



# Region 2



**SGT. LANE KINCAID**

## REGION UPDATE

*By Sgt. Lane Kincaid*

**H**ello, from Region II. I'll start off by introducing myself. My name is Lane Kincaid and I am a Sergeant assigned to Lincoln Parish. I am taking the place of Sgt. Scott Mathews, who now serves as the LWAA vice-president. Now that I've introduced myself, let me give you an update from Region II.

As I write this update the time is changing fast. I'm not talking about daylight savings time. I'm talking about the long awaited time for hunting season. The vehicles that were once pulling nice big ski boats to the area lakes and rivers are now pulling four wheelers and duck boats. Dove season in Region II was average. Some fields produced limits and others just produced a bird or two per hunter. Agents in Region II stayed extremely busy checking hunters and several good baiting cases were made. Teal season was about the same as it always is in Northeast Louisiana. If you have water, you have birds. The teal hunters that were hunting in flooded agriculture fields had good hunts on just about every trip. Some of the cases made during the season

were non-toxic shot violations, take Grebe (No Season), and take (ducks) other than teal.

Region II had a great turnout for the annual National Hunting and Fishing Day that was held at the Region II office in Monroe, La. There were several vendors ready to show off all the tools of the trade for the hunters and fishermen on hand. Some of the activities for the day were shooting skeet, BB gun shoot, archery shoot, duck calling contest, and a casting contest. These and other activities are for all ages. If you have never attended a National Hunting and Fishing Day in your

area you are missing out. Attend next years National Hunting and Fishing Day in your area and bring a youngster along and introduce him or her to what the sports of hunting and fishing have to offer.

Deer and duck season will be in full swing when this issue is published. All of us in Region II wish you good luck and safe hunting. Report game and fish violations by calling Operation Game Thief at 1-800-442-2511. You never know. The deer that was illegally taken one day or night might have been the same deer that would have walked by you the next day.

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## Region 2 Continued

# Boating Safety Is For Hunters Too

By Sgt. Lane Kincaid

**B**oating safety is something that we as agents take seriously year around. Boating accidents and drownings don't just occur during the summer time boating season. A large number of Louisiana hunters use boats to access the areas that they hunt. Even though the waterways might not be as congested as they are during the summer the need for the proper safety equipment is still there.

Two of the most common boating safety violations that I come across during the hunting season are improper or no running lights and failing to comply with PFD (lifejacket) requirements. Running lights are required during times of restricted visibility, like rain or fog as well as when vessels are operating after sunset and before sunrise. The number one excuse that I'm given is "Well, I am using a spotlight". Spotlights are good while traveling in the dark but it only emits light in one direction. A spotlight alone doesn't meet

the running lights requirement. Proper running lights allow other boaters to know where you are and how you are traveling.

Failing to comply with PFD requirements should be the last violation an agent encounters during his hunting season patrols. The weather in Louisiana can change in just minutes. Times where paddling pirogues wearing shorts is comfortable can change to needing a crew boat and a blizzard suit in minutes. The need for the proper PFDs requirements might even be greater due to the lower air and water temperatures and the risk of hypothermia. Take the time to make sure that your boat has the required safety equipment before going out on the water. To find out more information concerning boating safety regulations visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov). Remember, a life-jacket won't work if you don't wear it!

Students at LSU at Eunice are learning the ins and outs of forensics, an ever-changing branch of law enforcements that focuses on the smallest of details – from footprints to DNA – with more precision than ever before thanks to constant advances in technology.

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# Captive Wild Deer: Harmful to LA Deer Herd, Illegal Owners and LA Sportsmen

By Sr. Agent John Volentine

Recently we received a complaint of a full grown deer held in captivity in a pen at a residence in Ouachita Parish. This is a complaint common throughout Louisiana and the rest the United States. It is nature's process for a female deer to allow its young to roam and become more independent. This is usually the transition period when most fawns are encountered by humans. Quite often people find fawns and yearlings in the wild and decide to take these deer home with them. A common excuse is they are concerned about the deer's well being and bring them home to rehabilitate or just keep as a pet. What people fail to realize is that removing these deer from the wild actually causes more harm than good.

Some of the dangers of holding wild deer in captivity include the risk of disease and high stress on the

animal. This is brought about by a reduction in their immune system from nutritional deficiencies caused by being confined to small space. Once these animals are removed from their natural habitat they are a risk to other wild animals if they are released from captivity. The person holding the wild animal captive believes they are doing a good deed but are essentially excluding the wild animal from its natural habitat. If these animals were to be released back into their natural domain they would be a health risk to rest of the wild deer herd due to disease caused by captivity.




LDWF employees respond to captive deer complaint.

Continued on page 52

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## Captive Wild Deer: Harmful to LA Deer Herd, Illegal Owners and LA Sportsmen

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Examples of the effects of deer held in captivity are Chronic Wasting Disease, an epidemic affecting deer herds throughout the United States.

This particular one and a half year old 5 point buck was tranquilized and removed from the residence by LDWF Biologists. The persons responsible were cited by LDWF Enforcement Agents and are being prosecuted through the 4th Judicial District Court System in Monroe, LA. The fine for possessing

any wild game quadruped is \$250-\$500 or jail but not less than 90 days or both plus court cost. The fine for possessing a spotted fawn is \$500-\$750 and jail but

not less than 15 days, or both for the first offense plus no court cost. As you can see, the fines and penalties make it not worth taking a live wild animal from the wild and keeping in your possession as a pet or trying to rehabilitate.

The deer held in captivity and the persons responsible will pay a price for altering nature's way. All captive deer are not returned to the wild deer herd in order to prevent the spread of disease. Finally, Louisiana's sportsmen pay the

ultimate price because that deer is one less sporting opportunity for Louisiana deer hunters caused by good intentions gone wrong.



Captive 5 point buck was tranquilized for removal.

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*View from duck blind on Wham Brake.*



*Sr. Agents Volentine & Jeansonne working Wham Brake on opening day.*

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