

Trailblazer news

good for the land . . . good for the people

Volume 11 • Issue 8 • August 2021



In cooperation with the Saline Soil and Water Conservation District, the community honored Don Parkman's conservation career at the All About Hummingbirds Workshop in Ringgold, Louisiana, on July 29, 2021.

In this Issue

- July Workshop Update
- Saving Energy on the Farm
- New YouTube Videos
- White-nose Syndrome in Bats
- Sponsors, Partners, and Friends

THANK YOU!

The Banner News

The Banner News - Bernice, LA

Trailblazer RC&D appreciates the great coverage of our workshops by The Banner News!

We always ask, "How did you find out about this workshop?"

A large percentage of people in Union Parish respond: "THE NEWSPAPER."

Thank you Bernice Banner for allowing us to be a part of your hometown news!

Dear Friends,

As we enjoy the last weeks of summer, we are starting to look forward to fall, cooler weather, and all the great workshop opportunities ahead. Don't forget to keep Trailblazer in mind when looking for something to do in August. For example . . . Do you have trees that you might consider selling? Check out Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library on August 3 and find out how valuable your trees really are. Ever heard of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker? I'll bet you have never seen one. Join us on August 12 in Homer to learn more about this elusive bird. Does it really exist? Join us and find out! I'll be looking for you!

Sincerely,

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

Upcoming Events

Aug 3: The Value of Your Trees with Dr. Rick Williams, State Forester for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library; Ruston, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Aug 12: The Ivory-billed Woodpecker: FOUND in Louisiana; Claiborne Parish Library, Homer, LA, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Aug 13: Whitetails Unlimited-Lincoln Chapter Banquet, Ruston Civic Center, Ruston, LA, 5:30 p.m.

Coming Soon:

- Food Plot Workshop
- Pasture Walk
- Estate Planning Workshop
- Pond Workshop
- Forestry Best Management Practices Workshop

Check Trailblazer RC&D's website for dates for upcoming workshops and events:

www.trailblazer.org

For information on workshops or events, call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your name and the name of the workshop.

Community

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

July 29

July 1, 6, 13, 20, 27

Quail Forever Workshop Series on Wildlife Management

Jonesboro, Ruston, Ringgold, Minden, Farmerville

Quail Forever's mission is to conserve quail, pheasants, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education and conservation advocacy. Sabrina Claeys, Quail Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, offered a workshop series during July on how to improve or restore critical wildlife habitats on private lands. These meetings were supported by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Trailblazer RC&D.

If you are interested in attending a workshop on wildlife habitat development, visit Trailblazer's website and check our upcoming events.



"Great information in understandable manner."

Workshop participant



Quail Forever Wildlife Management Workshop
Ruston, Louisiana, July 6, 2021

All About Hummingbirds

and a Tribute to a Friend

Ringgold



All About Hummingbirds Workshop
Ringgold, Louisiana, July 29, 2021

A large group of people attended Trailblazer RC&D's "All About Hummingbirds" workshop on July 29, 2021, at the Ringgold Library in Ringgold, Louisiana. Presenters shared information on how to attract hummingbirds, hummingbird migration patterns, habitat, and feeders. Representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Saline Soil and Water Conservation District shared information on available technical and financial assistance. Participants enjoyed Ancie Parkman's presentation and tips on flowers and hummingbirds, and during the workshop, Don Parkman, was honored by the Saline Soil and Water Conservation District for his many years of dedicated service to conservation. Congratulations Don!

This workshop was made possible by the support of ENABLE Midstream Partners; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Burnham Construction, Inc.; Bienville Parish Police Jury; Bienville Parish Library, Saline Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

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.

Your Safety is Our Concern

Trailblazer RC&D's 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.

Conservation CONVERSATION

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed four energy tools designed to increase energy awareness in agriculture and to help farmers and ranchers identify where they can reduce their energy costs:

Energy Estimator: Animal Housing
Energy Estimator: Irrigation
Energy Estimator: Nitrogen
Energy Estimator: Tillage

To use the USDA NRCS conservation energy estimators, visit the NRCS website at: <https://energytools.sc.egov.usda.gov> or visit your local NRCS office for assistance.

Conservation News from Entergy

TOP FIVE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY ON YOUR FARM

Agriculture energy expenditures can be costly. Entergy Solutions offers many ways to decrease energy use and save on expenses while maintaining a modern, safe operation. Try these five energy-saving opportunities by partnering with a certified trade ally to reduce your utility costs and save money for your farm.

Circuit by Entergy

1. Ventilation Systems

- Replace your fans with high efficiency models
- Manage fan speeds based on moisture levels and air temperature
- Achieve greater energy efficiency with increased fan diameter

2. Lighting Systems

- Choose LED lamps and fixtures
- Utilize timers and motion sensors
- Extend equipment life with routine maintenance

3. Irrigation Systems

- Reduce well pump motor horsepower to save up to 40% in energy costs
- Ensure proper spacing of low-pressure nozzles
- Reduce system pressure and achieve a 35% reduction in energy costs

4. Refrigeration Systems

- Spray refrigerated areas with cold water
- Ensure refrigeration storage is properly insulated
- Utilize energy-efficient compressors, heat exchangers and refrigerants

5. Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs)

- Gain greater flexibility by installing VFDs on fans and irrigation pumps
- Match the operational speed of electrical motor and reach up to 60% in savings

Find out how your agribusiness can save money on utility bills for years to come!

- Schedule an Agriculture Energy Audit with an Energy Advisor to determine your facility's energy savings potential.
- Submit your application to your Energy Advisor and receive your incentive check.
- Complete your energy efficiency upgrades.

Start saving energy and money for your farm today! For more information on how to participate call 844-829-1300 or go to:

https://entergysolutionsla.formstack.com/forms/entergy_solutions_louisiana_contact_form

Article and photograph provided by Entergy Solutions
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



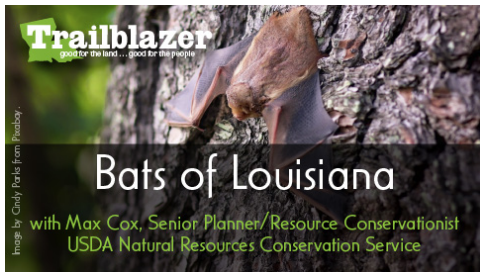
NEW VIDEO Resources

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!



Bats, Bees, & BMPs!

This month's videos feature a great variety of information!

Trailblazer RC&D hosts a variety of workshops during the year. The variety is very apparent in this month's video offerings!

Bats, Bees, and BMPs (Best Management Practices)

Take a moment to get a look at our workshops by watching these interesting videos. I'll bet you learn something you didn't know!

Learn about how many species of bats can be found in Louisiana. It is more than you think!



These workshops were 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; Union Parish Police Jury; Lincoln Parish Police Jury; LSU AgCenter; Louisiana Forestry Association; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D.

Find out how USDA NRCS can help you establish a pollinator habitat AND help with forestry Best Management Practices.

Special Recognition **Through Thick and Thin . . .**

You have been with us!

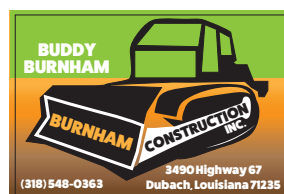
Thank you for continuing your support!



Natural Resources Conservation Service



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Lagniappe A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!



Bats Are Facing Their Own Pandemic: White-Nose Syndrome

Since first detected near Albany, New York, in February 2006, white-nose syndrome has caused the death of more than 6.7 million bats in North America—threatening regional extinction for some species of bats. This disease is named for the white fungus that appears on the muzzle and wings of bats it infects. The fungus causes a multitude of issues that result in death of the bat.



The spread of white-nose syndrome can significantly impact the ecosystem. Bats help in seed distribution, pollination, and insect control. They contribute significantly to plant diversity and forest regeneration.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is monitoring where bats are known to hibernate, and they conduct annual surveillance for white-nose syndrome.



If you see a bat exhibiting signs of white-nose syndrome, contact Nikki Anderson at nanderson@wlf.la.gov or Dr. Jim LaCour at jlacour@wlf.la.gov.

From Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website: White-Nose Syndrome, <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/white-nose-syndrome>, viewed on 8/1/2021.

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.

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.

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“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1
New International Version (NIV)



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

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