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Timber Tales

No. 128 News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent 2nd Quarter 2009

LDWF Issuing Night Shooting Permits for Coyotes and Feral Hogs

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Wildlife Division is now issuing night shooting permits for coyotes and feral hogs that harm agricultural crops, seedlings or livestock.

Permit applicants must have attempted previous abatement practices on the property prior to applying for the night shooting permit. These practices would include trapping and day shooting (where legal), which are both allowed without a permit from the department provided they have a Louisiana basic hunting license.

If previous abatement practices have been applied to the property and landowners are still experiencing damage, they are encouraged to contact their regional LDWF office for a permit application. For a list of LDWF regional offices and contact information, visit www.wlf.louisiana.gov/contactus/contact.cfm?id=11.

Upon submitting their completed permit application to the respective regional office, an LDWF biologist will schedule a field visit in order to document and assess damage.

Permits are issued in the length of seven consecutive calendar evenings. Permits are issued only in the landowner's name, or LDWF must have written consent from the landowner establishing they are aware of intended permit activities on their property. A total of five individuals may be covered by one permit. All permittees must be in the holder of a valid Louisiana basic hunting license and are subject to a background check through the LDWF Enforcement Division. Interested applicants should contact their local regional office for further details.

For more information, contact Carrie Salyers at 225/763-3557 or csalyers@wlf.louisiana.gov.

For additional information, call Area Code 318 and . . .

BIENVILLE	263-7400	BOSSIER	965-2326	CADDO	226-6805
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RED RIVER	932-4342	SABINE	256-3406	WEBSTER	371-1317

Louisiana Natural Resources Symposium Scheduled July 16-17 at LSU-Baton Rouge

The LSU AgCenter will be hosting the third Louisiana Natural Resources Symposium on July 16-17, 2009, at the Lod Cook Conference Center and Hotel on the campus of Louisiana State University. The theme of the symposium is "Bioenergy Opportunities for Louisiana." The registration brochure and other information are available at www.lsuagcenter.com/ltnrs for easy registration.

The 2009 symposium will feature papers from leading international experts from academia and private industry covering issues related to bioenergy. The target audience includes land managers, foresters, landowners, entrepreneurs, academicians, and those interested in this emerging opportunity. The comprehensive and professional proceedings will be available to all registrants. Early bird registration ends on July 2. Booth space and sponsorships are available for interested companies and associations. This program qualifies for 9 hours of Continuing Logger Education from the Louisiana Logging Council and for 6.5 hours of category 1 and 1.5 hours of category continuing forestry education from the Society of American Foresters.

For more information, please contact Todd Shupe at tshupe@agcenter.lsu.edu or (225) 578-6432.

Changes to Deer-Dog Hunting Season on Kisatchie National Forest

The La Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U.S. Forest Service have been discussing changes to the deer-dog season within Kisatchie National Forest. Some hunters run deer with dogs. This is a traditional sport in some areas of Louisiana. Each year Kisatchie National Forest officials and sheriff's offices receive many complaints about deer dogs crossing onto private property. The sport often affects large areas of the national forest. These activities can conflict with private landowners and other forest users.

As a result, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved an amendment that will provide an eight-day deer season with or without dogs on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land known as the Kisatchie National Forest in Central Louisiana from December 19-24 and December 26-27. The amendment will further require deer hunters to obtain a special USFS permit and have their dogs properly identified and fitted with tracking equipment. Deer hunting with the aid of dogs has become more of a contentious issue in recent years because of the breakup of many large tracts of hunting land into smaller size areas. In some instances, dogs will chase deer onto and across adjoining properties where individuals are engaged in still hunting. Representatives of the USFS were opposed to the special season, contending that even though these were public areas, the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries did not allow the use of dogs for deer hunting on any of their public wildlife management areas. A second amendment will continue to allow the take of raccoons and opossums all year long but with an increased daily bag limit from one to two.

For additional information or discussion, please call Public Affairs and Recreation Staff Officer Jim Caldwell at 318-473-7160 or email jcaldwell@fs.fed.us.

Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is now accepting [comments on its revised Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands](#) (2009-2013) beginning May 1st and ending June 29, 2009. The AFF Standards are the basis for its forest certification program, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The revised Standards were developed by the [Independent Standards Review Panel](#).

All stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to comment on the revised Standards. For more information on the American Forest Foundation's standards setting procedures, please visit www.forestfoundation.org.

During the review process, it is extremely important that the panel hear from all stakeholders—family forest landowners, tree farmers, volunteers, natural resource and forestry professionals, conservation organizations, PLT coordinators, educators and volunteers, and other partners.

The 60-day public comment period begins Friday, May 1, through Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. (EDT). To submit comments on the revised AFF Standards, please visit www.forestfoundation.org or email Certification@forestfoundation.org for more information.

Hunting White-Tailed Deer focus of Field Day

White-tailed deer were the focus of a wildlife field day May 2 at the LSU AgCenter's Bob R. Jones Idlewild Research Station. Dr. Dearl Sanders, resident coordinator at the station, challenged participants to guess the age and weight of four pen-raised deer. He offered \$1,000 to the person who correctly guessed the age and weight of all four. "Well, again, I get to keep the money," Sanders said. "Several people came close, but not close enough."

Sanders said the purpose of the exercise was to let the participants know how shooting young deer rather than older deer could affect the overall herd. The weight of deer normally corresponds with age, he said. "If you shoot the seven-year-old deer, she's probably only going to live another year anyways, so you're actually only taking out, potentially, three deer," Sanders said. "But if you shoot the fawn, you could potentially be taking up to 25 deer from the herd over its life span."

Justin Thayer, an LSU graduate student, has been tracking deer for the past three years in the bottomland hardwood forest area of West Baton Rouge to determine their range. "Every deer caught got an ear tag, and deer over 80 pounds also got a radio collar," Thayer said. His results show that where habitat quality is good, adult bucks normally stay within a 300-acre area, and an adult doe's home range is about 86 acres.

Jim LaCour, a veterinarian with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, told about diseases hunters should be aware of in white-tailed deer and feral hogs. The most common diseases and conditions affecting Louisiana white-tailed deer included epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus or the "blue tongue virus," nasal bots, arterial worms and liver flukes, he said.

LaCour said that hunters should never handle or consume an animal showing the following conditions:

- Neurological signs such as circling or wobbling or appearing "dumb" or unaware of surroundings.
- Appearance of being depressed, weak or unable to rise or does not try to escape.
- Having a fever or generalized lymph node swelling.

He said human consumption of animals with most of these diseases is not a problem, as long as the meat is thoroughly cooked to 160 degrees. "The important thing to remember about all of the swine diseases is that the pigs often show no outward sign of disease," LaCour said. "People should wear rubber gloves and should not eat or drink while handling feral swine. LaCour said the common diseases in feral hogs are swine brucellosis, Leptospirosis, trichinosis and swine flu.

LSU AgCenter nutrition agents Debbie Melvin of Lafourche Parish and Pam Myers of East Feliciana Parish and Manual Persica, a research associate in the LSU AgCenter School of Animal Sciences, discussed proper handling of harvested deer.

Melvin said not keeping meat at the proper temperature can cause a range of problems. She explained that showing off the kill just happens to be one of the worst things a hunter can do. "They parade that trophy deer around town on the hood of the car or truck, not realizing that the engine heat increases the spoilage time of the meat," Melvin said. Melvin and Persica demonstrated butchering and packaging of a deer to show the proper way to care for the meat from the site to the freezer.

Sanders said the field day was cosponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Quality Deer Management South Louisiana Branch.

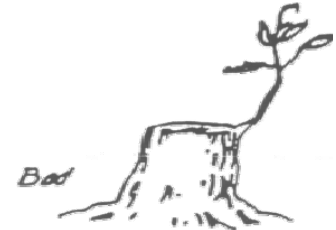
For further information on white-tailed deer management and other research, visit the LSU AgCenter website at www.lsuagcenter.com or contact Sanders at 225-683-5848.

Stump Sprout Management

About two years after I began working for the Extension Service in northwest Louisiana, I bought a house out in the country (in the suburbs of Benton). There was a stump from a cherrybark oak that had recently been cut in the back yard. Several sprouts came up on the stump and I decided to do a little experiment. I cut all of the sprouts except the best one. The next year some more sprouts appeared and I cut them, still leaving the original one sprout. After three years, I had a cherrybark sprout that was about 15 feet tall and was already making a nice tree.



After getting the adjacent landowner's permission, I extended this experiment to the cutover hardwood tract next door. The tract now has several nice-sized oaks rather than the typical early stage brush heap of a neglected cutover hardwood stand. This method of regeneration is referred to as coppice. The following information¹ gives more details on how to successfully regenerate a stand of hardwoods with the coppice method.

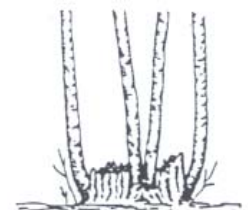


Stump sprouts are an important source of regeneration in many hardwood stands because most hardwood trees produce them. Maples, ashes, birches, basswood, and oaks are particularly prolific producers of stump sprouts. In many hardwood forests that were once logged, the trees that are dominant today sprouted from stumps of harvested trees.

Regeneration from stump sprouts results in clumps of several stems that gradually thin-out with age through natural mortality. Sprouts can grow more rapidly than seedlings of the same species because they use food reserves, water, and nutrients provided by the roots of the parent tree.

Since sprouts can develop from the stump, the condition of the stump is important. Flat, short stumps produce the best sprouts. (Note, however, that the method of felling is not important; sprouts will grow from stumps that are either sawn or sheared.) Also, more energy is available to produce sprouts if trees are harvested when they are dormant rather than during the spring or summer. There may be 4 to 15 sprouts on a single stump, varying by species. Stump sprouts connected in a "U" shape as shown by the two outside stems are acceptable choices for crop trees; but "V" connection sprouts (center) generally should not be considered.² So in this diagram either sprout number one **or** four should be left. The production of stump sprouts often decreases with increasing stump diameter and tree age. When mature forests are logged, stumps generally are widely spaced, so the resulting stump sprouts cannot occupy all the available space. Thus, stump sprouts can seldom be relied on as the only source of regeneration. When incorporating stump sprouts into a logging plan:

1 2 3 4



- Cut stumps flat and close to the ground.
- Avoid excessive damage to stumps from skidding or other activities.

¹ Adapted from – Logging for the 21st Century: Forest Ecology and Regeneration. 1995. Mathew Smidt & Charles R. Blinn. Minnesota Extension Service FO-6517-F.

² Illinois Forest Management Vol. 1, No. 16. Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

- Evaluate the potential for stump sprouting by considering tree species, tree age, stump diameter, and density and condition of small-diameter trees likely to produce the most sprouts.
- Harvest during the dormant season when possible.

Of course, unwanted species will also resprout. Along with management of wanted sprouts, management of unwanted species may be necessary also. Spot treatments with herbicides may be useful for this situation.

Intermediate Cultural Treatments for Hardwoods³

Although pine is our big money crop in the Louisiana timber industry, certain sites are suited to hardwoods. Moist sites along stream and river bottoms, coves and north- and east-facing slopes fall into this category.

Intermediate cultural treatments for hardwoods include pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning, release cutting, and improvement cutting. Present markets for small hardwoods are rarely good. The goal in hardwood management should be to produce high quality wood.

All of the intermediate cultural treatments should be aimed at stimulating the growth and maintaining the quality of the crop trees – the best trees of the preferred species that will make up the final harvest cut. Favored species include several oaks such as Cherrybark, Shumard, Nuttall, Southern Red, White and Cow Oaks, Yellow-Poplar and Ash. These crop trees should occupy a dominant or co-dominant position in the stand, be straight and tall with relatively small branches, and show signs of self pruning on the first 16-foot log. To produce quality trees, fire must be kept out of the stand and logging must avoid scarring of the crop trees. Thinning should not open up the stand so much that epicormic (sprout) branching is induced on the lower trunk. Pre-commercial thinning can be done to improve the growth and development of crop trees, but this cutting should be delayed until the crop trees can be identified as having dominant or co-dominant crowns within the stand. The stand will usually be 15 to 20 years old before this condition prevails.

In even-aged stands a commercial thinning for pulpwood should be made when the crop trees average 8 to 10 inches in diameter. Remove mainly 6- to 8-inch trees that compete with the crop trees. Where pulpwood markets are lacking, cut the less desirable trees for firewood. Repeat thinning may be made at 10-year intervals, but no cutting at all is usually better than the premature harvest of a large number of desirable 8-, 10-, 12- and 14-inch trees, which would usually be replaced by less desirable trees.

Previous cutting may have left a stand with a wide range of diameters and with many low quality trees. In such instances, a commercial improvement cut may be made to remove over-mature, damaged, and dying trees of marketable size and quality if enough vigorous, desirable trees are left to stock the stand. If necessary, a few high quality trees may be cut to attract buyers. Improvement cuts ultimately will mold a hardwood stand into even-aged groups of trees.

Make the final harvest cut when the average crop tree is about 20 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh). If there is no pressure to cut, you may wish to grow them to be 22 or 24 inches dbh. Every additional inch in such trees is extremely valuable. On poorer sites, your most profitable option may be to harvest the crop trees when they are only 16 inches dbh.

Selection of the type of harvest cut should be influenced by the regeneration requirements of the species in favor. Consider leaving some areas of large hardwoods for game food and shelter.

As always, a good consulting forester will be well worth the expense. Cutting/leaving the right trees is critical to the future of your hardwood forest. Also, you don't want to sell high grade hardwood for crossties. A good volume of high grade material can certainly legitimize a longer haul to a grade hardwood mill.

³ Information from Managing the Family Forest in the South, USDA Forest Service SA-GR 22, September 1982.

Louisiana Forestry Association Hosts “Critical Issues in Forestry” Meetings Throughout the State

About 125 people convened for the Shreveport Forestry Issues Meeting on April 9. An expert panel addressed questions and concerns about the current economic situation and what the future holds for Louisiana forestry. A few key suggestions for landowners during the economic downturn were:

1. Stay in contact with your timber manager and stay on track with your forest management plan.
2. You may be prone to see your forest stands less often with less activity going on. However, you should keep an eye on your stands in case of bug infestation, trespassing or dumping problems, etc.
3. Don't try to second guess the market.
4. Continue to seek professional advice on management and harvesting decisions.
5. Stay focused with your reforestation efforts.

Other considerations are:

1. Watch the housing market, projections are for a slight increase in 2010.
2. Although landowners can wait through a market slump, loggers can't and many loggers are leaving.
3. Good forestry helps us all. Severance taxes go toward parish road improvement, parish schools, the Forest Productivity Program and the state general funds.

The panel that addressed these questions and concerns included the following:

- Dr. Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry
- Steve Muslow, Louisiana Forestry Association president
- Ed Smith, Weyerhaeuser – Regional Manager for north Louisiana timberlands
- Lee Alexander, International paper – Manager, west region fiber supply
- Tony Lavespere, Louisiana Logging Council president
- Mike Merritt, Timberland Services
- Buck Vandersteen, Louisiana Forestry Association Executive Director

Several elected officials or their staff members were in attendance. The Louisiana Forestry Association is committed in working hard to help the Louisiana forestry community weather this economic situation.

Heflin Couple Creates Scholarship for 4-H'ers

Joe and Diane Beatty of Heflin, Louisiana, recently donated \$25,000 to the Louisiana 4-H Foundation to create an endowed scholarship for 4-H'ers from Webster and Bienville parishes. The donation is made in honor of Joe Beatty's parents, Ken and Mary Beatty.

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior with a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher who is enrolling as a full-time undergraduate student in any two- or four-year college in Louisiana and who has participated in 4-H in Webster or Bienville parish, said Eric Eskew, Louisiana 4-H Foundation executive director.

Recipients will be chosen by the 4-H Youth Development Scholarship Committee and approved by the LSU AgCenter chancellor, Eskew said. The scholarship will be for one academic year beginning with the fall semester. Recipients will be selected annually. Eskew said scholarship applications will be accepted for the 2010 school year.

“The Beatty gift will support a 4-H'er's ability to continue his or her education for decades to come,” Eskew said. “Mr. and Mrs. Beatty are perfect examples of how the skills and lifetime memories created by 4-H live on forever in those who were involved in the 4-H program. Their family should be proud of the legacy they will leave for the future leaders in Bienville and Webster parishes,” he added.

Joe is a member of the Northwest Louisiana Forestry Advisory Committee.

Free Outdoor Recreational Opportunities in June

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the Office of State Parks will jointly sponsor a free weekend of recreational opportunities during the first weekend in June. A free fishing weekend on June 6 and 7, along with a free day-use admission to any Louisiana State Park on June 6 are available for any Louisiana resident or nonresident. The basic fishing license requirement will be waived by LDWF on June 6 and 7 as an opportunity to introduce people into the sport who have never fished or to give others a chance to come back to the sport. The free day-use access to all state parks on June 6 is part of the agency's 75th anniversary celebration.

Events, Thoughts and Tidbits

*** The LSU AgCenter's Red River Research Station will hold a field day June 18 at the station in Bossier City. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. Planned topics for the field tours include: Weed control in row crops and pastures; Row crop variety trials; Early-season insect control in cotton; Seed treatments for nematode management in corn and soybeans; Dallis grass and fescue forage production; Soybean and southern pea breeding.

Field tour speakers will include LSU AgCenter research and Extension personnel. More information is available by calling (318) 741-7430. The station is located off U.S. Highway 71, 3 miles south of the Jimmie Davis Bridge, at 262 Research Station Drive.

***Initial claims for unemployment insurance in Louisiana jumped nearly 29.5 percent for the week ending April 4, says Louisiana Workforce Commission. Initial claims for the latest week totaled 5,910 compared with 4,563 for the previous week. State officials blamed most of the increase on sharply higher numbers of unemployed workers coming from the wood products industry and the transportation equipment industry, which includes the hard-hit automobile manufacturing sector, headed by the GM plant in Shreveport. For the comparable week a year ago, there were 2,365 initial filings for jobless benefits. Continued unemployment insurance weeks increased to 44,478 for the latest week, up from 43,295 and 20,568 for the comparable week ending April 5, 2008.

***I still have a few Forest*A*Syst CDs in my office. This is an interactive assessment tool to help landowners develop a forest management plan. I will distribute them on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you would like one, give me a call at (318) 965-2326 or email me at rkilpatrick@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Ricky Kilpatrick

Ricky Kilpatrick
Area Forestry Agent

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in a meeting, please contact the Bossier Parish Extension Office at (318) 965-2326 three days prior to the meeting.

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Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parishes**

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director
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