Mandalay
National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS

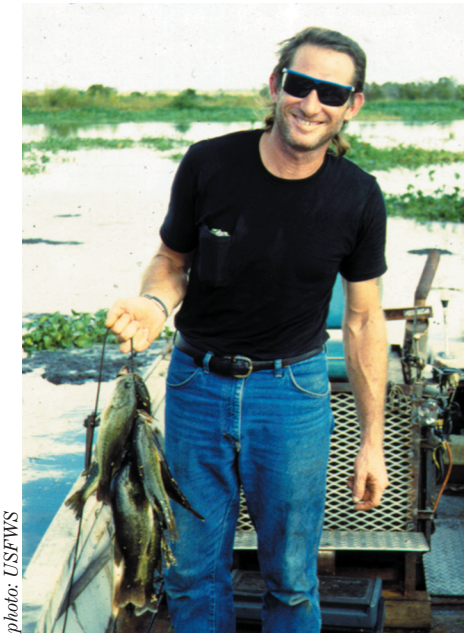

photo: USFWS

photo: USFWS

Kenneth Litzenberger, Project Leader
Paul Yakupzack, Refuge Manager
Mandalay NWR
3599 Bayou Black Drive
Houma, LA 70360
Phone: 504/853 1078
Fax: 504/853 1079
E-mail: paul_yakupzack@fws.gov

Refuge Facts
- Established: 1996.
- Acres: 4,212, located in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.
- Location: The refuge is located five miles south of Houma, LA. Houma is approximately 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, LA. The refuge is only accessible by boat. The headquarters is located five miles west of Houma, LA on LA Highway 182.

Natural History
- Abundant wildlife such as alligators, wading birds, ducks and bald eagles.
- Beautiful fresh marsh with ponds, levees and man-made canals.
- Oil and gas wells, and the Gulf-Intracoastal Waterway are important to the area.

Financial Impact of Refuge
- 2,000 visitors annually.

Refuge Objectives
- Provide the highest quality migratory bird habitat possible.
- Provide for the needs of endangered plants and animals.
- Allow compatible public uses such as fishing, trapping, wildlife observation and photography.
- Promote research and restoration of wetland resources.
- Provide opportunities for environmental education and interpretation when possible.

Management Tools
- Aquatic vegetation control.
- Erosion control.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities
- Fishing.
- Wildlife observation.
- Photography.
- Boating.

Calendar of Events
January - December: fishing, wildlife observation, photography and boating.

Questions and Answers
Where is the Mandalay NWR?
Mandalay NWR is located approximately six miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana, which is approximately 55 miles southwest of New Orleans. Access is by boat only.

Can I hunt on Mandalay NWR?
Yes, both a Lottery waterfowl hunt and a bow hunt for white-tailed deer and feral hogs are held annually. Waterfowl hunters must apply for the lottery by October 15 each year. No special permit is needed for the bow hunts, however, all hunters are required to check in prior to hunting and check out when leaving the refuge. All hunters, regardless of age, are required to possess a State Hunter Safety Certification card when waterfowl hunting and proof of completion of the International Bowhunters Education Program when bowhunting on the refuge. More information is available from the refuge headquarters. Please refer to and follow all hunting and fishing regulations listed within the refuge's hunting, fishing and public use brochure.

Is fishing allowed on Mandalay NWR?
Yes, fishing is allowed year-round. All Louisiana regulations, such as license and creel limits, apply to all areas of the refuge.

Where can I see a bald eagle?
Bald eagles nest in tall cypress trees in the swamp near Houma and Morgan City, LA from October through May. Eagles are not present in Louisiana in the late spring and summer months. Look for eagles foraging along waterways and over open marshes.