Outdoor Life 2024

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
2024

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
THE BOSSIER PRESS-TRIBUNE
AND
THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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INSIDE

- Hunting Licenses, Permits and Tags
- How to Purchase a License, Qualify for Residents Rates and Replace a Lost License — 3
- Learning to Squirrel Hunt — 4
- Ouachita River Named Bassmaster Tournament Location
- Support Wildlife and Healthy Ecosystems — 5
- Recreational License Fees — 6
- Outdoors in Minden
- Visit Bodcau Wildlife
- North Louisiana Fishing — 11
- Red River South Marina & Resort
- Red River National Wildlife Refuge — 12
- How to Prepare a Child for Hunting
- Make Camping Fun — 13
- Stay Safe
- How to Field Dress Wild Game — 14
- Dream Hunt Foundation — 15

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Hunting Licenses, Permits and Tags

Residents and nonresident hunters age 18 or older must have a Basic Hunting License to hunt, take, possess or transport any wild birds or quadrupeds (for which hunting is permitted and seasons are opened).

All youth (age 17 and younger) who are actively harvesting deer or turkey, participating in a lottery hunt, or trapping are required to have a Youth Hunting License. Youth who are spectating (not actively hunting) are not required to have a license.

* Additional special licenses are required to hunt, take, possess, or transport deer, turkey, or migratory waterfowl.

• Hunters must have licenses (or license numbers) and a physical form of identification on their person while hunting.
• No person born on or after September 1, 1969, shall hunt unsupervised unless that person has been issued a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Hunter Education course approved by LDWF. Please see • Mandatory Hunter Education for exceptions, requirements, and methods for taking approved hunter education courses.
• Licenses are available at special rates for seniors, military, students, and people with disabilities. Lifetime licenses are also available.

The following individuals are not required to have a hunting license:

• Residents and nonresidents under age 18 (i.e. age 17 and under) who are hunting game animals besides deer or turkey or are spectators of another person hunting
• Residents born before June 1, 1940 who have lived in Louisiana for 6 months.
• However, these individuals must have proof of age in their possession whenever hunting.

How Do I Purchase Hunting License?

ONLINE
At LDWF Headquarters at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge and many local retailers.
**This does not apply to most military, student, disability, and lifetime licenses. See Special Licenses for details.*

Online payment options include Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express; these purchases include a small handling fee.

If you purchase your license online (via smartphone, laptop, tablet, etc.), you will not receive a license in the mail. You will receive a text with a temporary authorization number and an email with the temporary authorization number and a PDF of your licenses, which you can print and/or save to the electronic device you take hunting.

Louisiana citizens with a Louisiana driver's license or ID card can also now use the LA Wallet app to display their purchased LDWF licenses on their smartphone.

How Do I Qualify For Resident Rates?

To purchase a license at the resident rate, you must meet the bona fide residency requirements defined below and present one of the following valid forms of identification:

> Louisiana driver's license (valid for 6 months or more)
> Louisiana identification card (issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety)
If you obtain a resident license but do not comply with the bona fide residency requirements as stated below, you will be subject to criminal and/or civil sanctions.

BONA FIDE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:
You're a bona fide resident if you've resided in the state of Louisiana continuously during the 6 months immediately prior to the date you apply for any license and if you've established Louisiana as your legal domicile. You must demonstrate compliance with all of the following, as applicable:

> If you're registered to vote, you're registered to vote in Louisiana
> If you're licensed to drive a motor vehicle, you have a valid Louisiana driver's license
> If you own a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, you have a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle
> If you earn an income, you have filed a Louisiana state income tax return and have complied with state income tax law and regulations.

Any person, corporation, or other legal entity that possesses a resident license from any other state or country shall not qualify for a resident license in Louisiana.

How Do I Replace a Lost License?

If you lost your license, you can purchase a duplicate for $2 per license. If you purchased it online or through a mobile device, you can reprint it for free. No duplicates are allowed for temporary licenses.

Did You Know?

Hunting licenses are valid from the date of purchase and expire one year (365 days) from the date of purchase. If you purchase your license online, you can select an option to have your license renewed automatically every year.

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Next time you renew your driver's license at the Office of Motor Vehicles, you can add a Lifetime Hunting/Fishing, Boater Education, and/or Hunter Education endorsement to your license for free. If you have one or more of these endorsements, you do not have to carry the applicable license or certification card with you as long as you have your driver's license.

In addition, Louisiana citizens with a Louisiana driver's license or ID card can now use the LA Wallet app to display their purchased LDWF licenses on their smartphone.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

Learning to Hunt Squirrels by Watching How Dad Did It

A couple of weeks ago, a seminar for Beginner Squirrel Hunting was held in Minden at the office of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The seminar outlined the subjects to be covered during the session. It includes such things as equipment needed, firearm selection, rules and regulations, proper squirrel hunting techniques and cleaning squirrels.

There were no seminars available to learn how to hunt squirrels when I was growing up in rural Natchitoches Parish. Our learning was at the feet of our dads, older brothers or maybe uncles who took youngsters like myself under their wings to teach them the ropes.

It was my dad who was my tutor in the squirrel woods and he started me and my brother out when we were just little mop-haired kids. When Tom and I learned that daddy was going squirrel hunting and invited us to go with him, it was like Christmas in October. I remember the excitement of actually getting to go to the woods with dad and watch him as he did battle with wild squirrels. When we started going with him, he carried the only gun; we weren't allowed to even take our BB guns.

The weather in early October was usually cool and our jackets felt cozy and good as we followed him step by step as he gingerly eased through the woods.

"Watch out for that stick….you step on it and it cracks and it'll scare every squirrel in the woods," he'd whisper.

We would finally make our way to a fallen log that lay beneath a grove of oaks or hickories where squirrels were likely to be hanging out. I remember how much fun it was just to be sitting there on a log, my brother and me, next to our dad. If Tom or I said anything, we'd get a "shush" from him. "Just stay quiet and keep your eyes on the trees and look for movement."

A branch would jiggle and Tom and I would get excited. Dad would whisper for us to watch the jiggling branch and how it moved and he'd ask if we saw what was shaking the branch. Thinking I was looking at a squirrel, a blue jay fluttered away.

"A bird moves a branch differently than a squirrel does. If it's a squirrel, it will likely be on the end of the branch getting an acorn or hickory nut and if you looked closely, you could see it move to a larger branch and begin eating. A bird just bounces around there and then flies away," he whispered.

Momentarily, we would hear a sound for which our young ears were not trained. It sounded like something scratching. Dad would point to the source of the sound as a squirrel scurried up the trunk.

"Y'all sit still and watch," he'd say as he eased up from the log, his shotgun at port arms and he'd ease along, using other trees and saplings as a shield until he stopped, raised the gun and fired. A fat fox squirrel would tumble to the ground to the delight of two little guys.

As we grew older, we were allowed to take our .22 rifles and under dad's watchful eye, we tried to mimic what we had learned until finally with practice, both Tom and I learned to successfully hunt squirrels and we owe it all to a dad who took the time to teach us.

-- **By Glenn Harris**

OUACHITA RIVER NAMED SITE OF 2024 BASS PRO SHOPS BASSMASTER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

MONROE, La. — B.A.S.S. has announced the 2024 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Team Championship will be held on the Ouachita River in Monroe, La., Dec. 4-7, with the winner filling the last spot in the 2025 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Jockey Outdoors. The Team Championship marks the first time a Bassmaster event has been held on the Ouachita River since the Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Championship presented by Lowrance was held there in November 2021.

"Northeast Louisiana is known as a sportsman's paradise, and what better way to show it than having anglers from across the country experience it firsthand," said Scott Bruscato, executive vice president of sales for Discover Monroe-West Monroe.

"Discover Monroe-West Monroe is excited to be the host organization for the Bassmaster Team Championship, and we look forward to providing (the kind of) hospitality you can only receive in Louisiana."

Battling for that coveted berth in the Bassmaster Classic will be the grass-roots anglers competing at the Bassmaster Team Championship. The team portion of the event will be held Dec. 4-5 and will feature anglers from across the country. The winning duo will not only win a cash prize, but will also lead the charge into the Classic Fish-Off which will take place Dec. 6-7.

The Top 3 teams through Day 2 — six anglers in all — will have their weights zeroed and then compete individually in the Fish-Off. The competitor with the heaviest two-day total of the group will earn their spot in the Classic.

In 2023, that honor went to 17-year-old Aaron Yavorsky, who became the youngest angler to ever qualify for the Bassmaster Classic, and, along with his teammate and father Rodney Yavorsky, also won the team title and the $25,000 cash prize.

"The Team Championship is a proving ground for up-and-coming anglers, and some really great competitors have gotten their beginnings in competitive fishing right here," said B.A.S.S. Tournament Manager GL Compton. "We're excited to be heading to the Ouachita River and are looking forward to the experience and the great community support that Monroe provides during this great event."

Since it was launched in 2014, the Team Championship has seen tremendous growth. Originally, 38 trails were signed up. That number grew to 78 trails (with more than 15,494 members) last season when the annual Team Championship drew over 240 two-angler teams to the Harris Chain of Lakes in Florida.

The Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Team Championship is being hosted by Discover Monroe-West Monroe.

FALL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Simple Steps to Support Wildlife and Healthy Ecosystems

As the fall season begins, it's a perfect time to adopt conservation practices that not only prepare your yard for the colder months but also benefit local wildlife and the environment. One of the easiest and most effective methods is leaving fallen leaves on the ground. Allowing leaves to decompose naturally helps fertilize plants, reduce flooding, and create habitats for insects and animals.

Leave Leaves for Wildlife and Soil Health

Fallen leaves act as a natural fertilizer, enriching the soil with nutrients as they break down. They also serve as habitats for overwintering insects like butterflies, moths, beetles, and worms. In northwest Louisiana, many local bird species forage through the leaves for food. By leaving leaves where they fall, you promote biodiversity and help support the entire food web.

If leaving leaves everywhere isn't feasible, consider gently raking them into garden beds, under trees, or shrubs where they can act as mulch. This is a great way to create natural "carpets" that conserve moisture and reduce erosion. If necessary, leaves can also be mulched with a lawnmower or added to compost piles for future use.

Focus on Native Plants and Sustainable Gardening

Another crucial fall activity is focusing on native plants. Native species provide essential food and shelter for local wildlife, including birds, bees, and butterflies. Fall, especially September, is an ideal time to plant native species, allowing their roots to establish before the winter.

Plants that bloom throughout the season, including shrubs and trees, offer food and shelter to animals. When selecting plants, aim for at least 70% to be native to the region. Additionally, bird feeders and water sources such as birdbaths can support local wildlife through the colder months. It's important to use quality seeds and regularly refresh the water to avoid attracting pests or creating stagnant breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Create Habitats and Safe Spaces for Animals

Fall is the perfect time to enhance your yard with layers of vegetation—small trees, large trees, shrubs, and evergreens—that provide shelter for wildlife. Incorporating natural elements such as large rocks also offers shelter for insects and small creatures.

Before trimming trees or bushes, check for nesting or burrowing animals. Leaving leaves under and around trees provides warmth and shelter to wildlife through the winter months. Consider incorporating mulch or compost to protect soil health and offer safe havens for insects that play vital roles in the garden's ecosystem.

By adopting these simple conservation practices, homeowners can help maintain a healthy ecosystem, support local wildlife, and reduce the impact on the environment throughout the fall season and beyond.

RECREATIONAL LICENSE FEES

**** Licenses valid for 365 days from purchase.***

	Resident, Military & Student	Non-Resident	Non-Resident Native 10-Day	Non-Resident 5-Day
FISHING				
Hook & Line / Roadside Crabbing	$5.00		$5.00	
Basic Fishing (*includes all freshwater gear; required for all fishermen*)	$17.00	$68.00	$17.00	$30.00
Saltwater Fishing (*includes all saltwater gear; crab traps, shrimp trawl and oyster tong; required for all saltwater fishermen in addition to Basic Fishing*)	$15.00	$60.00	$15.00	$30.00
Charter 3-Day Saltwater (*includes NR Charter Skiff 3-Day*)	$20.00			
Charter 3-Day Freshwater	$10.00			

NOTE: ***Persons 17 and under are not required to purchase a fishing license.***

HUNTING				
Basic Hunting (*required for all hunters; additional licenses are required to hunt deer, waterfowl and turkey*)	$20.00	$200.00	$20.00	$65.00
Deer (*includes archery and primitive; includes tags; required for all deer hunters in addition to Basic Hunting*)	$15.00	$100.00	$15.00	$35.00
Waterfowl (*required for all waterfowl hunters in addition to Basic Hunting*)	$12.00	$50.00	$12.00	$35.00
Turkey (*includes tags; required for all turkey hunters in addition to Basic Hunting*)	$12.00	$50.00	$12.00	$35.00
Youth Hunting (*ages 17 and under; required for hunting deer, turkey, trapping and WMA youth lottery hunts; includes tags*)	$5.00			
Federal Electronic Duck Stamp	$27.72			
Harvest Information Program (HIP)	FREE			
Hunting Preserve (Oct. 1 - April 30)		$15.00		

NOTE: ***Youth (ages 17 and younger) who are actively harvesting deer or turkey, participating in a lottery hunt or trapping are required to have the Youth Hunting license. Youths who are spectating (not actively hunting) are not required to have a license.***

RECREATION ON LDWF ADMINISTERED LANDS				
WMA Access Annual Permit (*this permit is included in the Sportsman's Paradise License, Senior Hunt/Fish License and all lifetime licenses; not required for youths 17 and under*)	$20.00			
WMA Access 5-Day Permit (*valid for a five-consecutive-day period*)	$5.00			
WMA Camping Permit (*required for each camping party of up to five adults camping together. Youths 17 and under are not required to have a camping permit.*)	$7.00/day			

NOTE: ***Either a WMA Access Annual or 5-day Permit is required for all users of LDWF administered lands, including wildlife management areas, refuges and wetlands conservation areas. Persons 17 and under are not required to purchase WMA permits.***

COMBINATION LICENSES (all privileges above **EXCEPT** Lottery Hunts and WMA Camping Permit)				
Sportsman's Paradise	$100.00	$400.00	$100.00	$120.00
Senior Hunt/Fish (*born before June 1, 1940*)	FREE			
Senior Hunt/Fish (*born between June 1, 1940 and May 31, 1962*)	$5.00			
Senior Hunt/Fish (*65+ on or after June 1, 2027; not available until June 1, 2027*)	$20.00			
Resident or Native-Born Retired Military	$20.00			
Disabled (*blind, paraplegic, amputee, artificial limb(s), permanent brace(s), KIA surviving spouse*)	$4.00			
Disabled Veteran (*issued at no cost to the consumer; paid by LWFF*)	$4.00			
Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Combo License (*from birth to age 64; includes deer and turkey tags*)	$500.00	$4,000.00		
Senior Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Combo License (*65 and older; includes deer and turkey tags*)	$100.00	$4,000.00		

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MudBuddy

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Stk. #5814

Was $2,399

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Stk. #RGR10938G223

Was $29,300 NOW $24,500

Ranger BOATS

NEW 2023 Triton 179TRX Bass Boat

Stk. #TRT25074F223

Was $46,900 NOW $33,000

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Danny Ezell - Technician • **Trip Bowman** - Technician

WEBSTER PARISH FAIR

Your ticket to good times!

2024 WEBSTER PARISH FAIR DAILY EVENTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1
FAIR PARADE DOWNTOWN MINDEN AT 5:00 P.M.
LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN AT 5:00 P.M.
POULTRY AND RABBIT SHOW AT 6:00 P.M.
NO RIDES UNTIL WEDNESDAY

GATE ENTRANCE FEE: $2 Rest of Week

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
RIDES START AT 6:00 P.M. "ARMBAND NITE"
4-H SWINE SHOWMANSHIP AT 6:00 P.M.
THEN SWINE WEIGHT CLASSES (LIVESTOCK ARENA)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
SENIOR CITIZENS DAY 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 1:30 P.M. (CIVIC CENTER)
RIDES START AT 6:00 P.M. "ARMBAND NITE"
4-H GOAT, LAMB, BEEF SHOWMANSHIP AT 6:00 P.M.
4-H DAIRY, AND DOUG SALE SHOWMANSHIP AT 7:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
BUYER'S LUNCHEON AT 11:30 A.M.
LIVESTOCK AUCTION AT 1:00 P.M. (4-H SHOW BARN)
RIDES START AT 6:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
FAIR GATES OPEN AT 1:00 P.M.
KIDS DAY! 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M.
PIZZA EATING CONTEST AT 2:00 P.M. SPONSORED BY JOHNNY'S PIZZA

(Dates are subject to cancellation)

WEBSTER PARISH FAIR PARADE

DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

START TIME: 5:00 P.M.

LINE UP: 3:30 P.M.

NAME OF GROUP: _____

NAME OF SPONSOR (IF ANY): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

APPROX. NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN GROUP: _____

DESIGNATE:

DRILL TEAM FLOAT BAND

MARCHING GROUP AUTO OR TRUCK

SEND ENTRIES BY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

MAIL TO: Alvin Maynor
106 Shirley Dr.
MINDEN, LA 71055
OR EMAIL: alwanynor@gmail.com

INFORMATION: Alvin Maynor
PHONE: 318-268-0954

****NOTE****

THE PARADE'S PACE WILL BE SLOW ENOUGH FOR YOUR GROUP TO PERFORM ROUTINES. THEREFORE, WHEN THE PARADE IS STARTED THERE WILL BE NO STOPPING OF ANY GROUP. A CLOSE INTERVAL MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES. IF ANY GROUP CANNOT COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FUTURE FAIR PARADES. IF PLANNING ON HAVING THROWS YOU MUST HAVE WALKERS ON EACH SIDE OF FLOAT FOR CROWD CONTROL. IF PARADE IS STOPPED, THEN YOU MUST STOP GIVING OUT THROWS UNTIL FLOAT IS MOVING.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Outdoors in Minden, Louisiana

With year-round hunting, fishing, golf and countless other opportunities for outdoor recreation, it is easy to see why Louisiana's nickname is "Sportsman's Paradise." Sure, that's a lot to live up to. But with thousands of hiking and biking trails, beautiful State Parks, and one of the largest game preserves in the United States, Louisiana is the ultimate playground for all outdoorsmen. Our vast expanse of coastal wetlands and countless birding trails make our state a habitat for many rare and endangered species and a natural paradise for bird watchers as well. Come step into the wild outdoors of Louisiana. With its distinctive red-bricked Main Street lined with shops, banks and churches, old-time charm pervades downtown Minden. History buffs will find plenty to explore in Minden's historic districts with their antebellum and Victorian-era homes--- or at Minden Cemetery, which includes soldiers' graves from Civil War battles fought nearby. Just outside Minden, the Germantown Colony and Museum offers a glimpse of what life was like in an early 19th century settlement created by followers of the German-based Utopian Movement. Minden is also a gateway to outdoor recreation galore at destinations like Dorcheat Bayou and Lake Bistineau, teeming with largemouth bass and the Caney Lakes Recreation Area with its numerous trails, campsites and lakes. The Webster Parish Fair comes to Minden in October with rides, games and a parade through downtown, while the Moess Art Center and City Farm combines art and agriculture and hosts annual events like the Spring Arts Festival.

Visit Bodcau Wildlife Management Area

LOCATION
9961 Hwy 80
Minden LA 71055

Bodcau WMA gets its name from Bodcau Bayou, the major bayou that bisects it from its northernmost point at the Arkansas-Louisiana state line to its southernmost tip nearly 30 miles to the south. The area is long and narrow with an average width of 1-1/2 miles. Ivan Lake is on Bodcau WMA, and there is also a manmade dam and seasonal flood reservoir which were built to control downstream flooding. Bodcau WMA contains a wide range of wildlife habitat ranging from cypress swamps to upland pine and hardwood forests interspersed with grasslands and open fields. There are numerous seasonally flooded sloughs, beaver ponds, and large areas of flatland, bottomland, hardwood forests. The main bottomland tree species include bald cypress and water, overcup, willow, and cow oaks. Shortleaf and loblolly pine; white, red, and cherrybark oaks; sweetgum; and elm trees dominate upland forests. Understory species in the bottomland area include poison ivy, honeysuckle, rattan, buttonbush, and swamp privet. Upland understory species include blackberry, honeysuckle, poison ivy, beautyberry, and sawbriar. Activities: hunting & trapping, shooting range, fishing & boating, birding & Wildlife viewing, and camping.

ACTIVITIES:
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Bicycling
Birding
Natural Wildlife Viewing
Swamp Walks

Contact
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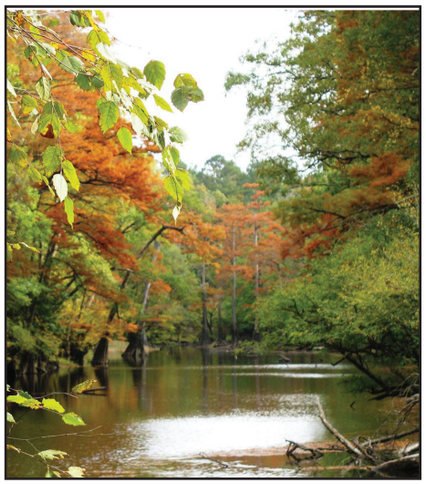


North Louisiana Fishing You Can Bank On

In north Louisiana, there is great fishing in some of the most scenic places you can imagine. And often, these spots are available without a boat. Several popular state parks have public fishing piers for catching game fish like bream, crappie, catfish and bass. The experience is different from fishing the hotspots out in the lake, but there are plenty of fish to be caught. And a family outing on the pier is one sure to make memories.

Here are five north Louisiana bank fishing spots you should try:

• The pier at the **Lake Bistineau State Park,** near Minden, is in a protected cove on the meandering 15,000-acre lake, one of the oldest in the state dating back to 1935. Its moss-laden cypress trees provide great cover and a scenic backdrop for bass, bream and red-ear sunfish, catfish, yellow bass.

• **Jimmie Davis State Park** on Caney Lake near Chatham doesn't offer one fishing pier—their waterfront cabins come with their own. The area offers bank fishing in the richest big bass waters in the state. It isn't likely you'll catch a 10 pounder off the bank, but in the spring you never know.

• **Lake Claiborne State Park** at Homer sports three fishing piers on the 6,400-acre lake. Bass, bream, yellow bass and white perch are common catches here. This park also has some of the most splendid nature areas when the fish aren't biting.

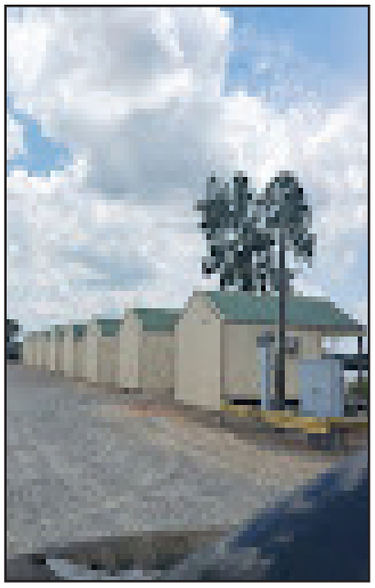
• You'll find five of the longest freshwater fishing piers in the state at **Lake D'Arbonne State Park** between Farmerville and Bernice. They are long enough for plenty of fishermen to have lots of options for fishing. Bream and white perch fishing are good here in the spring along with catfishing.

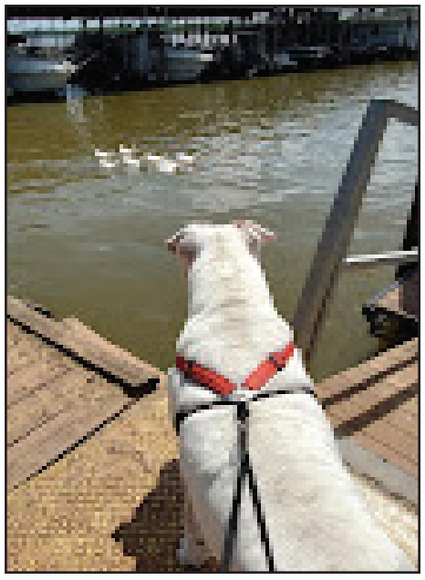
• **Poverty Point Reservoir State Park** at Delhi has a fishing pier in one of the newest lakes in the state. This spot has the reputation as one of the best white perch lakes. Bream and bass can also be caught here. And if the pier isn't enough, you can fish from your own deck if you rent one of the over-the-water cabins on the 2,700-acre lake.

WELCOME to Red River South Marina & Resort

Welcome to the heart of the Sportsman's Paradise on the Red River in Northwest Louisiana. This is Red River South Marina & Resort, just minutes from downtown Shreveport, LA. Whether you are looking for place to host a local one-day fishing tournament, four-day national event, or just wanting a weekend getaway, we can help.

We offer 2-double boat ramps (B.A.S.S. Approved), covered slip rentals with water/electric, 36 rental cabins, 49 rv spaces for rent, convenience store, live bait, tackle shop, on-water, pavilion for tournaments, paved parking for 200 vehicles and overflow parking.





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(318) 742-1219

Explore the great outdoors at a local nature conservation area protected by the National Wildlife Refuge. The center features over five miles of trails, fishing, wildlife viewing, and environmental education. Discover more about the wildlife that calls the refuge home by enjoying the exhibits at the Visitor Center! Hunting is permitted in designated areas on some units of the refuge, and Fishing is permitted during certain times of the year at the refuge. Just a short walk down the Lake Bluff Trail (Green Trail) at the Headquarters Unit is the Nature Discovery Play Area, a small nature-themed playground that includes a tree house, faux fishing boat, balance beams, hollow logs, among other things.

ACTIVITIES
Bicycling
Birding
Natural Wildlife Viewing
Swamp Walks
Parks & Trails
Hiking/Nature Trail
National Wildlife Refuge

How to Prepare for a Child's First Hunting Trip

Millions of individuals across the globe are avid hunters. The passion many of those people have for hunting began on their first childhood hunting trip, and countless hunters fondly recall this milestone moment in their lives.

If there's a first time for everything, parents know that kids' initial forays into any activity comes with ups and downs. Hunting is no exception to that trend, but parents can consider these measures as they prepare their youngsters to go hunting for the first time.

• Emphasize the importance of safety. Safety is of the utmost importance on any hunting trip. Kids should be aware of all safety protocols pertaining to their guns and the hunting grounds. Hunter's education courses can teach kids about hunting safety, but parents can quiz youngsters in the days leading up to the trip to reinforce safety protocols.

• Explain how hunting trips typically unfold. Giving kids an idea of how a hunting trip may unfold is another good idea. Explain the timing of the trip and why it's beginning when it is. Kids without such knowledge may be less enthusiastic about early morning hunting

excursions if they don't understand why they need to get out of bed early on a day off. But they might be more excited if they recognize they're more likely to see wildlife and enjoy a successful trip if they're willing to sacrifice sleeping in.

• Bring some extra activities for kids to do. Screens are a no-no, as they could deter wildlife. But hunting requires patience, which is not exactly a virtue many youngsters possess. So bring some books along or encourage kids to keep a diary of their first trip, describing it in detail so they have something to look back on as they get older.

• Purchase comfortable hunting attire. Kids will likely be wearing new attire on their first trip, so parents should have them try the clothing on prior to the trip. When shopping for hunting clothing, make sure it meets all safety standards and is functional for hunters, but don't overlook comfort. Hunting involves a lot of waiting, and the trip will be more enjoyable for everyone if kids are comfortable throughout the slow periods.

• Recognize the day could be emotional. A child's first hunting trip can be an emotional roller coaster, as kids may feel excited, bored, nervous, sad, and even guilty at any point during the day. Parents must allow kids to express any of these emotions during the day and emphasize that it's alright to express their emotions.

A child's first hunting trip is a milestone moment. Parents can take steps leading up to the trip to ensure their children are ready for what's to come.

4 Unique Products That Make Camping Fun

Perhaps no experience connects people with nature in quite the same way as camping. Various activities, including hiking, fishing and kayaking, afford people a chance to experience the great outdoors. But there's just something about spending all day in nature and then sleeping under the stars that sets camping apart from other outdoor activities.

Modern campers use many of the same products that have been popular for decades if not longer to make their camping experiences enjoyable. Tents, compasses and cooking equipment are all as necessary today as they were years ago. But various unique products are now available to add a new twist to camping excursions without taking away the old school charm of spending a few days and nights in nature.

1. Foldable kayak: A foldable kayak is tailor-made for campers who love to go kayaking but don't necessarily want to lug their kayaks around. Compact and easily packed, foldable kayaks are typically lightweight and some can even be checked on a plane.

That's ideal for campers who are flying to an exotic camping destination but don't want to pay to rent a kayak.

2. Inflatable hammock: Comfort and camping don't always go hand in hand. But inflatable hammocks allows campers to tote along a touch of backyard relaxation on their next camping trip. Inflatable hammocks are typically resistant to rips and tears and can be easily inflated. Some may remain inflated for as long as eight hours, which is more than enough time to catch an afternoon nap at the campsite.

3. Tree tent: Veteran campers know that finding flat ground on which to set up a tent is vital to a comfortable night's rest. Such campers also know that flat ground isn't alway so easy to find. Tree tents take flat ground out of the equation, making them an ideal accessory for campers who want to set up their campsites along the banks of rivers during canoeing and kayaking trips.

4. Portable pressurized shower: A portable pressurized shower can make it easy for campers to quickly wash dirt and sand off their bodies and keep their camping dishes clean. Portable pressurized showers can be refilled at nearby water sources, and are typically lightweight and easily inflated, making them a non-intrusive accessory to add to your camping supplies list.

Stay Safe This Hunting Season

Hunting is a thrilling hobby for millions of people across the globe. In fact, non-hunters may be wide-eyed to learn just how popular the sport is.

A recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that 11.5 million Americans participated in hunting in 2016. Many hunters spend a lifetime hunting without ever suffering an accident or injury. However, hunting can be a dangerous sport, which only highlights the need for hunters to emphasize safety at all times.

FIREARMS

It's essential that hunters exercise caution with their firearms at all times. Firearms should always be considered loaded, even when they're not. This approach should apply while hunting and while at home. Maintaining such a mindset can help hunters avoid dangerous, potentially deadly mishaps should they mistakenly believe a firearm is not loaded when it is.

When hunting, only point the firearm when you plan to shoot, making sure to keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot. Only shoot when a target is clearly identifiable and you're certain about what is beyond the target.

WEATHER AND GEAR

The right attire can protect hunters from Mother Nature and their fellow sportsmen. Weather can be unpredictable during hunting season. Hunters should always check the forecast before leaving home, making sure to dress for the weather. Even if the forecast calls for agreeable weather, hunters could be at the mercy of Mother Nature should the weather unexpectedly change. As a result, it behooves hunters to prepare for cold, wet weather, which could put them at risk of hypothermia if they are not dressed properly. A water-repelling outer layer can protect hunters in wet conditions, and it's also ideal to dress in layers.

To lower your risk of injuries suffered at the hands of other hunters, avoid colors and patterns that blend into natural surroundings. Such colors can include earth tones, blacks and browns. Animal patterns may confuse fellow hunters into thinking you're an animal, so avoid these as well.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Hunters, especially those who plan to go it alone, should always let others know of their plans before going on a hunting excursion. Sharing plans can help rescue teams find you should you suffer an injury on your trip and prove incapable of returning to your campsite or vehicle without assistance. Let others know when you plan to return and indicate your plans to call or text them when you arrive back at your vehicle. This way they can promptly alert the appropriate authorities should you not contact them on time.

Millions of people across the globe enjoy the sport of hunting. Hunting trips are even more enjoyable when hunters prioritize safety.

How to Field Dress Wild Game Properly and Safely

Fishing and hunting are popular outdoor activities. Many outdoor enthusiasts engage in angling or hunting so they can have trophies to put up on their walls. Others rely on hunting and fishing for supplemental food sources. Game animals will have to be cleaned and processed properly whether they're headed to the dinner table or to the taxidermist.

Pathogen contamination is one of the biggest risks when field dressing an animal. As with any animal, game can contain harmful bacteria, such as salmonella and strains of E. coli. Other animals, such as wild hogs, can infect people with a flu-like illness called brucellosis, which can be caught through contact with blood, fluid or tissue of an infected hog. Deer, elk and moose also may have chronic wasting disease, or CWD. Although there is no evidence that links CWD to human illness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises caution.

Proper field dressing techniques and game transport can help reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination. Here are some tips for getting started, courtesy of Penn State and the CDC.

• Wear safety gear. When handling any game animals, protect yourself with rubber gloves. This will prevent the blood and fluids from the game animal from getting on your skin. Eye protection is also advised when handling carcasses.

• Work quickly. The elapsed time from when the animal is downed until it is processed can affect the safety and the quality of the meat if it will be consumed, according to Martin Bucknavage, food safety extension associate in the Penn State Department of Food Science. Field dress as soon as possible to ensure rapid loss of the animal's body heat, to prevent surface bacteria from growing and to preserve the quality of the meat. Eviscerate the animal to help the carcass dissipate heat and remove the internal organs, where spoilage tends to occur more quickly.

• Watch out for internal organs. Avoid cutting into internal organs, especially the intestines, where the largest amount of bad bacteria tend to reside.

• Chill the carcass. Deterioration will occur more quickly in temperatures greater than 40 F. Therefore, insert plastic bags of ice or snow into the body cavity of the animal to keep the carcass chilled. Move the carcass into a cooler or refrigerator as soon as possible after field dress.

• Choose tools wisely. Use clean, sharp knives when field dressing and butchering to make it easier to cut through and process the carcass. Use clean water, premoistened wipes or alcohol wipes to clean the knife frequently between cuts to prevent bacterial contamination.

• Hang game by hind legs. Hang the animal by its hind legs with its head down when aging or butchering. This prevents brain and spinal fluids from contacting the meat.

• Most importantly during field dress, if any of the internal organs smell or look offensive, or if there is oddly colored discharge, do not consume the meat. Hunters and anglers are advised to learn more about field dress techniques to hone their skills. Speak with local fish and game officials about nearby courses.

Dream Hunt Foundation exists so that children and teens ages 8-18 with disabilities, terminal illnesses, or those considered disadvantaged have the chance of a lifetime to fulfill their dream of participating in a guided hunting or fishing trip.

Dream Hunt Foundation is a non-profit organization that exists to make a difference in the lives of kids. It was founded by Jeff Warren in 2013.

3610 Hwy. 3276
Stonewall, LA

website:
dreamhunt.tv

DREAM HUNT FOUNDATION

Dream Hunt Foundation absorbs all costs, including travel, hotel, food, etc.

This program is for kids who have never killed a deer before.

Upcoming Dream Hunt Weekend Dates:
- October 11-12, 2024 - Shreveport, LA
- October 18-19, 2024 - Monroe, LA
- October 25-26, 2024 - St. Francisville, LA
- November 1-2, 2024 - Ferriday, LA

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