

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

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Volume 11 • Issue 4 • April 2021

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Dear Friends,
Spring is upon us! Trees are budding out, flowers are blooming, birds are returning from their migration south, and everyone is enjoying the new warmer, longer days. It is as if the earth is renewing itself.

During March, Trailblazer worked with partners and sponsors to host four workshops dedicated to backyard birding. Still mindful of pandemic precautions, people gathered to learn about how to attract hummingbirds and purple martins to their yards. It was great to see everyone excited about creating welcoming habitats for our airborne friends. We are continuing these workshops in April. You should consider joining us to learn more about backyard birding.

As we move into April, clean your hummingbird feeders and fill them with fresh nectar; check your bluebird and wood duck boxes for activity; and keep your camera ready to snap a few photos of your bird visitors. Celebrate “Go Birding Day” on Saturday April 24, 2021, and join us for a Trailblazer backyard birding workshop!

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



Louisiana Forestry Association
During March, the Louisiana Forestry Association became one of our newest sponsors! We appreciate their support and value their partnership. Welcome to the Trailblazer team!



Ancie Parkman discusses hummingbirds at All About Hummingbirds workshop in Homer on March 23, 2021.

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Trailblazer CEO Ellzey Simmons welcomes guests at All About Hummingbirds workshop in Homer on March 23, 2021.

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Upcoming Events

April 6, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

All About Hummingbirds

**Lincoln Parish Library
Events Center
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana**

**Text or call (318) 237-8350
to preregister.**

May 7, 2021
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Wildlife Forum/Field Day

**First Baptist Church Gym
404 Church Street
Columbia, Louisiana**

**Call LSU AgCenter at
(318) 649-2663 to
preregister.**

Backyard BIRDERS GARDENERS CONSERVATIONISTS

March was For the Birds!

All About Hummingbirds

Farmerville - March 18, 2021
Homer - March 23, 2021

Backyard Birding Workshop: Featuring Purple Martins and Hummingbirds

Bossier City - March 29, 2021
Minden - March 30, 2021

March saw hummingbirds and purple martins arrive in north Louisiana. Backyard birders from Texas to Mississippi celebrated their return, and Trailblazer offered a series of workshops on how to welcome these feathered friends to your yard, their migration patterns, habitat, and feeders. Attendees in Farmerville, Homer, Bossier City, and Minden enjoyed hearing tips on identifying birds and how to make backyards bird-friendly. These workshops were made possible by the support of our partners and sponsors: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, ENABLE Midstream Partners, Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters; Burnham Construction, Inc.; Union Parish Police Jury; Claiborne Parish Police Jury; Claiborne Parish Library; Bossier Parish Library; Bossier Parish Police Jury; Minden Farm & Garden; and Webster Parish Police Jury.



March 18, 2021
Farmerville

Trailblazer RC&D



March 23, 2021
Homer

Trailblazer RC&D



March 18, 2021
Farmerville

Trailblazer RC&D



March 23, 2021
Homer

Trailblazer RC&D



March 30, 2021
Minden

Trailblazer RC&D



March 29, 2021
Bossier City

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What did you like most about the workshop?

“It was like talking to family.”

Workshop Participant

“Being around folks who obviously like birds”

Workshop Participant

Conservation

CONVERSATION



FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

A VALUABLE TOOL FOR LANDOWNERS

One of the most valuable tools a forest landowner can have is a **Forest Management Plan**. A Forest Management Plan is developed by a landowner and a professional forester to meet the management objectives of the landowner while protecting and enhancing the forest's natural resources. A plan can include general site and historical information, landowner objectives, description of existing forest conditions, desired future conditions, and forest stand and soils maps. This plan will help the landowner meet their objectives, maintain production, meet regulatory requirements, and enhance soil, water, air, plants, fish, and wildlife resources.

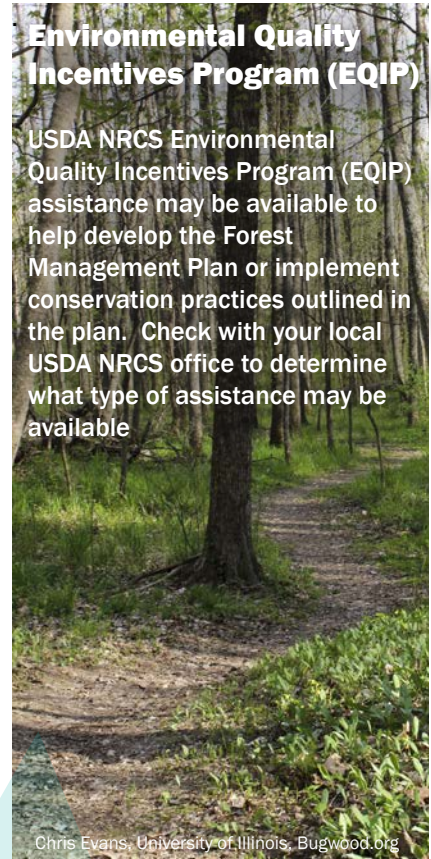
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance to forest landowners. To learn about these opportunities, contact your local NRCS office.

If you are interested in developing a Forest Management Plan for your forestland, there are several options available to you:

- 1** You could contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS can work with you to develop a Forest Management Plan, or you may want to hire a forestry consultant from their Technical Service Provider's registry to help you develop the plan.
- 2** You could work with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry or the LSU AgCenter Extension Service to develop a plan.
- 3** You could hire your own forestry consultant to develop a plan.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assistance may be available to help develop the Forest Management Plan or implement conservation practices outlined in the plan. Check with your local USDA NRCS office to determine what type of assistance may be available



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

NRCS COVID Precautions

Due to current COVID-19 conditions, NRCS staff are working with customers through phone, mail and online communications. Field work continues with appropriate social distancing to help producers with conservation planning and financial assistance through Farm Bill programs.

NRCS Local Contacts:

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

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

Bossier Parish:
(318) 872-4949

Union Parish:
(318) 368-8021

Claiborne/Webster Parishes:
(318) 377-3950, ext. 3

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

NRCS Online Services Available with eAuth Account

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, 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.

Not sure who to contact? Get in touch with Trailblazer RC&D at ceo@trailblazer.org, and we will put you in touch with the right people to address your resource concern.

NEW VIDEO
Resources

Trailblazer's YouTube channel offers something for everyone!

Top presenters! Timely topics! Tools to use in your life, on your farm, at work, and in your community!



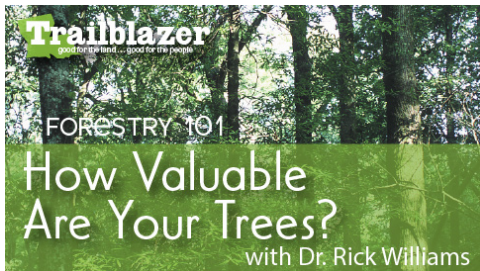
A Birds and Blooms workshop was offered by Trailblazer in 2020 for backyard birders to learn more about birds that can be found in Louisiana and what types of plants will attract these birds. This video is an excerpt from this workshop. It features David Moreland, retired wildlife biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and author, discussing wood ducks.



Scan this QR code with your Smartphone to visit Trailblazer's YouTube channel!

To view, go to: <https://youtu.be/m02DNcmbkRg>

A Forestry 101 for Landowners workshop was offered by Trailblazer in 2020 for forest landowners to provide information on how to make their woodlands healthier, more profitable, and sustainable. These videos are excerpts from this workshop. They feature Dr. Rick Williams, State Forester for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, discussing how to place a value on your timber and how to plan your timber harvest.



To view, go to: <https://youtu.be/vOAaKVjJEbs> and . . . https://youtu.be/CVmqr76wd5_A

www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafntp92cYXWI5nw
www.trailblazer.org/video-gallery



Other videos available on Trailblazer's YouTube channel include:

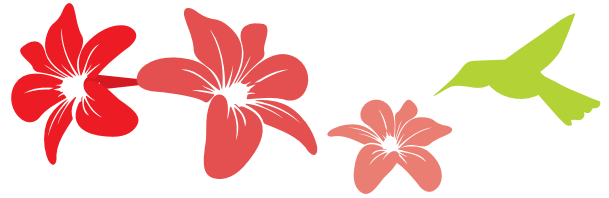
- Estate Planning
- Web Soil Survey
- Forest Soil Health
- Wildlife Food Plots
- Farm and Ranch Pond Construction and Management
- Wildlife Habitat Development and Conservation Stewardship Program

Subscribe to our channel today!

Subscribe to our YouTube channel today and don't miss a video!

A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!

Lagniappe



Welcome Hummingbirds to Your Yard

Nothing brings delight quite like hummingbirds buzzing around your yard. We wait anxiously to see the first hummingbirds of spring and hate to see the last ones leave in the fall. To prepare your yard for these beautiful little visitors, it is important to have flowers for nectar, water to drink and bathe, and safe places to perch for rest and sleep.

PLANTS

While nectar makes up about 90 percent of a hummingbird's diet, they also eat small insects to add protein to their diet. Red or orange tubular flowers attract hummingbirds, and native flowering plants are rich in nectar. Plants to consider to attract hummingbirds to your yard include: coral honeysuckle, salvia, impatiens, bee balm, pentas, lantana, and iris.

For a more complete list of plants, visit "Garden for hummingbirds," LSU AgCenter, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2015/july/get-it-growing/garden-for-hummingbirds (viewed 3/29/2021).

FEEDERS

Hummingbird feeders provide nutritious food for migrating hummingbirds. Fill the feeders with sugar water made by combining four parts hot water to one part sugar. Boil the water for one to two minutes, let it cool completely, then fill your feeders. Clean your feeders about once a week and change the sugar water frequently. Do not use honey, artificial sweeteners, or red dye in your feeders.

RESOURCES

Check out these hummingbird resources:

Audubon, Hummingbirds at Home, How to Create a Hummingbird-Friendly Yard,

<https://www.audubon.org/content/how-create-hummingbird-friendly-yard>, viewed 3/29/2021.

Hummingbird Central, A Central Gathering Place for Hummingbird Enthusiasts,

<https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com>, viewed 3/29/2021.

Garden for Hummingbirds, Dan

Gill, LSU AgCenter Horticulturist, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/news/news_archive/2015/july/get-it-growing/garden-for-hummingbirds, viewed 3/29/2021.

Zinnias are so easy to grow, and hummingbirds love them!



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Tim Holland (318) 286-2802



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Natural Resources Conservation Service



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CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY



WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY



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ceo@trailblazer.org

“He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth.”

Psalm 104:14
New International Version
(NIV)



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Call before you dig.**

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