

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

Volume 11 • Issue 7 • July 2021



In this Issue

- Wildlife Management Workshops
- June Workshop Update
- New Fire Mapping Tool
- New YouTube Videos
- Louisiana Forestry Facts
- Sponsors, Partners, and Friends

Get Well Soon!

The Trailblazer family sends loving thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery from surgery to **Bob Brotherton**. We are thinking about you, Bob, and hope that you will be back to doing the things you love very soon.

Dear Friends,

July brings hot weather, summer fun, and new workshops. I encourage you to spend an evening with us during July to learn how to improve or restore critical wildlife habitats on your land. Presented by Quail Forever, these workshops are scheduled in Jonesboro, Ruston (Trailblazer Tuesday), Ringgold, Minden, and Farmerville. Check the schedule below for dates and times. I hope to see you there!

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

July Workshop Series Features Wildlife Management

During July, we are excited to work with Quail Forever to host a series of wildlife management workshops featuring restoration of wildlife habitat. The first session was offered in June; and Sabrina Claeys, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Quail Forever, reported it was a great session. She is looking forward to seeing you at an event in July. Check our schedule (right) and reserve your seat today!

To RSVP, call (318) 639-3235.

July 1: Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management, Charles Garrett Community Center, Jonesboro, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

July 6: Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management, Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library, Ruston, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

July 13: Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management, Ringgold Library, Ringgold, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

July 20: Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management, Minden LDWF Meeting Hall, Minden, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

July 27: Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management, Union Parish Police Jury, Farmerville, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

August 3: The Value of Your Timber, Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library, Ruston, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

To register to attend the Quail Forever workshops, call (318) 639-3235. For information on other workshops, call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of the workshop.

Community

**SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES**

June 1

Finding Rare Animals in Louisiana

Trailblazer Tuesdays at the Lincoln Parish Library - Ruston, LA



“Excellent presentation”
Workshop Participant

Wildlife, forestry, livestock, mineral resources, and more . . .

That is what Trailblazer’s June workshop lineup featured. Always interesting, always timely, always informative!

Thank You!

Many thanks go to Trailblazer’s June workshop partners, sponsors, and friends—they made it possible for us to offer quality workshops free of charge for all to attend.

June 11

Forestry Best Management Practices

For Family Forest Landowners, Red Oak Lake - Houghton, LA



“I loved the variety of topics and speakers”
Workshop Participant

We appreciate your support!

- Bossier Parish Police Jury
- Burnham Construction
- Canfor Southern Pine
- ENABLE Midstream Partnership
- First South
- Franklin Parish Farm Bureau
- Lincoln Parish Library
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury
- Louisiana Forestry Association
- LSU AgCenter
- Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters
- Northeast Soil and Water Conservation District
- Paul D. Spillers
- Progressive Bank, Winnsboro
- Roy McIntyre and Family
- Tim Holland
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Webster Parish Police Jury
- Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Chapter
- Winnsboro State Bank

June 24

Livestock Field Day

Roy McIntyre Farm - Delhi, LA



“Really benefitted from ‘terrible 2’ talk”
Workshop Participant

June 8

Minerals Leasing Workshop

Sibley Town Hall - Sibley, LA



“Easy to understand topics”
Workshop Participant



We hope to see you at a workshop soon! Check out upcoming events on page 1 of this newsletter and on our website at www.trailblazer.org.

Conservation CONVERSATION

New Fire Mapping Tool Helps Resource Managers with Fire Management Needs and Reduces Wildfire Risks

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a fire mapping tool for the southeastern United States—SE FireMap. This tool helps resource managers improve regional or local approaches to managing wildfire risk and fire management needs through targeted prescribed burns and training. Fire management helps improve forest ecosystem health, increases timber values, reduces the risk of wildfire damage to life and property, reduces ticks and other pests, protects drinking water, and renews healthy ecosystems supporting wildlife habitat, especially in fire-dependent longleaf pine forests.

The SE FireMap will map all detectable fires, including managed prescribed burns and wildfires, across nine states. The map and associated tools aim to improve fire management in urban and rural communities through remote sensing and will track both prescribed fire and wildfires throughout Louisiana.

The SE FireMap is a Google Earth Engine product and data sharing is available for conservation and community planning purposes. To see the mapping products or request data sharing, visit the partnerships' Wildland Fire portal at: <https://landscapepartnership.org/key-issues/wildland-fire>.

This resource is funded a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Working Lands for Wildlife partnership agreement and is a partnership between the Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Longleaf Alliance, the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability, and the Longleaf Partnership Council of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.



Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org

“Through partnerships, longleaf forest conservation and restoration have progressed significantly in recent years. From reducing the risk of dangerous wildfires to improving fire planning for community preparedness or supporting landscape resiliency during impacts from climate change, NRCS’s partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has helped deliver an invaluable conservation tool that complements existing efforts to reverse the decline of Louisiana’s longleaf forests.”

Chad Kacir

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Louisiana

Longleaf Forests and Fire

Native longleaf pine ecosystems thrive with frequent fires and replicating natural fire conditions helps maintain these unique ecosystems and the wildlife that depends on them. Prescribed burns strategically mimic natural fires, which create and maintain open understory to benefit wildlife, including keystone species such as the gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker, and benefit pine stand health.

Assistance for Forest Management

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners improve forest health. Interested landowners should contact a local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to learn more about assistance opportunities.

NEW VIDEO Resources

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



Trailblazer's YouTube channel offers something for everyone!

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



Buck Vandersteen, Executive Director of the Louisiana Forestry Association, discusses:

- Carbon Credits
- Louisiana Loggers Relief Fund
- Invasive Feral Hogs

These videos are excerpts from Forestry Best Management Practices for Family Forest Landowners Workshop offered by Trailblazer RC&D at Red Oak Lake in Haughton, Louisiana. They feature Buck Vandersteen, Executive Director of the Louisiana Forestry Association, discussing a variety of topics important to forest landowners and managers.

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



This workshop was made possible by the support of these partners and sponsors: ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction; Canfor Southern Pine; Bossier Parish Police Jury; Webster Parish Police Jury; LSU AgCenter; Louisiana Forestry Association; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

To view, go to: <https://youtu.be/f8kJddC6cBM>
 and . . . <https://youtu.be/FReR87V6AKA>

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides America's farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground.

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.

Lagniappe A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!

FORESTRY
\$3.49 BILLION
Annual Economic Value
to Louisiana in 2018



Louisiana Forestry Facts

- Louisiana’s forestlands cover 48% of the state’s area or 13.8 million acres.
- Private, non-industrial landowners own 62 percent of the state’s forestland, forest products industries own 29 percent and the general public owns 9 percent.
- This renewable resource provides the raw material for Louisiana’s second largest manufacturing employer – the forest products industry – with over 900 firms in 45 parishes directly employing over 25,000 people.
- An additional 8,000 people are employed in the harvesting and transportation of the resource.
- Louisiana’s forests provide a multitude of other benefits, including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and scenic beauty.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry,
<https://www.ldaf.state.la.us/forestry/>, viewed 6/29/21.

Timber Harvest Terminology Forestry Quiz

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1 The cutting of selected trees in a forest so the growth of other trees is not affected is called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Selective Cutting</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thinning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Controlled Burn</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Clear Cutting</p> | <p>2 A technique used in forest management to improve habitat and reduce wildfire risk is called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Selective Cutting</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thinning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Controlled Burn</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Clear Cutting</p> | <p>3 The removal of some trees from an area to allow other trees more room to grow is called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Selective Cutting</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thinning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Controlled Burn</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Clear Cutting</p> | <p>4 The removal of most or all of the trees in an area is called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Selective Cutting</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thinning</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Controlled Burn</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Clear Cutting</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

To understand these forest management methods and more, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to discuss options for your forest land.

1. Selective Cutting; 2. Controlled Burn; 3. Thinning; 4. Clear Cutting

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.

MANY THANKS TO OUR Sponsors PARTNERS AND FRIENDS



MUDD & HOLLAND
CONSULTING FORESTERS, LLC
Tim Holland (318) 286-2802



Natural Resources Conservation Service



PROGRESSIVE BANK



Friends of Trailblazer
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LSU AgCenter
Claiborne Parish Library
USDA APHIS
Minden Farm and Garden



BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY



CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY



WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY



Follow us on Facebook TrailblazerRCD

YouTube

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

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

Exodus 14:14
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.