s where being a member of The Wildlife Society can make a difference. By our sheer numbers and combined energies with other organizations through mechanisms described in our strategic plan, above, and through TWS Council and staff, and state and sectional chapters, we can and are making a difference. If **YOU** are not a TWS national member then you have an opportunity to help and better fulfill your career dreams. An army of one is fine but an army of 10,000 packs a much bigger punch. If you are not a member, do your part. Please join. The cost is worth the satisfaction and member services and dues are much less than an out-of state trip that people like me pay for a few days of turkey hunting or a trip to the beach. **MAKE A DIFFERENCE! JOIN.**

Billy Minser
Representative
Southeastern Section, TWS

LAPB / LA Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Fall Business Meeting Notes
 3:20 pm Friday, August 13, 2009
 NOAA Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center
 Lafayette, LA

Call to order and introductions:

Present:

Michael Carloss	Travis Dufour
John Pitre	Sammy King
Kim Marie Tolson	Billy Minser (Tennessee TWS)
Cassidy Lejeune	Andy Nyman
Wayne Norling	Aaron Pierce
Patti Holland	Amity Bass
Tabitha Owen	Tony Vidrine
E.J. Raynor	Scott Longman
Jay Huner	Matt Pieron
Fred Kimmel	Marty Floyd
Larry Reynolds	Paul Whitehead
David Breithaupt	Theresa Cross
Lance Ardoin	Karen Edwards

Mike Carloss, LAPB President provided attendees with a meeting agenda. Then he called for the secretary's and treasure's reports.

Secretary's Report – Cassidy Lejeune provided a brief summary of the February 2009 spring meeting notes.

Treasure's Report – John Pitre

John presented a written financial report for spring 2009 to fall 2009. He provided a summary and update on the following accounts:

Section I

- Former Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association accounts
 - \$60 savings account at Campus Federal Credit Union: The funds are still not accessible because the account is under signature authority of Steve Mathies, former LWBA president. Mr. Mathies was contacted after the spring 2009 meeting and he agreed to assist with the issue.
 - Home Bank accounts:
 - \$3,857.42
 - \$4,636.70
- Former Louisiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society accounts (Iberia Bank)
 - Deer study group endowment: \$6,930.32
 - Life membership dues: \$1,064.11

Section II – CapitalOne checking account

The balance in January 2009 was \$11,633.44. Between January 2009 and August 2009, \$418.00 was deposited into the account and \$627.40 was deducted. Deposits/credits included quarterly rebates and a \$150 deposit. Payments/debits included payments to Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association, LWF affiliation dues, postage, and TWS dues. The balance as of August 7, 2009 was \$11,424.04.

Please see John Pitre's report for more details.

Reports of Committees

Next, Tony Vidrine provided a report on the scholarship committee. Tony stated that he, Mike Carloss, Larry Reynolds, and Kenny Ribbeck assisted with the scholarship process for 2009. The scholarship application was finalized and made available via the LAPB website. The committee decided that the scholarship would be for \$500.00 with the recipient receiving ½ during the spring semester and the other ½ during the fall semester. The selection committee decided that that this year's emphasis would be on undergraduate studies.

After advertising the scholarship, they received four applications. One student applied from the following universities: UL Lafayette, UL Monroe, McNeese State University, and Louisiana State University. Tony stated that the scholarship award would be presented at the LAPB social. He also suggested LAPB members to encourage college students to apply for next year.

Old Business

Mike Carloss reported briefly on the status of the LAPB website. He stated that the website was recently updated by Mark Parr. He praised Mark for doing a great job with updating and enhancing the site and suggested that LAPB award him for his efforts with a commemorative plaque.

Next, Mike provided an update on the ongoing effort to send a letter requesting the support of government agencies for the LAPB Fall Symposium. He reported that the letter was finalized and distributed thanks to Larry Reynolds. Mike also commended John Pitre for being persistent and "keeping the fire going." The letter encouraged agency personnel attendance at the 2009 symposium and thanked agencies for past participation. Mike stated that the distribution of this letter will hopefully encourage more attendance at future symposiums.

Finally, Mike discussed the status of the LAPB logo competition and the newsletter editor. He provided a brief background about the competition to develop a new logo, but stated that the issue would be tabled until further notice due to lack of participation and the pending TWS name issue. He stated that an update would be provided at a later date (possibly via the newsletter). Also, he notified attendees that Matt Pieron is completing his PhD and will soon be relinquishing his newsletter editor responsibility. He thanked Matt for his work as editor and stated that LAPB needs to search for a new editor.

New Business

The first “new business” topic discussed was the 2010 Fall Symposium topic. Mike opened the floor to discussion. Some ideas included feral hogs, coastal wetland loss with an emphasis on wildlife, grassland restoration, restoration ecology, stream restoration, mitigation (values and/or lack of value), etc. Billy Minser of the Tennessee TWS and SE Section of TWS suggested developing a LAPB council retreat which has proven effective at the national level. The retreat would include field trips and discussion to assist with decisions such as the topic for the next symposium. Mike stated that he and Andy Nyman would discuss this further with Billy. Also, he said that the symposium topic would be finalized at the LAPB spring 2010 meeting (LWF Convention - Toledo Bend) and suggested soliciting ideas via the newsletter.

Mike then suggested a discussion of ideas for improving the organization. He encouraged members to improve and expand LAPB. He stated that it has been difficult to find committee members and sometimes attendance is poor at LAPB events. He encouraged LAPB members to participate and push for new membership. He concluded this topic by requesting all members to give this topic “much thought.”

Mike incorporated the discussion of improving LAPB into LAPB’s participation in resolutions at the annual LWF Convention. He stated that LAPB has proposed few resolutions through the organization. Marty Floyd stated that LAPB sponsored and/or co-sponsored four resolutions last year but none before that. A few topics were discussed such as promoting more utilization of segmented breakwaters for coastal restoration, urging LDWF to have a 24 hr. enforcement presence on WMAs and refuges, etc. Mike urged all members to develop resolutions so that they could be distributed for comments.

After the discussion about resolutions, a question about generating more funds for the organization was raised by Tony Vidrine. He asked about the possibility of changing LAPB’s certificates of deposit to make more interest from the accounts (such as extending the certificates for a longer time). John Pitre replied that it may not work for some accounts because funds are needed for scholarships and that there may not be much difference between a nine month and 60 month certificate of deposit. Tony then stated that we should look into alternatives since the rates may go up soon. John agreed and further stated that LAPB may want to look into investing the checking account money (approx. \$11,000) that is not earning any interest. After discussion about options and possibly looking into ways to obtain higher interest rates, Larry Reynolds suggested that the LAPB Treasurer (John Pitre) should be able to make a decision on his own. He also brought up the Robert Helm scholarship and said that LAPB needs to get more creative on the best way to generate more money. He suggested a five percent interest per year checking account that he has used for a personal account. Subsequently, a few ideas were suggested such as the development of a finance sub-committee to create ideas for making more money, creating a mutual fund, combining accounts, and having John Pitre investigate options and report to LAPB with results. The final decision was to have John create a brief proposal and to move on to the next issue.

Comments by Billy Minser, TWS (SE Section Representative)

After concluding the “new business” portion of the meeting, Sammy King introduced Billy Minser who attended the LAPB Fall Symposium to discuss the LAPB/LA Chapter of TWS issue with LAPB members. Billy started by providing background information about himself including his early involvement with TWS as a student and his realization of the benefits of TWS while working for Georgia Game and Fish. He found that tough decisions were often not made as he desired due to outside influences. Thus, he figured out that TWS could be used to assist with making correct decision.

Next, Billy provided a little information about the SE Section of TWS. He stated that the SE Section included 14 states and was setup to assist organizations such as LAPB and other state chapters to get their objectives accomplished via the national section of TWS. He stated that he represented local sections at the national level. He provided professional staff at TWS (council) updates on issues and the needs of the local sections. He also clarified that TWS was an international non-profit scientific and professional organization that represents the scientific community including all aspects of wildlife and habitat (including all vertebrates and habitats). He continued by providing some of the benefits of being a member of TWS such as receiving publications about science based management and providing members with more power to personally “make a difference.” He stated that the priorities of TWS are to provide technical reviews, position statement on pressing issues (feral cats, baiting/feeding wildlife, etc.), develop professional working groups, and assist with issues in Congress such as wetland preservation.

After providing a brief overview of TWS, Billy discussed the issue of LAPB and the LA Chapter of TWS. He stated that Louisiana has had a LA Chapter of TWS since 1984 when LAPB was called the Louisiana Association of Wildlife Biologists (LAWB). He said that he applauded how LAWB expanded to include all aspects of Louisiana’s natural resources (i.e., development of LAPB), but TWS still considered LAPB the LA Chapter of TWS. The bylaws were not changed in Washington. He concluded by stating that he would like to see LAPB remain the LA Chapter of TWS and that there are ways to keep two organizations such as having meeting simultaneously, having the same executive committee, etc.

Billy then opened the floor to questions and discussion. A few key issues that were discussed were as follows. They mainly included inconsistencies with LAPB bylaws and TWS bylaws.

- Term limits for LAPB executive committee
- Name change from LAPB to possibly LA Chapter of TWS – some members felt that the LAPB name was created to expand to include non-game, fisheries, etc.
- Newsletter editor must be elected not appointed and must be member of TWS
- Potential loss of TWS funds which would potentially increase LAPB dues
- LAPB is/would be more influential with TWS backing (i.e., being included under TWS “umbrella”)
- Benefit of having tax ID
- Different logos for LAPB and LA Chapter of TWS

- LAPB executive committee requirement to be member of national TWS
- Membership and more participation required

After the discussion, a motion was made by Kim Marie Tolson to adopt TWS bylaws and keep both names (LAPB and LA Chapter of TWS). Andy Nyman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to adopt the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 pm.