



Louisiana Operation Game Thief, Inc. and Enforcement Division Partners vs. Crime

By Lieutenant Colonel Keith LaCaze, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement

Conservation law enforcement in Louisiana has evolved and changed in many ways over the years. So has poaching. These changes have come about due to shifts in hunting practices, land usage, public and private ownership, leasing, expanding and diminishing wildlife populations, public interest and a multitude of other factors.

Wildlife enforcement professionals who have been around a

while (including me) like to think that common violations of years ago are not as prevalent today. Night hunting, close season hunting, baiting waterfowl and such are not as prevalent today as thirty years ago. Citation and arrest figures for these offenses support that observation. In part that reduction has been brought about by a strong law enforcement effort focused on those offenses.

Better training, equipment and communications at the enforcement ground level have

made the field agent far more effective in the fight. Prosecution, stiff sentences, publicity of heavier fines and penalties and restitution fees for illegally taken fish and wildlife have enhanced the deterrent factor and made more than one would-be poacher think about the consequences of crime.

But poaching, or the violation of fish and wildlife laws, is still occurring today. It has evolved to become more sophisticated along with our ability to thwart the offender. Today's poach-

ing definitely fits its original definition better than ever in that it is an increasing private land trespass issue. Leasing and private land ownership of prime hunting land has resulted in self policing of much of the good wildlife habitat in Louisiana. The trespassing poacher is the number one problem for many landowners and hunting leases.

Over bagging and taking wildlife in excess of season and daily limits remain modern day concerns for conserva-

Continued on page 14

INSTA-GATOR
RANCH & HATCHERY
AN EXCITING FAMILY ADVENTURE
 Covington, LA
 (New Orleans Northshore)

GUIDED TOURS & LIVE FEEDINGS!
INDIVIDUALS WELCOME
Group Discounts Available
 School Field Trips
 Scout & Church Groups
 Birthday Parties

GIFT SHOP
 Wallets • Belts • Purses • Meat • Toys

HUNDREDS OF GATORS
IN CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER
ACTIVE ALL YEAR ROUND

\$2.00 OFF for adults with this ad

CALL FOR TOUR TIMES!
(985) 892-3669
 888-448-1560 toll free

Feed 'em
Hold 'em
Hatch 'em
See a
Virtual Tour Movie @
www.Insta-GatorRanch.com

LOGT

Continued from page 13

tion law enforcement. An opening day duck hunt in the fall of 2005 by three offenders resulting in the slaughter of 45 ducks and a September '06 teal hunt by one man who allegedly killed 44 teal are the kinds of cases that remind us we must remain vigilant in the sportsman's paradise.

Commercialization of fish and wildlife are also very prevalent modern day offenses. These fish and wildlife sales are not the ones of earlier, simpler times when a poacher sold a deer, a pair of ducks or a few crappie in the neighborhood. The commercial offenses of the 21st century involve harvest and

sale of commercial and game fish resources with total disregard for seasons, limits and quotas designed to protect and conserve those limited fisheries. They involve the theft of valuable resources such as oysters or alligators from privately held leases or habitats managed to produce a livelihood for the lease holder or land owner. These are major crimes involving big money and big impact on fish and wildlife.

Since 1984, our loyal and constant partner in the battle to protect fish and wildlife has been Louisiana Operation Game Thief, Inc. Since its modest beginning in July of '84, LOGT has become one of the most



Communications Officer answering calls on the O.G.T. Hotline.

prestigious conservation organizations in Louisiana. LOGT members are private citizens from around the state. They are avid sportsmen with a strong commitment to wildlife resource protection.

Major Vincent Darby (now retired) was the

first Law Enforcement Division coordinator with LOGT. He administered the implementation of the reward program in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Following his retirement from the Enforcement

Continued on page 17



LOUISIANA LIFT
and equipment
INCORPORATED

RENTALS • SALES • PARTS • SERVICE



Forklifts, Aerial Equipment, Rough Terrain, Telehandlers
Service on all makes and models

Proudly Serving Louisiana's Commercial & Industrial Needs Since 1980
www.lalift.com • www.laliftcatalog.com

(504) 888-4870

3409 N I-10 Service Road W, Metairie, LA 70002

BBRV-SR-WM GA:KL

ASCENSION EQUIPMENT & RENT ALL



0%

FOR 24 MONTHS*

- Diesel Powered
- Tractor Transmission
- Hydraulic Lift Bed

THE LAST ATV

You will ever have to Buy! Plenty of Accessories



*WAC

12478 Airline Hwy 225-644-RENT (7368)
Gonzales, LA 70737 225-647-5881

www.ascensionequipment.com

24 Hour Service



A & M

COOLING & HEATING SPECIALISTS

Post Office Box 975
Patterson, Louisiana 70392

(504) 395-5639

ARVIN ALLEMAN
LENNIE ALLEMAN



Interface
SECURITY SYSTEMS

2112 North Bolton Avenue • Alexandria, LA 71303
318.445.0364 • Fax: 318.445.6593



Calvin Savoy
District Manager

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.

P.O. Box 1126 - Amelia, Louisiana 70340

From Amelia (985) 631-3605
From Other Locations 1-800-256-8836
Fax (985) 631-0963

e-mail: csavoy@sleca.com



Hall-Hargraves, LLC

Oilfield Operator/Producer
120 Hwy 1, North
Shreveport, LA 71107
318-995-7070

Shade Maker

RANDY FOLSE

We Specialize in:

CARPORTS • OVERHANGS • SCREEN & GLASS ROOMS
INSULATED ROOMS • INSULATED COVERS
VINYL SHUTTERS • SEAMLESS GUTTERS • VINYL SIDING
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • STORM DOORS/WINDOWS
PATIO COVERS • SOLAR SCREENS
HURRICANE SHUTTERS

Toll Free
1-866-742-3371

Office & Fax
(504) 431-9061

Ph#(318) 281-0422
Fax#(318) 281-1484

Lusby's Heating, Cooling & Electrical

Relax Its Rheem

33 Years of Service
Free Estimates

407 North Marable Street
Bastrop, LA 71220



engineering inc
A Professional Environmental Firm

P.O. Box 52805
Lafayette, LA 70505
PH 337.839.1075
FX 337.839.1072
www.hlpengineering.com

Thomas R. LaSalle, PE/PLS
tlasalle@hlpengineering.com

Licensed Contractor
Matt Canning

LAKWOOD LANDSCAPE
Flower Beds, Sprinkler Systems, Sod

Office (225) 654-6221
Fax (225) 654-6221

Zachary, LA

MATT MARCHAND
Owner



Double M Fish Co., L.L.C.

Wholesale • Retail

1817 LéGlise St.
Mansura, LA 71350

318-964-5282
800-827-0375

DELHI EXHAUST AND AUTO
108 Park Drive
Delhi, LA 71232
318-878-7006

TOMMY CORY

**PREJEAN & SON'S
PLUMBING**

(337) 235-1075

2517 W. Pinhook
Lafayette, LA 70508 #LMP4808



Troy Stine
Senior Investment Executive





4090 Nelson Road
Lake Charles, LA 70605

337-478-6464
Fax 337-478-8347
troy.stine@primevest.com

Securities and insurance products provided by PRIMEVEST.
Member SIPC.

**CLYDE
PALMER**
REAL ESTATE

235 Florida Ave., S.E., Suite B • Denham Springs, LA 70726

225-665-4747

Lynn Palmer Sibley
Associate Broker, GRI Cell: 225-954-0493
Fax: 225-667-2246
Email: lpsibley@bellsouth.net


MOORE & LaBRUYERE, LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Drake Building – 611 Main Street
P.O. Box 896
Minden, Louisiana 71058-0896

Office 377-0858
Fax 377-0860

e-mail: mandl@cox-internet.com

DAVID P. SMITH
A Professional Law Corporation

PERCY, SMITH & FOOTE
720 MURRAY STREET
P.O. BOX 1632, ALEXANDRIA, LA 71309
TELEPHONE (318) 445-4480 • FAX (318) 487-1741



Monday - Thursday 8-5
Friday & Saturday 8-12
Please call for appointment

JAMES VETERINARY CLINIC
David James D.V.M.

7107 Hwy. 1 Bypass Office (318) 357-8312
Natchitoches, LA 71457 Fax (318) 357-8113

Ascension
Real Estate Appraisals


Tom Maynard
L.A. Licensed Residential Appraiser



totommaynard@aol.com

phone: 225-673-8000
mobile: 225-229-0777
fax: 225-644-6009

2337 Darla Avenue • Gonzales, Louisiana 70737



D & B SEAFOOD
&
CONVENIENCE STORE

OWNERS:
**TIM & GLINDA
ARMOND**

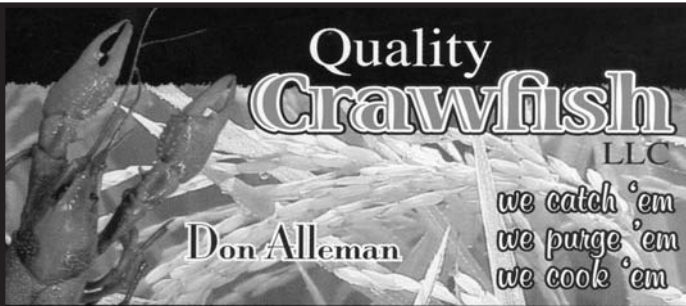
PHONE: (985) 385-1999 1601 HWY. 70
FAX: (985) 385-0322 MORGAN CITY, LA

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Joe Skibinski, LUTCF
Agent

1953 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Off. 225 387 0201 Fax 225 387 0277
Toll Free 888 281 0201 Pager 800 459 6820



**Quality
Crawfish**
LLC

Don Alleman

we catch 'em
we purge 'em
we cook 'em

P.O. Box 197 • Morse, LA 70559 • 337.501.7895 • 337.788.3070

LOGT

Continued from page 14

Division, Major Darby joined OGT as a member of the board of directors. He remains an active member today.

The primary mission of LOGT is to provide cash rewards for information leading to the apprehension of wildlife violators. Rewards range from a minimum of \$100 for a small game violation to a maximum of \$1,000. Minimum for big game offenses and other more serious violations is \$300. The funds for the reward payments are derived from donations and fund raising efforts by the members. LOGT members have always been resourceful

and innovative in fund raising. One of the early donations secured by the first LOGT President, Marc Dupuy Jr. of Marksville, was a \$1,000 check from then Governor Edwin W. Edwards. Gov. Edwards had pledged to personally underwrite the first \$1,000 reward paid. When that reward was paid in July of 1985 for information leading to the arrest of seven people on 19 counts of illegal sales of game meat, Mr. Dupuy knocked on the Governor's door seeking fulfillment of the promise. Edwards handed over the check.

Since then, LOGT has raised money through raffles, donations from major timber

and land companies, associate memberships and other wildlife organizations. A long standing agreement with the Louisiana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation provides a matching reward agreement for wild turkey violations. This deal doubles the cash amount for tips on turkey violations and has resulted in the successful apprehension of many turkey poachers.

Both state and federal wildlife enforcement agents support LOGT. It is a very useful tool in our tool box and the offer of cash will frequently loosen the tongue of a reluctant informant who may not tell all he knows other-

wise. The Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association (LWAA) has supported LOGT through donations. US Fish and Wildlife Service Agents, particularly Special Agent Phillip Siragusa, of Lafayette, have raised thousands for LOGT through innovative sentencing in Federal Court. In numerous cases, plea agreements have required offenders to make cash donations to LOGT as a condition of probation. These plea agreements are particularly agreeable to law enforcement, since they put the cost of the program on the backs of offenders.

In recent years

Continued on page 18

GATOR TRAX
BFC MARINE, INC. • SPRINGFIELD, LA
Call for a dealer nearest you! **225-294-9991**
"Gator Trax . . . Making waves where the competition can't!"
31 VANGUARD
Powered by the New Mudbuddy Hyperdrive - up to 35hp Available!
• .125 Aluminum • Slick Bottom • Air Boat Style Rake
• One Piece Hull • Longitudinal Braces • Custom Options Available
• Rounded Chines to Prevent Dents
Experience the difference in a TRUE shallow water duck boat and a bass boat painted camouflage!
www.gatortraxboats.com

VFW Post 5174
Pearl River, Louisiana
Eligible? www.vfw.org or stop in.
The general public is always welcome.

LOGT

Continued from page 17

LOGT has benefited from legislation which provides for funding for crime stopper organizations around the state. Act 50 of the 2002 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorizes Louisiana courts to add an additional \$2 cost of court to be paid by persons convicted of criminal and traffic offenses for the benefit of crime stoppers organizations. LOGT has been careful to avoid competition with local crime stoppers groups in the highly urbanized areas of the state. But it has been the recipient of Act 50 funds in the rural parishes where no local crime stoppers organiza-

tions are established and where hunting and fishing takes place.

The hard work and various funding methods employed by LOGT have resulted in a stable bank account for the reward fund, in spite of paying more than \$215,000 in rewards to informants since the inception of the program in 1984. This has allowed the membership to focus attention on other related wildlife enforcement issues. A major concern of both LOGT and wildlife law enforcement has been lack of prosecution for wildlife offenses. When valid charges are dismissed or minimal fines are handed down in wildlife cases, the results

are not good. Officer morale is affected by lack of support from district attorneys and courts. Offenders are not discouraged from repeating the offenses. Landowners, law abiding sportsmen and wildlife are the losers when prosecution is dysfunctional. LOGT has focused efforts on increasing and improving prosecution at the state and federal levels.

Another LOGT former president, Dr. George Dugal of Lafayette, spearheads LOGT's letter writing department. Dr. Dugal carefully monitors the Department's news releases. When he spots a news release highlighting prosecution, with

stiff penalties and tough probation terms, Dr. Dugal fires off an "attaboy" letter to the judge and prosecuting attorney in the case. This positive reinforcement and acknowledgement of a job well done has been very beneficial to our overall enforcement effort. The judges and district attorneys appreciate recognition of good work and realize that there are sportsmen out there who care and are watching.

Other Charter Members of LOGT still active with the organization today are Bill Chapman, of Sulphur, and Pat Blake of Baton Rouge. They continue to

Continued on page 19



TROY CAGE
Licensed Tree Surgeon
Insured & Bonded

24 Hour Emergency Service
318-396-5619

268 Wood Ridge Lane
West Monroe, LA 71291



Tanner Heavy Equipment

SITE CONTRACTOR EARTHWORK & HEAVY CONTRACTS

7:00AM - 5:00PM
MONDAY - THURSDAY
7:00AM - 3:30PM
FRIDAY

337-537-1249
239 TANNER ROAD • LEESVILLE, LA 71446

LOGT

Continued from page 18

hold office, raise funds, chair committees and recruit new members. The many other long serving members of LOGT contribute their time, money and hard work to keep LOGT alive and current on conservation issues.

That kind of team work is the product of the long standing partnership between LOGT and wildlife enforcement agents. Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Enforcement Division of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries would not be nearly as effective without our long stand-

ing partner, Louisiana Operation Game Thief.

And remember to report wildlife violations 24/7 at 1-800-442-2511 or contact your nearest wildlife enforcement agent. You too can be eligible for a cash reward. Send tax deductible donations to LOGT c/o Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000. For more information about LOGT or to attend the next quarterly meeting, contact Lieutenant Colonel Keith LaCaze at 225- 765- 2988 or kla-caze@wlf.louisiana.gov.

Ascension Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL

225-647-3576 Office
225-647-6528
225-647-6013 Fax

2140 S. Philippe Ave.
Gonzales, LA 70737

PO Box 192
Gonzales, LA 0707-0192



**AMERICAN
ALLOY STEEL**

ASME/ASTM Quality Carbon & Alloy Steels

Office: 225-642-0200

Fax: 225-642-0300

Donald H. Hoffman, Jr.
District Manager - Southern District
225-936-6365, donniah@aasteel.com

Mike Sokol
Sales Representative
337-380-0824

7105 St. Gabriel Street
PO Box 389 • St. Gabriel, LA 70773
www.aasteel.com



TRI C MACHINE, INC.

Graig Ordoyne
CNC LATHE
CNC MILL

124 Capital Blvd.
Houma, LA 70360
985-879-1588
985-851-7807 Fax
985-852-6022 Cell