

2018 Meeting of the American Oystercatcher Working Group

The AMOY Working Group will hold its 18th annual meeting in Grand Isle, Louisiana. Grand Isle, the only inhabited barrier island in the state, survived Katrina and Rita in 2005 and the BP Oil Spill in 2010. It's also a tremendous place to observe bird migration, with a beautiful tract of remnant oak/hackberry forest. Today, the island is home to around 1,500 locals, who make a living from the seafood and oil industries. More than 12,000 tourists visit the island annually to participate in fishing rodeos and enjoy the wide-open beaches and countless bird sightings.

The meeting will take place Nov. 5-8 at the [LDWF Grand Isle Fisheries Research Lab](#)

QUICK REFERENCE LINKS:

- [MEETING REGISTRATION](#)
- [EVENTBRITE \(meal payments\)](#)
- [LODGING/RIDEShare FORUM](#)
- [GSA Per diem rates for Grand Isle, Nov 2018](#)

Schedule

November 4 – Travel day for folks attending the WIPL WG meeting on Monday

November 5 – Travel day & WIPL WG meeting

November 6-7 – AMOY WG Meetings

November 8 – Field trip

Draft Agenda

TUESDAY November 6

7:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am Welcome; review of agenda and meeting logistics; introductions – Jessica Schulz (USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center), Shiloh Schulte (Manomet)

9:00 am State of the AMOY report – S. Schulte

9:30 am State updates (10-15min each): high level overview of current AMOY related activities from Atlantic and Gulf Coast states

10:30 am BREAK

11:00 am State updates cont.

11:30 am Louisiana Barrier Shoreline Restoration and Wintering Birds – Delaina LeBlanc

12:30 pm LUNCH

1:30 pm Band/resight update – Lindsay Addison

2:00 pm 2018 Winter aerial survey – Shiloh Schulte

2:30 pm Audubon Louisiana's coastal birds program – Erik Johnson

3:00 pm Break

4:00 pm Disturbance management – best practices working group – Walker Golder

4:30 pm Coordinated messaging for visitor access and resource protection in coastal in Virginia – Alex Wilke

5:00 pm Adjourn

6:00 pm Dinner

WEDNESDAY November 7

7:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am Review of agenda, updates, announcements

8:45 am Opportunities for future funding and integration with NFWF/AFSI – Facilitated discussion, Shiloh Schulte

9:15 am Louisiana Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife coastal bird program – Brian Hardcastle

9:45 am Restoration of a Remote Barrier Island and Impacts to Key Species – Jessica Schulz

10:15 am BREAK

10:30 am Band re-sight records from a collaborative database reveal insights into population dynamics for a shorebird with delayed maturity – Shilo Felton

11:00 am Georgia Bight coastal initiative – Abby Sterling

11:30 am Presentations - TBA

12:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 pm Review and discussion of AMOY breeding season metrics – Pam Denmon

1:45 pm Predator management BMP update – TBA

2:15 pm Breeding Season survey status and next steps – Shiloh Schulte

2:30 pm BREAK

3:00 pm Discussion: 10-year vision for the working group and 2019 priorities

3:45 pm 2018 meeting location and wrap up

4:00 pm Adjourn

6:30 pm Dinner

THURSDAY November 8

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Field Trip

Registration

Please [**RSVP HERE**](#). This is where you sign up & pay for:

- Meeting attendance (no registration fee but please register if you're coming)
- Lodging at LDWF (see Lodging below - Option 1)
- Shared meals (optional; see Meals below)

Getting there

Airports

- [New Orleans/MSY](#)
 - 93 mi/approx. 2 hour drive from Grand Isle
- [Baton Rouge/BTR](#)
 - 164 mi/approx. 3-hour drive from Grand Isle

Ground transportation

- Need a lift? Have room to spare in your vehicle? [**PLEASE SEE OUR SHARED RIDES/LODGING FORUM**](#)

- Renting a car/driving down?
 - Be aware: you will have to pay a **toll on LA-1** south of Leeville (southbound only). Currently \$3.75 for regular 2-axle vehicle ([see prices here](#)). Right lane = cash, credit; left lane is [GeauxPass](#) only.
- Rides on Grand Isle: It will be easiest if folks are willing to share rides throughout the week. However, if you think this will be an issue, contact Jessica: 978-302-1024 or jschulz@usgs.gov.

Lodging

Option 1: Free dormitory-style lodging is available at the LDWF lab. You'll have access to shared bathrooms and kitchen space. (We'll also use the kitchen for meeting snacks, so please keep it tidy.)

The price is right, but please be aware of the following policies:

- ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL ON THE PREMISES. Sorry folks.
- Linens are NOT provided! Please bring your own sheets, pillows, and towels.
- See this link for complete list of [rules for guests staying at LDWF lab](#). This is a workplace as well as a dorm, so they expect guests to behave appropriately.
- To sign up to stay at LDWF dorms, please select this option when you fill out the registration form. I do need a headcount in advance.

Option 2: Pick your own lodging option (*please make your own reservations*).

There are a variety of places to stay, all with their own local character. Most establishments try to squeeze as many beds as possible into a room/rental, so they tend to be suite- or cabin-style; however, this is generally the “low” season so prices aren’t too bad, especially if you share with a friend. Some places do require security deposits, cleaning fees, etc, so if your agency doesn’t allow this be sure to ask about those details when you book your room.

Below are a few options we’ve arranged to make your search easier.

If you are interested in sharing lodging to bring costs down, please visit our [SHARED RIDES/LODGING FORUM**](#) to find potential roommates.**

- [Wateredge Beach Resort](#):
 - Options: Twelve 2-bedroom apartments with kitchens; one single, no kitchen; 1 beach house: 3 bedrooms, 4 beds, 2 baths, kitchen
 - Walking distance to LDWF lab, Starfish and Yum restaurants, Sureway grocery store

- ROOM BLOCK INFO: 8 2-bedroom apartments reserved under “AMOY.” Call Sheryl: 985-787-2329
 - Group rate: \$100/night/apt + tax (about \$112.75/night). If needed, attendees sharing accommodations can get split receipts for their accounting.
- [Bridgeside Marina](#)
 - Cabin rentals range from \$80-\$250/night. Most have multiple beds, so sharing is recommended.
 - Beach side camps also available, \$275-300/night, 2-3 bedrooms, sleep 6-10
 - 800-804-1721
- [Sun & Sand cabins/motel](#)
 - Cabins (6) have 2 bedrooms plus 1-2 twin beds in living area
 - \$85/night
 - 985-787-2456
- [Hurricane Hole](#) (same place as our Tuesday night dinner)
 - Multiple condo-style options, sleeping 3-5 comfortably. Call for rates and photos: 985-787-2747
 - Access to beach pavilion, pool, gym
 - Cleaning fees & security deposits may apply. Able to split receipts.

[See this link for additional lodging options.](#)

Meals/Dining

There are several restaurants and a grocery store on the island, and everyone is welcome to do their own thing when it comes to meals. However, Jessica will be personally coordinating snacks & some meals for those who would prefer to avoid the hassle. **Dinner on Tuesday night will be our “family” meal so we hope you will join us! Please choose which meals/snack options you want on your registration form, then pay for food via [Eventbrite](#) or send Jessica a check by October 22 (see address below).** Prices include sales tax & gratuity; Eventbrite does have an additional per-meal upcharge.

OPTIONS:

Light breakfast, snacks, coffee Tues & Wed at LDWF: \$10 *We expect that most of us will probably contribute to this, but if you won't, you may opt-out on the registration form.

Tuesday

- Lunch: chicken & sausage gumbo, vegetarian red beans, potato salad, green salad & beverages \$15.50

- “FAMILY DINNER” @ Hurricane Hole: shrimp mosca, jambalaya pasta salad, veggie entrée, salad, veggie sides, bread pudding, & (nonalcoholic) beverages, \$23. (*Cash bar probable.*)

Wednesday

- Lunch: wraps with chips, drinks, \$14. Wrap options: cheese quesadilla (vegetarian), fiesta wrap (chicken, sour cream, cheese, salsa), buffalo chicken wrap (chicken, buffalo sauce, lettuce, cheese), Muffuletta wrap
- Dinner ON YOUR OWN

Thursday

- Bag lunch for field trip includes poboy (sandwich), chips, beverage \$13. Poboy options: ham & cheese, roast beef, chicken salad, veggie

Field trip (Thursday Nov 8)

- Location: several options, potential to see multiple sites... more info to come
 - Boat trips: sites vary; may include: Queen Bess Island, Fifi Island, other barrier islands, marsh/bay islands, West Belle Pass, etc. We will try to scout for AMOY ahead of time, but make no promises of AMOY sightings. However, we will see cool things regardless!
 - Ground trips: Restored beach (Elmer’s Isle), Landbird trip (driving & walking) to TNC tracts, Exxon fields, Grand Isle State Park, etc

Meeting host team:

Jessica Schulz (chair), U.S. Geological Survey
 700 Cajundome Blvd.
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 978-302-1024 **For any questions or issues, please call!*

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