

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Dear Friends,
September's lineup of workshops was outstanding. They were the right mix of quality information and cautious social distancing to ensure everyone had a good experience.

October will be another month of great workshop opportunities. Take a minute and look at the lineup on page 2; then call and register. We would love to see you!

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See page 2 for October events!

Welcome to Mike Turpin!

Mike Turpin is Trailblazer RC&D's newest board member representing Claiborne Parish. Mike recently retired as area grazing lands specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. He brings a wealth of knowledge to Trailblazer, and we are very happy to have him on our team!

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Attention: All Hog Hunters and Community Organizations

Trailblazer RC&D is exploring hosting a contest to reward feral hog hunter accomplishments. Contest criteria and award amounts are currently being discussed.

We would like your thoughts on such a contest. We feel the contest would offer a great opportunity for a community and/or organization to make a substantial dent in the feral hog population. Would you like to help? Would you like to sponsor?

Please send your comments to ceo@trailblazer.org by November 1, 2020.

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)

September was a BUSY MONTH!

Workshop	Date	Location	Rated Workshop as Excellent
Fall Food Plot Workshop	9/15/2020	Farmerville	60%
Farm Pond Construction and Management	9/18/2020	Ruston	71%
Whitetail Deer Workshop	9/21/2020	Ruston	82%
Farm Pond Construction and Management	9/25/2020	Haughton	95%
Forestry 101	9/29/2020	Ruston	79%

Thank you for joining us for these workshops!



We are excited to announce Trailblazer has launched a YouTube channel, and we have uploaded our first video!

Learn about wildlife habitat development in our first video, then subscribe to our channel so you don't miss any future videos.

Coming soon:

Farm Pond Construction and Management video series!

Check it out! Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafmp92cYXWI5nw>

Or search YouTube for Trailblazer RC&D.

Workshop Update

October Workshops Join us for these free workshops!

FREE REGISTRATION!

TO REGISTER or for more information:
Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and contact information and the name of the workshop.

Date	Workshop	Location	Time	Topics
10/2/2020	Forestry BMPs With Field Tour Featuring Controlled Burn	Red Oak Lake 1495 Potter Road Haughton, Louisiana	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Learn about managing forest resources to conserve and protect water quality and timber. Workshop features controlled burning for the health of your forest.
10/15/2020	Let the Hunt Begin! Whitetail Deer and Deer Hunting Information with David Moreland	Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, Louisiana Call Library to register (318) 927-3845	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Deer hunting tactics and strategies and wildlife habitat development tips are presented by David Moreland. Moreland is a well-known author and speaker.
10/16/2020	Birds and Blooms Workshop with David Moreland	Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, Louisiana Call Library to register (318) 927-3845	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Author and speaker David Moreland will discuss birds common to Louisiana and what plants will attract these birds and provide winter beauty.

Free registration for these workshops is made possible by the support of our sponsors and partners.

See page 8 for a list of sponsors and partners.

10/19/2020
Ruston
Waterfowl Migration Patterns and Trends
with
Larry Reynolds

Don't Miss These 4 Sessions!

LDWF's Larry Reynolds will discuss waterfowl populations, hunting regulations, hunter activity, harvest, and challenges. Representatives of USDA NRCS will discuss technical and financial assistance that is available for wildlife habitat development.

October 19	October 20	October 26	October 27
Ruston Lincoln Parish Public Safety Complex 161 Road Camp Road Ruston, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Bossier City Bossier City Sheriffs Complex 2510 Viking Drive Bossier City, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Bastrop LSU AgCenter Event Room 9609 Marlatt Street Bastrop, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	West Monroe LSU AgCenter 704 Cypress Street West Monroe, Louisiana 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you need an accommodation to participate in a Trailblazer RC&D workshop, please contact Trailblazer at (318) 255-3554 at least 3 weeks in advance of the workshop.

October Presenters ★★★★★

Trailblazer always offers top notch presenters at our workshops, and the workshops in October are no exception! Check out this line-up of presenters:

Forestry BMPs

Paul Spillers Senior Counsel with Theus, Grisham, Davis and Leigh of Monroe, Louisiana; specialist in tax law, estate planning, estate administration, mineral rights, and all areas of acquisition, ownership, and management

Dr. Richard Williams State Forester, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides assistance to non-industrial forest landowners to address natural resource concerns and manage forest land

Sabrina Claeys Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever, educates farmers and landowners about the benefits of conservation programs

Tim Holland Owner of Mudd & Holland Forestry Consultants, manages timberlands in the Ark-La-Tex region, overseeing ecosystems and developing habitats for increased timber growth and wildlife enhancement

Andrea Bridgewater-Fair District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, works with ag producers to help conserve and protect natural resources

Chris McCarthy Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, promotes, protects, and advances agriculture and forestry

Let the Hunt Begin Birds and Blooms

David Moreland Former LDWF Wildlife Division Administrator, Wildlife Supervisor, and State Deer Program Manager; well-known wildlife author, and speaker

Waterfowl Migration Patterns and Trends

Larry Reynolds LDWF Waterfowl Study Leader, conducts annual aerial waterfowl surveys, makes recommendations for hunting season dates to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

September Workshop Success!

Outstanding workshops and presenters! Great locations! Supportive sponsors and partners! Happy attendees! Many thanks to all who participated!
The beat goes on—mark your calendar to attend our October events!



“Very informative”
Workshop Participant

Partners and Sponsors for September Workshops

- Listed in Alphabetical Order
Allstate Land and Timber Co., Inc.
Bossier Parish Police Jury
Burnham Construction
Canfor Southern Pine
ENABLE Midstream Partners
Lincoln Parish Police Jury
Lincoln Parish Sheriff’s Office
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC
Origin Bank
The Taylor Family
Union Parish Police Jury
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Whitetails Unlimited-Lincoln Parish Chapter



“Enjoyed it all”
Workshop Participant



“It was great”
Workshop Participant



“Awesome presentation”
Workshop Participant

All photos on this page: Trailblazer RC&D

USDA Offers Disaster Assistance to Louisiana and Texas Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by Hurricane Laura

Hurricane Laura's flooding and high winds impacted agricultural operations in Louisiana and Texas, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and ranchers recover. As agricultural producers move into recovery mode and assess damages, they should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn more about program options available to assist in their recovery from crop, land, infrastructure and livestock losses and damages.

Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov

"FSA has a variety of disaster assistance programs to support farmers and ranchers through times of adversity," said Craig McCain, state executive director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Louisiana. "Once you are able to evaluate impacts on your operation, it is important to contact your local FSA office to timely report all damages and losses and determine how we can assist."

USDA encourages farmers and ranchers to contact the FSA county office at the local USDA Service Center to learn which documents should be provided to help the local office expedite assistance, such as farm records, receipts and pictures of damages or losses.

Depending on the operation, FSA offers a number of disaster assistance programs to help offset eligible losses, including the Livestock Indemnity Program, Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, Emergency Conservation Program, Emergency Forest Restoration Program, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and Tree Assistance Program.

Additionally, producers located in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low-interest emergency loans to help them recover from production and physical losses.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also offers programs to help in the recovery process. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can help producers plan and implement conservation practices on land impacted by natural disasters.

"NRCS can be a very valuable partner to help landowners with their recovery efforts," said Chad Kacir, state conservationist for the NRCS in Louisiana. "Our staff will work one-on-one with landowners to make assessments of the damages and develop approaches that focus on effective recovery of the land."

Additional NRCS programs include the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, which provides assistance to local government sponsors with the cost of addressing watershed impairments or hazards such as debris removal and streambank stabilization. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, towns, conservation districts or any federally recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization. When a watershed impairment occurs due to a natural disaster event, the district conservationist serves as the local facilitator for EWP activities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead federal agency for Presidentially declared natural disasters. All NRCS emergency work is coordinated with FEMA or its designee. Sponsors must submit a formal request (via mail or email) to the state conservationist for assistance within 60 days of the natural

disaster occurrence or 60 days from the date when access to the sites become available. For more information, please contact Britt Paul, EWP program manager, at britt.paul@usda.gov or (318) 473-7756.

Risk Management Agency

www.rma.usda.gov

Producers with Federal crop insurance coverage should contact their crop insurance agent for assistance. Producers should report crop damage to their agent within 72 hours of damage discovery and follow up in writing within 15 days.

"Crop insurance is there to help producers manage risk because we never know what nature has in store for the future," said Roddrick Bell, director of RMA's Regional Office that covers Louisiana. "The Approved Insurance Providers, loss adjusters and agents are experienced and well trained in handling these types of events."

Farmers.gov

Producers and landowners can use the online disaster assistance recovery tool at Farmers.gov, <https://www.farmers.gov/recover/disaster-tool>, to answer five questions that will identify USDA programs that will help meet disaster recovery needs.

For more information on all USDA disaster assistance programs, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/recover> or contact your local USDA Service Center, which can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>.

Call or text Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350 if you have a concern regarding your land or its resources and you are not sure which office to call. We will put you in touch with the right people to address your concerns.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE **DISASTER ASSISTANCE** **DISASTER ASSISTANCE** **USDA**

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Fall Food Plots for Wildlife



Planting a fall food plot on your farm or ranch will help provide food for wildlife during winter months when food is sometimes scarce. Food plots also help to maintain wildlife populations and add value to your land.

To establish a food plot in an existing field, leave several rows of grain after harvest—or you can plant a small plot in a separate location.

A few things to consider when developing your wildlife food plot:

Will the food plot you provide attract the wildlife you want?

Is there enough cover and water near the food plot?

Is the food plot too close to high traffic areas?

Are using conservation measures to prevent erosion when you plant your food plot?

Have you excluded livestock from the area?

Planting dates vary from crop to crop. The **Supplemental Wildlife Food Planting Manual for the Southeast**, published by Mississippi State University Extension Service recommends the following planting dates:

Austrian Winter Peas – Planting Dates September 1 – November 1

Crimson Clover – Planting Dates September 1 – October 15

Subterranean Clover – Planting Dates August 15 – October 15

White or Ladino Clover – Planting Dates September 1 – October 15

Rye – Planting Dates August 15 – October 15

Oats – Planting Dates August 15 – October 15

For more information on these crops and others, check out this publication at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/mspmcpu9359.pdf

The LSU AgCenter also offers a lot of great food plot resources on their website, and their planting dates give a little more latitude on how late you can plant. Check out these LSU AgCenter resources:

Planting Wildlife Food Plots

https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/parishes/livingston/features/anr/planting-wildlife-food-plots

Food Plots

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1513978768557>

Food Plot Plantings for White-tailed Deer in Louisiana

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/~media/system/c/0/a/c/c0ac87afc02009c5d5c110af45afd760/pub2843deerplantingshighres1.pdf>

Consult your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office for recommended wildlife populations and food plot crops for your area. Technical and financial assistance to get you started with your wildlife food plots may be available through NRCS conservation programs.

Attend a Trailblazer RC&D Wildlife Food Plots Workshop to hear from wildlife experts, ask questions, and learn more!

USDA Service Centers Are Open By Phone Appointment Only

Due to current COVID-19 conditions:

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices in Louisiana are open by phone appointment only until further notice, and NRCS staff are available to continue to provide one-on-one, customer-specific advice to producers to help them meet their unique conservation and business goals.

All USDA Service Centers, including those with NRCS field offices, are not currently accessible to customers in person. Online services are available to customers with an eAuth account,

NRCS staff are working with customers through phone, mail and online communications, and field work continues with appropriate social distancing to help producers with conservation planning and financial assistance through Farm Bill programs.

COVID PRECAUTIONS

which provides access to the farmers.gov offsite link where producers can view USDA farm loan information and payments and view and track certain USDA program applications and payments. Customers who do not already have an eAuth account can enroll at farmers.gov/sign-in. Online NRCS services are available to customers through the Conservation Client Gateway link which can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov. Customers can track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance and electronically sign documents.

For the most current updates on available services and Service Center contact information, visit farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Local 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

For Your Safety

Trailblazer RC&D workshops are conducted in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines, and attendees are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask and practice social distancing. Face masks and hand sanitizer are made available for all who attend.



Call or text Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350 if you have a concern regarding your land or its resources and you are not sure which office to call. We will put you in touch with the right people to address your concerns.

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LAGNIAPPE

a little something extra

Mississippi Flyway

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administratively manages the Mississippi Flyway through the Mississippi Flyway Council. Council members represent the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

The National Audubon Society calls the Mississippi Flyway a "River of Birds." They report that more than 325 bird species make the round trip each year along the Mississippi Flyway from their breeding grounds in Canada and the northern United States to their wintering grounds along the Gulf of Mexico and in Central and South America.

From: Audubon-Mississippi Flyway, <https://www.audubon.org/mississippi-flyway>, viewed on 9/30/2020.

Waterfowl Facts

- Most ducks fly at 40 to 60 miles per hour.
- Mallards are capable of traveling 800 miles in 8 hours.
- In January 1940 a biologist reported seeing as many as 8 million ducks in Louisiana on Catahoula Lake.
- Waterfowl can see everything above, below, in front of, and behind them at the same time.
- The fastest duck recorded was a red-breasted merganser that got up to 100 miles per hour while being chased by an airplane.
- A blue-winged teal banded near Oak Lake, Manitoba, was shot by a hunter Lima, Peru, more than 4,000 miles south.

For more interesting waterfowl facts, visit Ducks Unlimited, Amazing Waterfowl Facts, Compiled by Mike Checkett and Matt Young, <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/amazing-waterfowl-facts>, viewed on 9/30/2020.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Do you want to learn more?

Attend one of October's Waterfowl Migration Patterns and Trends Workshops with LDWF's Larry Reynolds!
 10/19 - Ruston
 10/20 - Bossier City
 10/26 - Bastrop
 10/27 - West Monroe
 See page 2 for more information.

Used with permission from Ducks Unlimited, Amazing Waterfowl Facts, Compiled by Mike Checkett and Matt Young, <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/amazing-waterfowl-facts>, viewed on 9/30/2020.

JOIN THE TRAILBLAZER TEAM

Communities, Organizations, Corporations, Individuals

Check Out These Opportunities With Trailblazer!

- ✓ Increase Your Community Involvement
- ✓ Increase Your Brand Visibility
- ✓ Attract New Customers

Become a Trailblazer Sponsor Today!

- ✓ Advocacy for USDA program participation
- ✓ Effective communication with USDA agencies
- ✓ Info on USDA financial/technical assistance

Contact Trailblazer to Arrange a Meeting

Call (318) 237-8350 or email ceo@trailblazer.org

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Trailblazer partners with a diverse group of organizations to offer quality training and outstanding events. These groups recognize the value of working with Trailblazer to encourage conservation of our natural resources, help communities address areas of concern, and achieve organizational objectives. As a result of their partnership and sponsorship of Trailblazer activities, communities across northern Louisiana have access to quality training offered by well-known experts who addressed issues identified by communities at no cost to participants.



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Natural Resources Conservation Service



Friends of Trailblazer

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LSU AgCenter

USDA APHIS

Claiborne Parish Library

Louisiana Forestry Association



SOUTHERN PINE

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302 REYNOLDS DRIVE
RUSTON, LOUISIANA 71270
(318) 255-3554
ceo@trailblazer.org



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Call before you dig.**

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