

Featuring

Trailblazer Tackles
Feral Hogs

Dr. James Dickson
Featured Speaker

Outreach
Meetings are
One-Stop-Shop

Connect
with your
community
through
Trailblazer

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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TRAILBLAZER RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(RC&D)

See Page 2 for Calendar of Events

Trailblazer Tackles Feral Hog Control



Kory Gilbert of Hogg Boss Traps of Bastrop offers information on feral hog management.

Fifty-one people came together in Marion on February 18 to express their concerns about the exploding population of wild hogs and learn effective control techniques. Feral hog trapping was discussed by Kory Gilbert of Hogg Boss Traps of Bastrop. John Hanks of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries answered questions and provided information on wild hog population trends and control techniques. This meeting was coordinated by Trailblazer RC&D and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Marion Mayor Danny Smith and Union Parish Police Juror Nathan Pilgreen welcomed the large group to the meeting and expressed their concerns regarding the tremendous damage caused by wild hogs. It is estimated that wild hog damage to agricultural crops and the environment in the United States runs around \$1.5 billion annually. Locally, agricultural producers, homeowners, and city governments alike are suffering from destroyed crops, degraded water quality, and rooted up lawns causing hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage each year.

If you have a feral hog problem on your property or in your community, join us at the Minden Farm & Garden on March 16 for a FREE Feral Hog Management Workshop!

March 16
6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

See registration
information on
Page 2.



Wild hogs reproduce at alarming rates. A female can produce three large litters each year with a great survival rate. The presenters and participants agreed the only way to control the exploding wild hog population is to eliminate the hogs. Presenters offered information on various control methods including:

- **Hunting feral hogs at night.** In many states, it is legal to hunt hogs at night, and there are reasonably priced night vision and/or thermal optic devices available. If you are interested in this option, contact your local office of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for regulations on night hunting.
- **Hunting feral hogs from a helicopter.** This is an extremely effective but very expensive way to eradicate feral hogs. If you are considering this option, contact your local office of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for more information.
- **Hunting feral hogs with dogs.** Using dogs to hunt feral hogs is very effective and cost efficient. The last few hogs on your property can be the most difficult to catch, but a good pack of hunting dogs being handled by an experienced handler can track them down and eliminate them from your property.
- **Trap feral hogs.** If done correctly, trapping hogs can result in 100 percent

Continued on Page 2

TRAILBLAZER EVENTS

Mar 12 Land Management for Wild Turkeys
Caldwell Parish Community Center
6539 U.S. Highway 165
Columbia, LA—6:00 p.m.
To Register:
Call NRCS Columbia Field Office, (318) 649-2651, ext. 3

Land management techniques to help attract wild turkeys to your property. Featuring Cody Cedotal, Turkey Study Leader, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Mar 16 Feral Hog Management Workshop and Demonstration
Minden Farm & Garden
1307 Sibley Road
Minden, LA—6 p.m.
To Register:
Call (318) 255-3554 and leave your name and contact information plus the name of the workshop or email ceo@trailblazer.org

Information on feral hog population trends; control methods such as night hunting, helicopter control, hunting with dogs, and trapping; and financial/technical assistance. Featuring a hands-on demonstration of a cellular-controlled hog gate by Hogg Boss Gates.

Mar 24 The World of the Wild Turkey
Bienville Parish Library
2078 Hall Street
Ringgold, LA—6 p.m.
To Register:
Call (318) 255-3554 and leave your name and contact information plus the name of the workshop or email ceo@trailblazer.org

Land management techniques to help attract wild turkeys to your property. Featuring James G. Dickson, Ph.D., past President of the National Wild Turkey Federation; editor and author of *The Wild Turkey: Biology and Management*; champion caller; and *Outdoor Life's* Gobbler Godfather (Gobfather).

Mar 26 USDA Outreach Meeting
Central Louisiana Technical Community College
2100 E.E. Wallace Boulevard
Ferriday, LA—6 p.m.
To Register:
Call the USDA NRCS Ferriday office at (318) 757-4870, ext. 3

Information on USDA program opportunities with NRCS, FSA, and RD. Opportunity to connect with USDA agency representatives. Featuring presentations by representatives of each agency.

Mar 30 Land Management for Wild Turkeys
Claiborne Parish Library
Homer, LA—6:00 p.m.
To Register:
Call Claiborne Parish Library, (318) 927-3845

Land management techniques to help attract wild turkeys to your property. Speakers: Troy Mallach, NRCS Biologist, and Terry Johnston, Consulting Biologist



Continued from Page 1, "Trailblazer Tackles Feral Hog Control"

Trap feral hogs (continued)
eradication of your feral hog problem. If done incorrectly, it can actually make the feral hogs more difficult to remove from your property. To demonstrate the effectiveness of trapping feral hogs, Kory Gilbert of Hogg Boss Traps in Bastrop provided a hands-on demonstration of an effective, cost efficient cellular-controlled hog gate.

To learn more about feral hogs, go to the USDA APHIS website, "Feral Swine Resources and Outreach Materials," at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/feral-swine/feral-swine-resources>.

To learn more about hunting feral hogs in Louisiana, go to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website, "Outlaw Quadrupeds," at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/outlaw-quadrupeds>

To learn more about Hogg Boss traps, contact Kory Gilbert at (318) 282-2279.



Free registration for this workshop was made possible by the support of ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction; Canfor Southern Pine; Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Chapter; Union Parish Police Jury; Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; LSU AgCenter; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D. Special thanks go to Marion Mayor Danny Smith; Kory Gilbert of Hogg Boss Traps of Bastrop; Nathan Pilgreen of the Union Parish Police Jury; and Peyton McKennie of Tiger Bend Outdoors.

Our Workshops Rock!

Trailblazer workshops are popular for many reasons, including timely information, quality resources, follow-up, and outstanding presenters. In coming weeks, you will have an opportunity to participate in workshops addressing concerns and topics such as feral hog management, USDA opportunities, farm ponds, pollinators, honey bees, livestock, and land management for wild turkeys.

Trailblazer works with premier leaders in each field to ensure you have access to experts/providers of the most current, pertinent information. Check out Dr. James Dickson!



Dr. James Dickson

Featured Presenter: Dr. James Dickson

Workshop: The World of the Wild Turkey

What you need to know:

- Dr. James G. Dickson is an award-winning author, researcher, wildlife biologist, and professor. He is the past president and current member of the board of directors of the **National Wild Turkey Federation**.
- He has produced several award-winning comprehensive wildlife books, including **The Wild Turkey: Biology and Management**.
- Dr. Dickson is **three-time** Texas turkey calling champion!

- He was featured on **Turkey Country** and **Animal Planet** television programs.
- He is a retired professor emeritus from **Louisiana Tech University, School of Agriculture and Forestry**.
- He has a master's degree from the **University of Georgia** and a doctorate from **Louisiana State University**.
- He is scientist emeritus of the **USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station**. His research, detailed in over 100 technical publications, has helped define wildlife habitat relationships of many vertebrate species and communities of southern forests.

- He compiled the award-winning **Wildlife of Southern Forests: Habitat and Management**, which he wrote with several other wildlife experts.

Don't miss an opportunity to hear Dr. Dickson and interact with him at upcoming Trailblazer "The World of the Wild Turkey Workshops."

- ▶ Ringgold on March 24, 2020
- ▶ Farmerville on April 2, 2020

For registration information, see the upcoming events calendar on Page 2.

EVENT UPDATE

Participants at the February 18 Feral Hog Management Workshop and Demonstration said:

"Very informative."
"Presentation was outstanding."
"Everything A+"
"Great to have people in our area to help out."

Feral Hog Management Workshop and Demo Program Evaluations Feb 18 - Marion



All About the Louisiana Black Bear Feb 27—Farmerville

Hosted by LSU AgCenter, this February 27 workshop brought John Hanks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist, to Farmerville to discuss the Louisiana black bear. Some of the interesting facts Hanks shared:

- 45 black bear were killed on Interstate 20 last year—mostly from Delhi to Tallulah
- Black bear will chase you and will eat you. You cannot outrun them. Stand tall. Shout loud. Use a repellent.
- Average size is 150 pounds; however large males can reach 450 pounds.

Do you want to learn more? Request a Louisiana Black Bear Workshop in your community. Contact Trailblazer at ceo@trailblazer.org to schedule a workshop.

Special thanks go to John Hanks of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for his outstanding presentation and support. This workshop was made possible through the sponsorship and partnership of LDWF; LSU AgCenter; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Canfor Southern Pine; Burnham Construction, Inc.; and Union Parish Police Jury.

Planning meeting in Haughton

(Bossier Parish) for upcoming Trailblazer events: Farm Pond Workshop, Estate Planning with Paul Spillers; and Forestry Field Days. **Left to Right:** Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer CEO; Tim Holland, Mudd & Holland Forestry Consultants and Trailblazer Advisory Team Member; Bob Brotherton, Bossier Parish Police Juror and Trailblazer RC&D Board Member; and Glenn Benton, Bossier Parish Police Juror and Trailblazer Board Member.



Trailblazer RC&D Board of Directors

Trailblazer

**Invite Trailblazer to plan some events in your community!
Call (318) 255-3554 or email ceo@trailblazer.org to get things rolling!**

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION



Outreach Meeting March 26, 2020

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Central Louisiana Technical
Community College
2100 E.E. Wallace Boulevard
Ferriday, Louisiana

Learn About Technical and Financial Assistance
Conservation
Farm Loans
Homeownership
Business and Industry
Community Facilities

From the Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Service Agency Rural Development



Free Registration

TO REGISTER: Call the USDA NRCS Ferriday office at (318) 757-4870, ext. 3. OR email ceo@trailblazer.org and leave your contact information and the name of the meeting.

CONNECT WITH USDA REPRESENTATIVES AT MARCH 26 USDA OUTREACH MEETING IN FERRIDAY

Trailblazer RC&D and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are offering a free public meeting on March 26, 2020, in Ferriday, Louisiana, to provide information on USDA program opportunities and connect you with USDA agency representatives.

Featured topics include USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs and technical and financial assistance; USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loan programs and youth in agriculture opportunities; and USDA Rural Development (RD) homeownership, community development, and business opportunities.

The meeting will be hosted at the Central Louisiana Technical

Community College, 1200 E.E. Wallace Boulevard, Ferriday, Louisiana. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, and conclude at 8:00 p.m.

To pre-register to attend, call the USDA NRCS office at (318) 757-4870, extension 3, or email ceo@trailblazer.org and leave your contact information and the name of the meeting.

This meeting is made possible by the support of ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Tensas-Concordia Soil and Water Conservation District; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

Workshop Key Contacts

Adam Foster, USDA NRCS, william.foster@usda.gov
Kevin Case, USDA FSA, kevin.case@usda.gov
John Bird, USDA FSA, john.bird@usda.gov
Morgan S. Washington, USDA RD, (318) 473-7940
Ervin Norwood, USDA FSA, ervin.norwood@usda.gov
Dexter Sapp, USDA NRCS, dexter.sapp@la.nacdn.net

NRCS Contacts

Bienville Parish:
(318) 377-3950, ext. 3

Bossier Parish: (318) 872-4949
Claiborne/Webster Parishes:
(318) 377-3950, ext. 3

Jackson/Lincoln Parishes:
(318) 255-3136, ext. 3

Union Parish: (318) 368-8021
Winn Parish:
(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

**“Take care of the land
and the land will take care of you.”**

Hugh Hammond Bennett
Father of Soil Conservation, first Chief of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Why Do We Offer USDA Outreach Meetings

- To enhance access to USDA services for the communities served.
- To improve the viability and profitability of small and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- To improve access to USDA programs for historically underserved communities.
- To improve agricultural opportunities for farm workers.
- To close the professional achievement gap by providing opportunities to talented and diverse young people to support the agricultural industry in the 21st century.

USDA outreach meetings provide a one-stop-shop opportunity for participants to meet and discuss financial and technical assistance opportunities available from a variety of USDA agencies. Many times, participants use contacts made at outreach meetings to initiate requests for assistance from USDA agencies. After every Trailblazer meeting, workshop, or outreach event, participants are given an opportunity to complete a request for assistance form which is, in turn, provided to the appropriate agency for follow-up.

If you are interested in requesting assistance from a USDA agency, contact your local USDA Service Center or email ceo@trailblazer.org and request a request for assistance form.



LAGNIAPPE

a little something extra

Conservation WORD SEARCH

Locate key CONSERVATION TOOLS

Check Us Out!

trailblazer.org
We are excited to announce a new look and improved structure to our website. In coming weeks, we will continue our website updates and add features that will be useful to you. Please visit our site from time to time to see what is new!

- BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- CONSERVATION PLAN
- DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
- EQIP
- FARM BILL
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT
- GRAZING PLAN
- HIGH TUNNEL
- IRRIGATION
- NRCS
- PRECISION AGRICULTURE
- PRESCRIBED GRAZING
- SERVICE CENTER
- SOIL HEALTH
- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- WATER QUALITY
- WEB SOIL SURVEY
- WILDLIFE HABITAT
- YOU

A	S	T	S	I	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	T	C	I	R	T	S	I	D	O	P
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CONSULTING FORESTERS, LLC
Tim Holland (318) 286-2802



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Friends of Trailblazer

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LSU AgCenter

USDA APHIS

Claiborne Parish Library

Village of Athens

Louisiana Forestry Association



BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY



CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



JACKSON PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY

To register for an event or request an accommodation to participate in any of Trailblazer RC&D's events, please contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 255-3554 or ceo@trailblazer.org.

Trailblazer is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Trailblazer RC&D
302 Reynolds Drive
Ruston, Louisiana 71270

³¹ But those who hope
in the Lord will renew
their strength. They will
soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and
not grow weary, they will
walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31
New International
Version (NIV)

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