

**Minutes of the Winter Meeting  
Lake Charles  
Friday, January 27, 2012**

President Linda Stewart-Knight called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and welcomed members and guests. Linda gave special thanks Marilyn McDonald for organizing the meeting and field trips, also thanked the Gulf Coast Bird Club, Peter Lund, President, Booth Environmental, Elton Louviere and the Calcasieu Parish Tourist Commission. She thanked the speakers, Eric Baka & Cary Salyers, field trip leaders, Ed Wallace, Gene Barnett and Bill Gover. She also a thanked Judith O'Neale, Elouise Mullen, Joseph Vallee, Joelle Finley and Ken Harris for working the registration and sales tables.

Linda introduced the evening's speaker, Eric Baka, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Eric received his B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University 1998. He began his career as a colonial nesting waterbird biologist in the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron in Michigan. He then moved to N. Carolina conducting colonial nesting waterbird surveys on the N. Carolina coast; afterwards working as a game technician for the North Carolina Natural Resources Commission. From there Eric moved to Cape Cod, Massachusetts at Monomy National Wildlife Refuge. He began working for J.H. Carter and Associates, an environmental consulting company in the N. Carolina sand hills. It was there he received his training in Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) management and monitoring with projects sites were located in N. Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Louisiana. He began working for LDWF in the fall of 2003. Currently, he is in charge of the Statewide RCW Safe Harbor Program. This program encourages landowners to engage in voluntary and proactive management for the federally and state endangered RCW. In exchange for their voluntary management they receive regulatory assurances for any above baseline RCWs they may have due their beneficial management actions.

David Booth welcomed us to Lake Charles on behalf of the Gulf Coast Bird Club which is 30 years old.

Marilyn McDonald announced Saturday's field trips-Gene Barnett and Bill Gover led the rice fields/Lacassine trip and Ed Wallace led the coastal Cameron trip which left at 7:30 from the La Quinta parking lot.

Judith O'Neale drew for door prizes and announced the closing of the LOS imprint store.

Linda asked for those not returning on Saturday, to please return name badges. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectively submitted by:  
Joelle Finley, Secretary  
February 11, 2012

**Minutes of the Winter Meeting  
Lake Charles  
Saturday, January 28, 2012**

President Linda Stewart-Knight called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. and welcomed members, guests and especially any new members. Linda gave special thanks Marilyn McDonald for organizing the meeting and field trips, also thanked the Gulf Coast Bird Club, Peter Lund, President, Booth Environmental, Elton Louviere and the Calcasieu Parish Tourist Commission. She thanked the speakers, Eric Baka & Cary Salyers, field trip leaders, Ed Wallace, Gene Barnett and Bill Gover. She also a thanked Judith O'Neale, Elouise Mullen, Joseph Vallee, Joelle Finley and Ken Harris for working the registration and sales tables. . Linda introduced the officers and board of directors of LOS: Linda Stewart-Knight-President, Ed Wallace-Vice-President, Judith O'Neale-Treasurer, Joelle Finley-Secretary, Nancy Menasco-Past-President, Board Members Steve Pagans, Jackie Duncan and Christine Kooi, LOS NEWS Editor-Bob Hamilton and JLO Editor- Jennifer Coulson.

Linda announced the proposed changes to the LOS Bylaws and called for a vote.

The current Bylaws read:

**ARTICLE VII: FUNDS**

Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Finance Committee but shall be limited to investments on the "Legal List" (Louisiana Revised Statutes 1950 9:2061), mutual funds, or any other investments which may be made legal and available. Because the "Legal List" was abolished in 1962 and replaced by the "prudent man rule," our Bylaws need to be revised to eliminate this phrase.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

**Article VII: Funds**

Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Treasurer. Funds should be invested to produce maximum total return consistent with prudent risk limits. LOS Bylaws may be amended by a (2/3) vote of members present at any legal meeting.

All in favor

Linda introduced the speaker, Carrie Salyers of the LA Wildlife and Fisheries. Carrie is originally from Newport News, VA., and received both her undergraduate and master's degrees in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Carrie has worked for the LDW&F for 5 years. She has worked at Headquarters, Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and now at White Lake. Her husband also works for the department as a fisheries biologist at Rockefeller. They have 3 dogs, 3 cats, 3 turtles and no kids! The title of Carrie's talk is: "Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Southwestern Louisiana".

VP Ed Wallace called the checklist—124 (Updated total-148)

Linda announced that the spring meeting will be held in Cameron, April 27-28.

Nominations for the 2012 LOS President's Award and the George H. Lowry, Jr. Award should be sent to Marty Guidry.

Judith drew for door prizes and announced that the LOS Logo Store will be closing the end of March

Linda announced to please return name badges.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectively submitted by:  
Joelle Finley, Secretary  
February 11, 2012