

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

Volume 11 • Issue 1 • January 2021



Farm Pond Construction and Management Workshop
September 18, 2020, Ruston, LA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

TRAILBLAZER RC&D



A few of our good friends and board members (left to right): Misty Thomas, Minden Farm & Garden; Pam Suggs, Claiborne Parish Library; Ellzey Simmons, Trailblazer; Tim Holland, Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters; Billy Montgomery, Special Projects Coordinator Bossier Parish Police Jury; Bob Brotherton, Bossier Parish Police Jury, District 1; Glenn Benton, Bossier Parish Police Jury, District 2; and Steve Ramsey, Webster Parish Police Jury, District 11.

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

Henry Ford

Reflection



Farm Pond Construction and Management Workshop
September 18, 2020, Ruston, LA



Farm Pond Construction and Management Workshop
September 18, 2020, Ruston, LA



Feral Hog Management Workshop
July 28, 2020, Minden, LA



Farm Pond Construction and Management Workshop
September 25, 2020, Haughton, LA

Dear Friends,
When we began 2020, we were planning new workshops, partnerships, and opportunities. We were expecting an amazing year for Trailblazer. No one could have predicted the disruption and devastation that would be caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

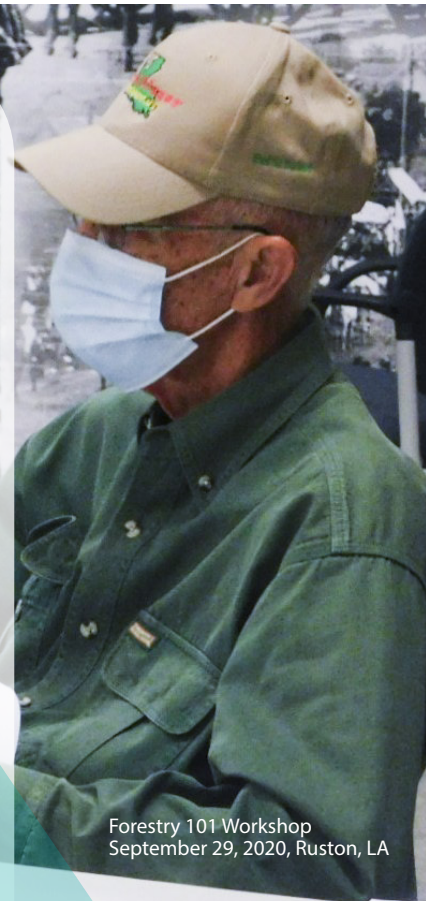
Workshops were scheduled—then canceled. Then, everyone was quarantined. It was a very rough year for everyone. But because of your support and encouragement, we moved forward, learned new techniques to deliver information, and formed new partnerships. As you will see in the pages of this annual report, we were able to reach out and touch people with our message more than 6,800 times during 2020.

We achieved our vision of workshops, partnerships, opportunities, and success in 2020—because of you. Thank you for standing by us, believing in us, and supporting our mission of conservation education and community support.

As we move forward into 2021, we know that we will see brighter days—there will be new workshops, partnerships, and opportunities. We invite you to become part of the Trailblazer team and join us on our journey through 2021. Working together, we can make it happen!

Sincerely,
P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer
Trailblazer RC&D

We pray for God's healing hand on all those suffering from the virus. We pray for health and strength for all who are working on the front lines of the pandemic. We offer our deepest sympathies for loved ones lost and pray for strength and courage for their families and friends.



Forestry 101 Workshop
September 29, 2020, Ruston, LA

2021 Trailblazer RC&D Board of Directors

- Steve Ramsey, Heflin
- Glenn Benton, Haughton
- Mike Turpin, Claiborne Parish
- Don Parkman, Ruston
- Bob Brotherton, Elm Grove
- L. W. Nolan, Farmerville
- Jerry Bates, Ringgold

P. Ellzey Simmons
Chief Executive Officer

Results



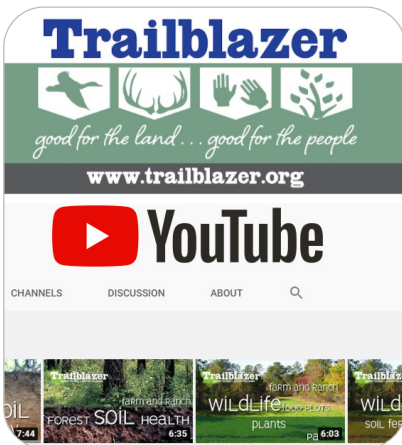
Let the Hunt Begin
Whitetail Deer Workshop
October 15, 2020, Homer, LA

22 workshops

**406 people
attended our
workshops.**

22 workshops were hosted by Trailblazer RC&D and partners featuring wildlife habitat development, farm pond construction, forestry, soil health, and estate planning.

25 other scheduled workshops were canceled due to the COVID-19 quarantine.



8 video blogs

**Our videos
were viewed
467 times from
September 2020
through
December 2020.**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Trailblazer RC&D established a YouTube channel in order to continue conservation outreach during the quarantine.

8 video blogs were produced featuring wildlife habitat development, soil health, web soil survey, estate planning, and the USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program.



**On average,
500 people receive
our newsletter each
month by mail or
email. That
translates to
at least 6,000
contacts annually.**

Monthly newsletters filled with conservation practice information, agricultural news, contact information, event calendars, and lagniappe were published and distributed by Trailblazer RC&D. On average, 500 people receive our newsletter each month. That means that at least 6,000 times during 2020, Trailblazer RC&D touched someone with a natural resource conservation message and partner information.

During 2020, there were at least 6,873 touch points by Trailblazer RC&D and our partners with local people and communities to share conservation and farm sustainability messages.

PARTNERING IS POWERFUL!

THANK YOU TO OUR Partners

Training sessions, workshops, environmental education, videos, and outreach facilities are offered free of charge to anyone interested in attending or viewing. This is made possible by the outstanding support of Trailblazer RC&D's partners, sponsors, and friends!



Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationists provide technical expertise and conservation planning for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners wanting to make conservation improvements to their land. Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners can receive financial assistance from NRCS to make improvements to their land.

To learn more about NRCS, visit their website at www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local office. An office locator can be found on the NRCS website.

Thank you to the leadership and staff of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Louisiana. Your passion for conservation and commitment to Louisiana is reflected in the support and encouragement you provide Trailblazer RC&D.



Enable Midstream operates a large scale portfolio of midstream energy infrastructure assets including approximately 14,000 miles of natural gas, crude oil, condensate and produced water gathering pipelines; 15 major processing plants; approximately 7,800 miles of interstate natural gas pipelines; approximately 2,200 miles of intrastate natural gas pipelines; and eight natural gas storage facilities.

To learn more about Enable Midstream Partners, visit their website at www.enablemidstream.com.



Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters is a family business established in 1959 by Lee Mudd. They are one of the oldest consulting forestry firms in the Ark-La-Tex. Mudd & Holland currently manages timber for landowners in 28 counties and parishes across Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

To learn more about Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, visit their website at www.muddandholland.com or call them at (318) 286-2802.



Burnham Construction is a heavy equipment construction company located in Dubach, Louisiana. They clear right of ways, build roads for timber companies, do BMP work, clear land, build oil field pads, construct ponds, build house pads, and haul dirt, rocks, etc. To learn more about Burnham Construction, visit their website at www.bcila.com or call (318) 777-3773.



Allstate Land and Timber buys timber, contracts for the harvest of timber, and provides land management of sites. Contact Allstate Land and Timber at (318) 949-3672.



Whitetails Unlimited – Lincoln Chapter – promotes the whitetail deer, hunting and fishing, and hunting opportunities for hunters with special needs, such as wounded veterans. To learn more about the Lincoln Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lincolnparishwtu.



Canfor Southern Pine produces high-quality dimension lumber, value-added finishing products, and top-quality pulp and paper. They are also a leading producer of wood pellets and green energy. To learn more about Canfor Southern Pine, visit their website at www.canfor.com.

Many thanks go to these partners, sponsors, and friends for their continued encouragement and support during 2020!

THANK YOU TO OUR Friends

Trailblazer RC&D works closely with community partners to deliver programs that are important to the people of north Louisiana. We work with state and federal agencies, police juries, community businesses, soil and water conservation districts, and extension agents work with to ensure quality, timely, and relevant information.

Conservation Success

During 2020, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices on 19.3 million acres of working lands, providing more than \$1.8 billion in financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program. **This includes 127,807 acres of EQIP in Louisiana and 101,066 acres of CSP in Louisiana.** Additionally, NRCS helped producers enroll 230,000 acres of new easements into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. **This includes 7,951 acres in Louisiana.**

Other 2020 highlights can be found at:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1717843>

Origin Bank, www.origin.bank

Progressive Bank, www.progressivebank.com

Simmons Sporting Goods, Bastrop, Louisiana
www.simmonssportinggoods.com or (318) 283-2688

Bossier Parish Police Jury
www.bossierparishla.gov/Government/PoliceJury
 (318) 965-2329

Webster Parish Police Jury
www.websterparishla.org
 (318) 377-7564

Lincoln Parish Police Jury
www.lpsol.lincolnparrish.org/policejury
 (318) 513-6200

Claiborne Parish Police Jury
www.claiborneparish.org
 (318) 927-2222

Union Parish Police Jury
www.uppj.org
 (318) 368-3296

Bienville Parish Police Jury
www.bienvilleparish.org/elected-officials/police-jurors
 (318) 263-2019

Jackson Parish Police Jury
www.jacksonparishpolicejury.org
 (318) 259-2361

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 Minden Farm and Garden
 Morehouse Soil and Water Conservation District
 Dugdemona Soil and Water Conservation District
 Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office
 Quail Forever
 Attorney Paul Spillers
 Wildlife Biologist/Author David Moreland
 Claiborne Parish Library
 Village of Athens
 LSU AgCenter



Feral Hog Management Workshop
 November 10, 2020, Bastrop, LA



Feral Hog Management Workshop
 July 28, 2020, Minden, LA



Forestry 101 Workshop
 September 29, 2020, Ruston, LA



Birds and Blooms Workshop
 October 16, 2020, Homer, LA

Special recognition and thanks go to Bossier Parish Police Jury, Webster Parish Police Jury, Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Claiborne Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Police Jury, Bienville Parish Police Jury, and Jackson Parish Police Jury for their financial and in-kind contributions to Trailblazer RC&D. These donations were critical in keeping Trailblazer operational in 2020 to offer training opportunities in your communities.

Thank you for showing your commitment to your communities!

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!

Join our team

Would you like to:

Farm Pond Construction and Management Workshop
September 25, 2020, Haughton, LA

Expand outreach and increase your impact in your community?

Align your company with sustainable agriculture and a healthy environment?

Engage employees in solving resource, economic, environmental, and social concerns?

YES!

Build your brand?

Secure tax deductions?

Increase profits?

Make a difference?



Contact our office today to discuss partnership opportunities.

Sponsorship levels begin as low as \$300.

Partner with Trailblazer RC&D!

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Call today!

Call or Text: (318) 237-8350
Email: ceo@trailblazer.org

TRAILBLAZER IN 2021

Looking forward



All About Pollinators Workshop
June 23, 2020, Minden, LA

Expect to see MORE workshops on

- Wildlife habitat development
- Estate planning and taxes
- Farm pond construction and management
- Soil health
- Forestry Best Management Practices

People learning how to conserve and protect the natural resources of their land!



Land Management for
Wild Turkey Workshop
March 12, 2020, Columbia, LA

Expect to see MORE

- Community outreach events
- Grassroots activities
- Workshops
- Video blogs
- Newsletters

More people having access to information and opportunities!



Estate Planning Workshop
November 17, 2020, Minden, LA

Be PREPARED to become a

- Conservation partner
- Forestry partner
- Local business partner
- Corporate partner
- Community partner

Diverse partnerships working together to produce greater outreach opportunities!

BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!
Join the Trailblazer team in 2021!

Give us a call at (318) 255-3554, email us at ceo@trailblazer.org, or complete the form on the back side of this page and mail it to Trailblazer RC&D, 302 Reynolds Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270 to explore sponsorship opportunities.

YES, I AM INTERESTED!

In learning more about how my organization and I will benefit from a Trailblazer RC&D partnership or sponsorship.

Levels of Participation

PARTNER
\$15,000 or more donation

SPONSOR
\$300 to \$15,000 donation
Silver/Gold/Platinum Levels of Sponsorship

FRIEND
Up to \$300 donation
or donation of goods and services

VOLUNTEER
Donation of time and expertise

Please complete this questionnaire and return it to Trailblazer RC&D 302 Reynolds Drive Ruston, Louisiana 71270 or email to ceo@trailblazer.org.

I am interested in helping Trailblazer RC&D as a (circle choice):

- Partner
- Sponsor
- Friend
- Volunteer

I prefer to be contacted by (circle choice):

- Mail
- Email
- Telephone

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Area(s) of Interest (circle all that apply)

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Forestry | Feral Hogs | Other (list) _____ |
| Farming | Waterfowl | |
| Soil Health | Wildlife Habitat | _____ |
| Estate Planning | Whitetail Deer | _____ |
| Livestock | Wild Turkeys | _____ |
| Pasture | Land Leasing for | |
| Honey Bees | Minerals | _____ |
| Water Quality | Farm Ponds | |

Return completed questionnaire to Trailblazer RC&D, 302 Reynolds Dr., Ruston, LA 71270 or email to ceo@trailblazer.org



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

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you . . . For I am the Lord your God . . .”

Isaiah 43 2:3
New International Version (NIV)



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

This Dial 811 message is brought to you by Enable Midstream Partners. Enable Midstream Partners is a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates, and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets serving major producing basins and markets.