

Trailblazer news

Volume 12 · Issue 4 · April 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people

Dear Friends,

During March, we traveled to Ruston, Bossier City, Farmerville, Homer, and Gilbert to offer a variety of workshops and events. We enjoyed seeing everyone along the way, and we appreciate your support of our events! Our workshops are made possible by sponsors and partners. From providing much-needed funding to hands-on coordination on the ground, our sponsors do it all. We appreciate all they do!

We have a great schedule of events in April, and we are saving a seat for you! Call or text (318) 237-8350 to register to attend.

Sincerely,

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

NEW Gold Sponsor

Hunt Forest Products www.huntforpro.com

On behalf of the Trailblazer Team, we extend special thanks to Richie LeBlanc, President of Hunt Forest Products LLC, for his generous support of Trailblazer RC&D. Hunt Forest Products is a north Louisiana family-owned and -operated company founded in 1978. They are a full-service wood products company, manufacturing a variety of plywood, lumber, and other specialty wood products. We appreciate Hunt Forest Products' support and commitment to conservation of natural resources. **Welcome to Trailblazer!**

March Workshop Recap



Photos by Trailblazer RC&D

Trailblazer offered a great variety of workshops during March. We had great speakers, great facilities, and great attendance. From pollinators to protozoa, experts discussed topics championing conservation and sustainability.

Hummingbirds and Your Garden

Ruston - March 1, 2022
48 attendees
59% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
"Good information, great handouts"

Spring Gardening Workshop: Soil Health

Bossier City - March 8, 2022
32 attendees
75% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
"Very informative—great refresher"

Estate Planning Workshop

Farmerville - March 15, 2022
19 attendees
83% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
"Excellent answers to our concerns"

Soil Health in Your Garden

Homer - March 17, 2022
15 attendees
100% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
"Rachel did an outstanding job of taking a very technical subject and making it informative and entertaining."

Wild Turkey Management

Bossier City - March 29, 2022
25 attendees
83% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
"Great presentation on how to turkey hunt and calls."

Soil Quality Workshop

Gilbert - March 31, 2022
30 attendees
83% rated workshop
"Outstanding"
Liked . . . "Being in the field observing on-farm scenarios."

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Upcoming Events

April 5 - 6 p.m.	April 12 - 6 p.m.	April 19 - 6 p.m.	April 21 - 6 p.m.	April 25 - 6 p.m.
Honey Bees and Pollinators Lincoln Parish Library Ruston, LA	Soil Health in Your Garden Webster Parish Library Minden, LA	Feral Hog Research Lincoln Parish Library Ruston, LA	Spring Gardening Workshop: Soil Health Bienville Parish Library Ringgold, LA	Forestry Management in Dynamic Times Bossier Parish Libraries-History Center Bossier City, LA

TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:

Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.

Community Please join us in April!



HONEY BEES AND POLLINATORS

April 5 2022

Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Join us at 5:15 p.m. for pizza!

*Featured Speaker
Amy Weeks
Beekeeper at
My Favorite Honey*



SOIL HEALTH in Your Garden

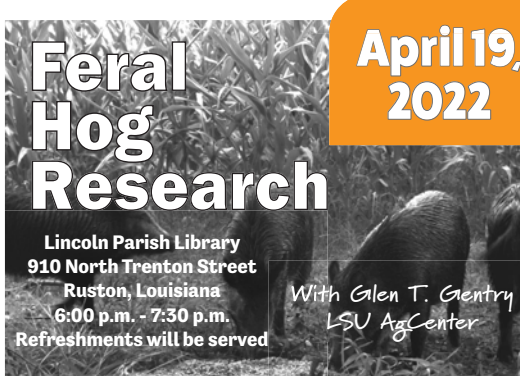
April 12 2022

Webster Parish Library
Quad Meeting Room
521 East and West Street
Minden, Louisiana
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*Featured Speaker
Rachel Stout-Evans
Resource Soil Scientist
USDA NRCS*

Just added to calendar:
April 21, 2022, 6 p.m.
Spring Gardening Workshop: Soil Health
Ringgold, Louisiana
Call (318) 237-8350 for more information.

Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing reasonable accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350 or ceo@trailblazer.org prior to the meeting or event.



Feral Hog Research

April 19, 2022

Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be served

*With Glen T. Gentry
LSU AgCenter*



Forestry Management in Dynamic Times

April 25 2022

Bossier Parish Libraries
History Center
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Join us at 5:15 p.m. for refreshments

*Featured Speaker
Tim Holland
Mudd & Holland
Consulting Foresters*

TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:
Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.

Trailblazer RC&D events are conducted in accordance with Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines. If you are not feeling well or you have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home.

April Workshop Sponsors/Partners

- Energy Transfer
- Hunt Forest Products, LLC
- Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC
- Weyerhaeuser
- Allstate Land & Timber Co., Inc.
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Burnham Construction
- Canfor Southern Pine
- Louisiana Forestry Association
- Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Parish Chapter
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury
- Lincoln Parish Library
- Webster Parish Police Jury
- Webster Parish Library
- Bossier Parish Police Jury
- Bossier Parish Libraries
- LSU AgCenter
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Trailblazer RC&D

Check our website to learn more about these and other upcoming events:
www.trailblazer.org

Meet Louisiana's Only Master Craftsman Beekeeper Amy Weeks



Amy Weeks began keeping bees in 2005, starting with only two hives. She attended Young Harris Beekeeping Institute in 2010 and completed the program at Master Craftsman Level in 2014. She now operates a queen bee and honey farm in Northeast Louisiana - **My Favorite Honey Farm.**



Amy has served on the Louisiana Beekeepers Association Board of Directors and is a Past-President of Hill Country Beekeepers Association. She has been a guest speaker at conferences and bee clubs. Some of her volunteer/research work includes a USAID Farmer to Farmer assignment in Guyana, South America working

with beekeepers there to share bee knowledge and develop a base-line pest and disease survey for the country.



Trailblazer Tuesday at the Lincoln Parish Library
April 5 Honey Bees and Pollinators Workshop with Amy Weeks. Join us on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00 p.m., Lincoln Parish Library, to learn about honey bees, beekeeping, and pollinators. Pre-register for this workshop by calling or texting (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.

Conservation Conversation

USDA Report Shows a Decade of Conservation Trends

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows use of no-till, crop rotations, more efficient irrigation methods and advanced technologies have climbed in recent years.

Because of this increased conservation, the report estimates:

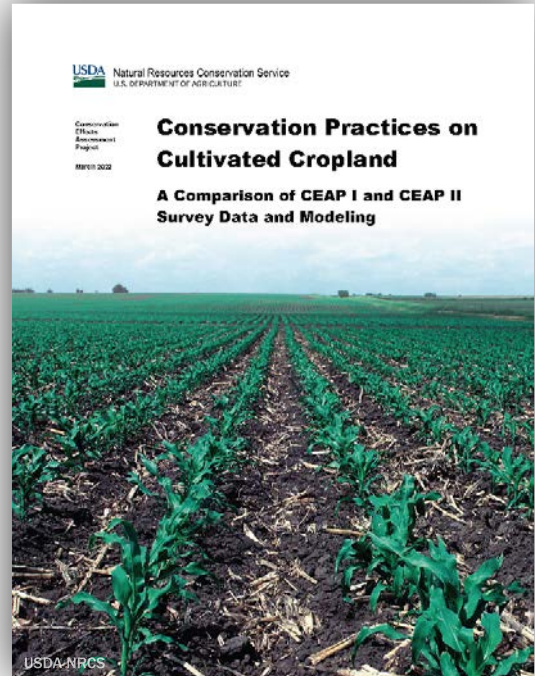
- Average annual water (sheet and rill) and wind erosion dropped by 70 million and 94 million tons, respectively, and edge-of-field sediment loss declined by 74 million tons.
- Nearly 26 million additional acres of cultivated cropland were gaining soil carbon, and carbon gains on all cultivated cropland increased by over 8.8 million tons per year.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus losses through surface runoff declined by 3% and 6%, respectively.
- Average annual fuel use dropped by 110 million gallons of diesel fuel equivalents, avoiding associated greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 1.2 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents.

The report from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS) demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation over a 10-year period. Findings from the report will inform future conservation strategies, including USDA's efforts to tackle the climate crisis. It found significant gains for soil health and soil carbon storage, while also identifying areas where additional and targeted nutrient management strategies are needed.

For this report, farmer survey data was collected from 2003-2006 and again from 2013-2016. NRCS evaluates conservation practice adoption through the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Cropland Assessment, using a combination of farmer surveys, land use and soils information, along with resource models. CEAP project findings are used to guide USDA conservation policy and program development, along with assisting conservationists, farmers and ranchers and other land stewards with making sound and science-based conservation decisions.

Download the full report at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1893221&ext=pdf



“This latest CEAP report shows that farmers have done an outstanding job over the years in using innovative conservation strategies that help mitigate climate change,” said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby, “But we have more work to do. Reports like this one help us better understand conservation approaches and make improvements to increase positive impacts. This report will help steer our conservation efforts well into the future to help us adapt to changing trends in production, climate and technology.”

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides America's farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground. If you are interested in learning more about NRCS opportunities, contact your local field office.

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

News

Events, happenings, and milestones

Get Out and Fish!

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) Get Out and Fish! program provides easy and affordable access to quality fishing at locations close to cities and towns. Through this program, LDWF partners with local governments and community organizations to stock community fishing ponds with adult channel catfish in the spring and fall and rainbow trout in the winter, weather permitting. By stocking community ponds, LDWF is introducing new anglers to the sport of fishing and providing opportunities for current anglers to practice their skills.

Local Get Out and Fish Locations:

Elmore D. Mayfield Park

1701 Martin Luther King Drive, Ruston, LA

Grambling City Park

2045 West Martin Luther King Avenue, Grambling, LA

Kiroli Park

820 Kiroli Road, West Monroe, LA

Parc Natchitoches

4515 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA

Pearson Lake

Forts Randolph and Buhlow

135 Riverfront Street, Pineville, LA

Turner's Pond

301 Lakeshore Drive, Minden, LA

For other Get Out and Fish locations around the state, go to

https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Events_And_Education/Files/Get-Out-and-Fish/GOF-Site-List-Printable-3.pdf



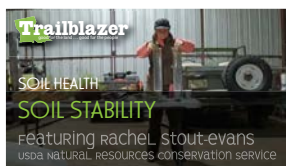
Time to Catch a Big One!

LDWF Stocking Get Out and Fish Ponds

Make plans to visit one of LDWF's "Get Out and Fish!" sites. During March, LDWF stocked 17 sites across the state with adult-sized channel catfish. To see the stocking schedule and find a location near you, visit <http://ow.ly/kpHY50IrHvu>

To stay up-to-date with stockings, park events, and more, go to LDWF Get Out & Fish at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/get-out-and-fish>

Remember: All anglers 16 and older must have a Louisiana fishing license when fishing in any Louisiana public waters. Licenses are available for purchase online at <http://ow.ly/7ocl50lRhtL>



Check out our latest video series on soil health!

Go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafntp92cYXWI5nw>
 or scan this code with your cell phone:



March Workshop Recap (continued from page 1)

March workshop sponsors included: Energy Transfer; Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters, LLC; Weyerhaeuser; Allstate Land & Timber Co., Inc.; National Wild Turkey Federation; Burnham Construction; Canfor Southern Pine; Louisiana Forestry Association; Irrigation Mart 800-SAY-RAIN; Whitetails Unlimited, Lincoln Parish Chapter; Lincoln Parish Police Jury; Lincoln Parish Library; LSU AgCenter; Union Parish Police Jury; Claiborne Parish Police Jury; Claiborne Parish Library; Bossier Parish Police Jury; Bossier Parish Libraries; Northeast Soil and Water Conservation District; Progressive Bank; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Trailblazer RC&D. Thank you for your support!

Food for Thought Information worth pondering



A mole is 4 to 7 inches long with paddle-shaped feet. It has a long head and snout, small eyes, and no external ears. It has short black-to-brown gray fur.

A mole digs tunnels at a rate of 18 feet per hour and can add 150 feet of new tunnels to a lawn each day. There is no visible entrance to their tunnels.

Moles are meat eaters. They love earthworms, grubs and insects, and they consume up to 60 to 100 percent of their body weight each day.

While there are many ways to remove moles from your landscape, trapping is the best recommended control measure.

For more information on moles in your landscape, see: "Moles in the Lawn and Landscape," LSU AgCenter, https://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/lawn_garden/ornamentals/landscaping/moles-in-the-lawn-and-landscape, viewed 3/26/2022.

MOLES and VOLES

A Tale of Two Critters

Gazing out your back door, you see a beautiful lawn, flower beds, or a vegetable garden. As your gaze moves across the beauty of your landscape, you notice a small volcano of soil erupting in the middle of your yard. But wait, what is that weird little creature emerging from the volcano?

Could it be a mole or a vole?? Moles and voles go together like bread and butter. If you have one, you probably have the other. How do you know which creature is tearing up your backyard, and what can you do about it?



A vole is 5 to 8 inches long and have large orange teeth for gnawing plant roots and stems. Voles look like mice with short tails, small eyes, and partially hidden ears.

Voles tunnel on the surface with visible entrance holes. They use the tunnels left by moles to find food.

Voles are vegetarians. They eat roots, bulbs, seeds, tree bark, and plant foliage.

Mouse traps baited with peanut butter, oatmeal, pecans, or apple slices placed in their runways or landscape beds will reduce populations.

For more information on voles in your landscape, see: "Controlling Voles in the Landscape, 1-3-11," Mississippi State University Extension, <http://extension.ms-state.edu/newsletters/turf-tips-newsletter/2011/controlling-voles-the-landscape-1-3-11>, viewed 3/26/2022.

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Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!

ENERGY TRANSFER

Weyerhaeuser

ALLSTATE LAND & TIMBER CO., INC.
HAUGHTON, LA. (318) 949-3677

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

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

HUNT FOREST PRODUCTS, L.L.C.

Louisiana

Origin Bank

PROGRESSIVE BANK

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Friends of Trailblazer

- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- LSU AgCenter
- Claiborne Parish Library
- USDA APHIS
- Lincoln Parish Library

Thank You!
for your support

BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY

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ceo@trailblazer.org

When I said,
"My foot is slipping,"
your unfailing love,
LORD, supported me.

Psalm 94:18
New International
Version (NIV)



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. You should call a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes.