



## Table of Contents

### From the President

Page 1-2

### Rendezvous

Page 3

### Woodworth 3 Days

Pages 4-5

### Commission Meetings

Page 5

### For The Birds

Page 6

### Endangered Species Act

Page 7

### Convention

Page 8

## From the President

**Tony Howard**

2023 was a phenomenal year for education with another Enforcement academy behind us and several new locations added to our list of events. We have also taken on a few new instructors and seen steadfast support from all of our old hands.

As the year wound down, we hit a few bumps with NWCO permit renewals. We have addressed this issue since day one and will continue till the association's interests are satisfied. A great deal of time and energy has been devoted to this issue as it affects so many of our members. As I am finishing up this newsletter, the LTAHA officers are preparing final drafts of our proposal which will be submitted in March.

The fur markets are looking up this year like we have not seen in several years. Everyone is aware of the demand for felt beavers, however, many other species are seeing renewed interest such as grey fox, bobcat, and river otter. Now, more than ever, proper fur handling is so important. We have tried at every turn to incorporate fur handling into our events. We have picked up two new instructors who are good pelters and know how to teach, what an asset to the association. I can not say enough about our education efforts over the past few years. I want to thank Randall Williamson for his dedication and hard work to keep our staff and instructors informed and on top of the game. Our education department is the trophy shown off around the state each year. Hardworking and dedicated people are in short supply these days and demand is very high. Thanks for all you do Randall.

## Upcoming Event!

### Convention

13 April, 2024 –  
8:00am – Till

# Presidents Report Continued

## Tony Howard

I have attended several events, as have other members. One of the highlights were the Louisiana Wildlife Federation LWF annual convention held in Alexandria LA at the Bentley Hotel. I found out about the haunting, only after spending the night. The LWF has become a close ally and has helped us find our way legislatively already this year. I attended the annual Cattlemen's Association general member meeting in Monroe, LA, where I was a guest speaker Sunday morning. Great contacts were made and future growth is planned. I also attended the Miss Cameron Fur Festival pageant in Cameron, Louisiana. What a night, with all the young ladies all dressed up. I learned a little about pageants and admire the young ladies for their grace and time committed to these events. I will tell you for sure Miss Jadyne Devillier earned her title with a flawless speech and real knowledge of the industry. Miss Devillier shined and made the industry look good with her presentation. Thanks Jadyne.

The spring convention is right around the corner on April 13, 2024, at Dewey Wills WMA. I plan to host a complex coyote demo, followed by Wesley Blanchard (if I can get him to give up a secret or two and show off his coyote catch trick). I am also seeking some new blood, Michael Cheramie. We will be holding our annual membership meeting and will have to have a vote on BOD members. We have three members leaving the board and two are not seeking re-election this year. Nomination must be made before the vote and the nomination form must have the nominee's signature to be valid or be present to accept the nomination.

Trappers Supply will be on hand and Danny Perry will be picking up pelted fur as his last pick-up date. Please don't miss out on the gathering of friends, family, and food.

We as always will host and small auction and raffle. This year we will be raffling off three prizes. We are looking at a Ruger Super Wrangler 22/22 mag pistol, a shotgun, and a \$400-600 Carabo knife set (donated by Mr. Barry Culpepper and Son). I promise this is guaranteed to be fun.

We will also be passing awards out to our instructors for this year's service to the association. This year we have a rather large group and I am excited to make these presentations. Plan to come and stay all day. Come early and leave late, we will make it worth your while. Also, side note, there will be a friendly fishing tournament on Red River for some big catfish taken on set hooks, limb lines, throw lines, or trotlines. The rest of you are more than welcome to go with the group. The title will be going to North Webster Parish, to my house, while Mr. Culpepper tries to figure out what happened. Folks, we plan to have a grand time and through the events, we gather closer and become more than just a trappers association, we become family and lifelong friends. Oh, one last thing we are hoping the plan comes out of the committee and we get every single dollar back to fund the FAC, after this legislative season. We are monitoring this as well.



Pictured on the left is President Tony Howard and Vincent Verdin making a dirt hole land set at the first three day. Pictured right is Vincent Verdin creating a land set.

**Pictured below is Cam Mire creating a blind trail set for the students at the second three day event at Woodworth.**



**Pictured below is Cam Mire, Travis Williams, and a student cleaning loaner equipment at the second three day in Woodworth.**



**If you received  
a Renewal  
Letter, be sure  
to renew. You  
don't want to  
miss out!**

## **Rendezvous**

### **Randall and Sarah Williamson**

This past Rendezvous was held at Dewey Wills in Jonesville, LA on November 18, 2023. The day before was the initial set up of vendors followed by an evening board meeting. The LTAHA board members held a meeting with many topics of discussion. One topic of discussion was the increase in membership cost, which haven't been raised in years. Everyone knows with the price of everything increasing this was a motion passed by a majority vote. Effective November 20, 2023, the new pricing is listed below.

\$25- 1 year Membership & newsletter (no magazine)

\$40- 1 year Membership, magazine, & newsletter

\$60- NEW! Family 1 year membership package (2 adults/2 kids, 1 magazine, and 1 newsletter) \*same address

\$500- Lifetime membership (magazine, newsletter)

The following day was packed with excitement! Gates opened at 8:00 am CST, where many gathered for the meet and greet. Mr. Chuck Sturgis was first with an amazing Otter demo. For those of you who have never seen his demo, you are missing out. Mr. Eric Cottrell was up next with a Beaver Skinning demo. This name may ring a bell, he was last conventions Beaver Skinning winner.

In between demos, Mr. Tony spoke and gave out awards. Mr. Clint Johnson followed with a Beaver Skinning demo. Again, if you haven't seen these incredible demos, you are missing out.

Everyone had a lunch break where they enjoyed the wonderful cooking from Karl Hano's Bayou Barbeque on the Geaux and shopped around with several vendors. Vendors included Okie Trapping Supplies and Southeast Arkansas Fur Takers.

Thanks again to all of our vendors!

After lunch, Mr. Danny Perry stopped in to do a fur market report for the upcoming season. Mr. Tony Howard did an amazing Alligator hunting demo and then brought everyone back in to conclude with the auction and Skinning Rack Raffle giveaway!

Thanks to everyone in support! We can't wait to see everyone at the convention.

# Woodworth 3 Days

**Michael Cheramie**

The first three day trapping event of the year was held 1-3 of March at the LDWF facility in Woodworth. On day one some of the instructors went out early to set a line for the next morning. There were a couple of students who arrived early who went out on this scouting and setting adventure. These individuals received one on one instruction with information that would take many in the trapping world many years to achieve. They learned to survey the terrain for likely travel routes, distinguish new sign from old, and setting of sets that were very particular to the current environmental conditions. That night after the evening meal there were outdoor classes that covered various trapping subjects to include skinning, fleshing, trap modifications, waxing traps, and a necropsy of a raccoon by Dr. Fabio Del Piero, professor of veterinary pathology at LSU. Day two was spent checking the trap line from the day before, scouting and setting traps. Every legal furbearer in the state of Louisiana was targeted. There was instruction on water trapping which focused on beaver, otter and mink. For raccoons the focus was on using enclosed foothold traps and blind sets on defined trails. The land trapping covered every type of set that can legally be used in Louisiana for coyotes, bobcats, and foxes. At the end of the day the students had learned that setting and running a long trap line was hard work. That evening there were more outside classes on various subjects and discussions on the events of the day.

The final day the groups headed out to check traps and to pull the lines. The students were tired but the excitement of checking the traps got them motivated when they arrived at the trapping areas. There was excitement such as a triple on coyotes. There was disappointment when a trap was dug up by an animal and not set off. The instructors made sure that valuable information about why a set worked and why a set failed was passed on to the students. In a short time the students learned what would take a new trapper many years to learn. The final event of the day was skinning. Every student had the opportunity to skin at least one animal and many skinned more. There was a beaver skinning demonstration that showed not only how to skin a beaver for its pelt, but how to use every part of the animal. One student skinned a skunk that had sprayed and it was impressive to see her work through the smell like a professional.

Feedback from the event was very positive not only from the students but from the instructors as well. It was a great success as far as trapping knowledge goes, but most importantly, the students walked away with a greater appreciation for our Louisiana trapping heritage.



**Pictured above is Group 3 at the second three day in Woodworth.**

# Woodworth 3 Days Continued

## Michael Cheramie

The second three day trapping event of the year was held 15-17 of March at the LDWF facility in Woodworth.

On day one the students were divided into teams, assigned to an instructor cadre, briefed and convoyed to the trapping grounds. Being late in season, lack of crawfish and warm weather, it was a challenge to find fresh sign and activity. The students spent a lot of time studying tracks and trails looking for fresh sign. The targeted species were not very active and the students learned valuable tracking skills while looking for fresh sign. It was exciting when a student would find fresh sign and then have to decide what animal made the sign. This drew the students together as they had to discuss what was found and with the help of instructors, decide the trapping method to use. It could have been a very unproductive day, but with the guidance of instructors and enthusiastic students, it turned out to be a great learning experience. After a great evening meal the students proceeded to the outside classroom to learn more valuable trapping skills. There were classes on skinning, fleshing, waxing traps, trap modifications and discussions on various topics.

After breakfast, on the second day, the groups proceeded to the trapping areas for a long day on the trapline. Traps were checked and then it was back to what some trappers call the "grind". All day was spent scouting and setting traps. Every legal species of furbearers in Louisiana was targeted and just about any type of legal trap set was used. One thing the students learned was attention to detail. It was noticeable as the day progressed and the sets were starting to look professional. The placement of a dirt clog or covering a blind set with the proper amount of camouflage was becoming second nature to the students. After a while, the instructors were supervising and the students were helping each other. That evening was filled with more classes and discussions on various trapping subjects. An instructor took the children out that evening to set for raccoons around the Woodworth facility and this was a big hit with the smaller trappers. Instructors and students stayed up late that night as they broke up into smaller groups to discuss various trapping information.

The last day started off with thunderstorms and lots of mud. It was the type of day that trappers dread as not only did the traps have to be checked; the entire line had to be pulled. This is demanding in perfect conditions but when you add rain, mud and cold, it becomes a battle to complete the task. The students went above and beyond with the work that needed to be done. The rain stopped right when the field work had been completed. There were enough animals that everyone had the opportunity to skin at least one under the supervision of an instructor. It was noted by the instructors that the younger students did a really fantastic job skinning, some showing very good knife skills.

The instructors are glad that trapping season is winding down so they can get a much needed break, but they are also sad as this has been such a great season teaching with eager students who were willing to get their hands dirty. Planning for this upcoming season is already in the works and the next rotation of clinics are going to be better than before!

## Commission Meetings

### Frank Williams

Since July, some members and I have been attending the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries commissioner meeting. We are looking for more members to be involved in attending the meeting. The meetings are normally on the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 am. They are at the LDWF Headquarters in the Joe L. Herring room, located at 2000 Quail Dr. Baton Rouge, La. We ask if you plan on attending dress professional with LTAHA logo wear, if possible. I would like to have at least one person at every meeting, but more would be better. If you would like to be reminded of when the meeting will take place you can email me at [fwiliams321@outlook.com](mailto:fwiliams321@outlook.com). The world belongs to those who show up.



# For The Birds!

Mattea Smith

## M.S Environmental Policy and Management- Avoyelles Parish

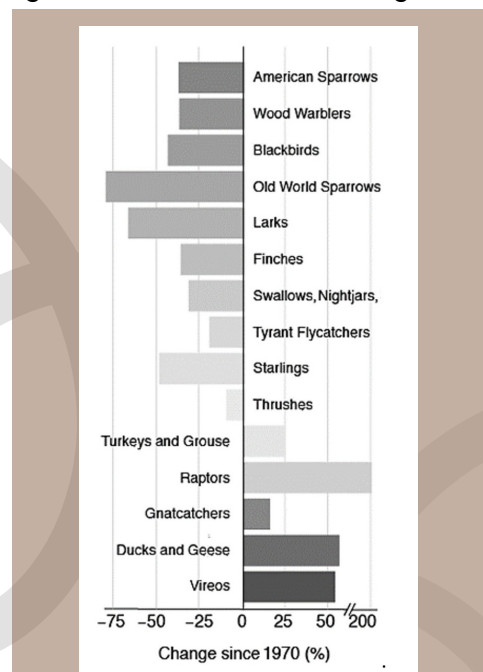
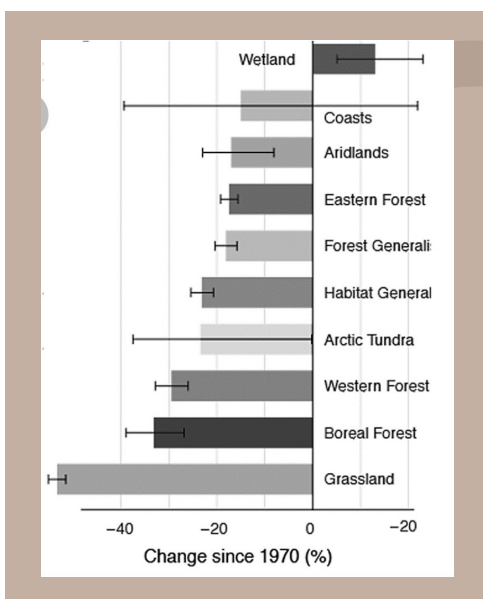
Spring is tiptoeing its way into Louisiana, bringing with it the promise of warmer weather and a vibrant resurgence of life. From the breathtaking bloom of pink azaleas to the soothing patter of afternoon showers, the signs are unmistakable. Among them, the sights and sounds of birds mark a season of change.

Birds and waterfowl ranging from geese to turkeys to warblers are all integral to our ecosystem. Their contribution to biodiversity, seed dispersal, insect control, and food are invaluable to both their own and other species' survival. Nesting species invest a substantial amount of time and energy into building nests, laying eggs, and nurturing their young. However, several environmental factors ranging from flooding, disease, habitat loss, food availability, and predation threaten the survival of all bird species from the timberlands to the marshlands.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology released an overview of all avifauna (bird species as a whole) since 1970 revealing a staggering 29% decline in total bird numbers across North America (Rosenberg et al, 2019). This is equivalent to nearly 3 billion birds vanishing from the continent compared to 50 years ago. When you break the 3 billion individuals down, 74% were grassland species and the remainder were forest species. Oddly enough, wetland birds and waterfowl have seen an increase in population with 13% and 56% increases, respectively.

The resurgence of waterfowl and wetland birds can be contributed to decades-long conservation efforts propelled by federal regulations, collaborative initiatives, and public support. Joint ventures aimed at habitat improvement, predator management, and scientific research have led to the continual success and ongoing efforts towards restoring waterfowl populations. The survival of Louisiana's avian inhabitants hinges on effective predator control measures to thwart nest raiders like raccoons and opossums.

While predation is a natural phenomenon and integral part of any ecosystem, the conservation of residential and migratory birds relies heavily on successful reproduction. Efforts to bolster populations of iconic species like the whooping crane and wild turkey in Louisiana have long recognized the importance of protecting nests. Most avian fatalities occur during the vulnerable breeding and incubation periods, underscoring the critical importance of proactive predator control measures in the weeks leading up to nesting season. With the end of Louisiana's regular trapping season, the ongoing need for raccoon and opossum management persists year-round to safeguard all species, both domestic and wild. Though the summer months may not offer optimal prices or fur quality, the need for continuous nest raider management remains unchanged. So, let's seize this opportunity to hone our skills, experiment with new techniques, or pass on our knowledge to the next generation. After all, we're not just doing it for ourselves—we're doing it for the birds!



# Endangered Species Act

**Nathan Pierce**

For clarification, an Act is a written monetary vehicle that has a legislative and enforcement framework. The legislative wording is like building a house or business and the money is permanently set aside to fund it, replenished through taxes (usually) and kept running like a circulatory system of a human body. It's always cited (referenced) by year, but any time changes need to be made it's done through "Amendments". The original text stays static like the frame of an automotive. But the coverage, exceptions, removal of species and wording get upgraded like stereo equipment and tires etc.

1973 was a very dynamic year for the American people. Highlights include, but limited to, Roe v. Wade; U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ends with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords; U.S. military draft ends; Watergate scandal; For the first time, the Army Corps of Engineers opens the Morganza Spillway near Baton Rouge to relieve record flooding along the lower Mississippi River (in lieu of blowing up the levee as they did in 1927) ; U.S. ends 12 years of combat in Southeast Asia; ITT is bombed in New York City by the Weather Underground, protesting its involvement in the 1973 Chilean coup d'état; Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) announced that it was implementing a total oil embargo against the countries who had supported Israel at any point during the Fourth Arab-Israeli War. Oil prices skyrocketed; and then on December 28th, The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is passed in the United States.

It seems the ESA of 1973 was a band aid to finish off the year. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is a primary law in the United States for protecting and conserving imperiled species. Designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a "consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation". The Supreme Court of the United States described it as "the most comprehensive legislation for the preservation of endangered species enacted by any nation". The purposes of the ESA are two-fold: to prevent extinction and to recover species to the point where the law's protections are not needed. It therefore "protect[s] species and the ecosystems upon which they depend" through different mechanisms (e.g. enforcement, education, co-operative agency/public programs).

The ESA was built off the previous acts of legislation of, but not limited to, Lacey Act of 1900, Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1937, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940, Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 and Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969. The ESA is administered by two federal agencies, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS handles marine species, and the FWS has responsibility over freshwater fish and all other species. Species that occur in both habitats (e.g. sea turtles and Atlantic sturgeon) are jointly managed. And, for the first time, certain plants were given protected status.

This act affects us in the trapping community still for good or weal (worse). Good intentions cut both ways and humans are always fighting against the fulcrum of pro vs con as an endless struggle. Acknowledging our debt for our pursuit of assent towards progress isn't damning, just an endless assuagement for unintended consequences.

Most respectfully,  
N. Pierce USCG Ret.

References:

<https://uscode.house.gov/>; 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq;  
<en.wikipedia.org>; [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com);



Pictured above is Michael Cheramie with a student at the second three day creating a set.



**GATES  
OPEN AT  
8:00 AM  
CST**

# LTAHA TRAPPING CONVENTION

**APRIL 13, 2024**

**DEWEY WILLS WMA**

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

## WHAT IS HAPPENING

- ✓ Coyote Demo/ Tips & Tricks
- ✓ Fur Buyers
- ✓ Trapping Supplies
- ✓ Raffles/ Auction
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Food/Drinks

## LOCATION/DIRECTIONS

Dewey Wills WMA  
225 Dewey Wills HQ Rd.  
Jonesville, LA 71343

Take LA-28  
Turn onto Dewey Wills W M A  
Turn onto Dewey Will HQ/Old Hunt

