

# Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 6 • June 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people



Trailblazer RC&D



Trailblazer RC&D

Dear Friends,

During May, Trailblazer hosted three workshops and participated in the LSU AgCenter's Wildlife Field Day in Winnsboro. Everyone who attended these events had an opportunity to learn about Trailblazer and our partners and sponsors. They learned about wildlife habitat, backyard birding, farm pond construction, and saw first-hand fish restocking at the pond.

First and foremost, our workshops are offered to encourage, cultivate, and develop natural resource stewardship. Secondly, our workshops provide an opportunity for neighbors to meet neighbors, find common ground, and learn about conservation solutions for resource issues. For many people, our workshops provide their first opportunity to meet local, state, or federal representatives who can offer technical and financial assistance. For others, it is an opportunity to reconnect.

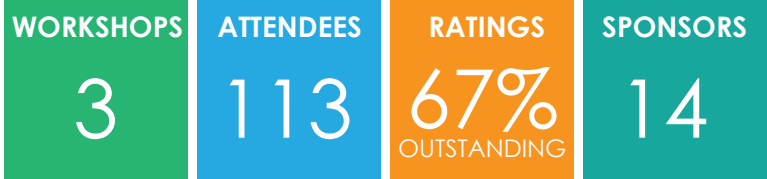
Please join us in June, as a participant or a sponsor, and help us promote conservation of our natural resources!

Sincerely,

P. Ellzey Simmons

Chief Executive Officer, Trailblazer RC&D

## May 2022 Workshop Update



### Backyard Birding

May 2, 2022  
Athens, LA  
May 3, 2022  
Ruston, LA

### Farm Pond Construction & Maintenance

May 27, 2022  
Haughton, LA

## WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



*I enjoyed it all  
—very knowledgeable speaker.*

*Bird calls and learning  
where to go see certain birds.*

*Information on pond spillway and  
pond leaking remedies.*

Statistics represent a total or average for the three May workshops.

## Upcoming Events

**June 7 - 6 p.m.**  
**Forestry 101 for Landowners with Dr. Rick Williams**  
Lincoln Parish Library  
Ruston, LA

**June 14 - 6 p.m.**  
**Forestry 101 for Landowners with Dr. Rick Williams**  
History Center, Bossier Parish Library  
Bossier City, LA

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

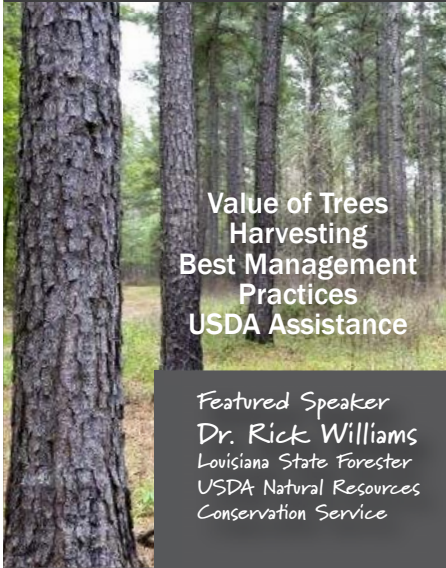
## What is the benefit of collaborating with Trailblazer RC&D on a workshop?

- Visibility for your organization
- Reach a new audience
- Build your brand at the grassroots level
- Create community relationships
- Achieve common natural resource conservation goals
- Get to know your neighbors

**So, what are you waiting for?** Contact us today to find out how to become a Trailblazer sponsor or partner. Call (318) 237-8350 or email [ceo@trailblazer.org](mailto:ceo@trailblazer.org).

# Community Please join us in June!

## FORESTRY 101 <sup>2 FREE Workshops</sup> workshop for landowners



Value of Trees  
Harvesting  
Best Management  
Practices  
USDA Assistance

Featured Speaker  
*Dr. Rick Williams*  
Louisiana State Forester  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

**June 7, 2022**

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

**June 14, 2022**

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

**Free Registration**

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

**Trailblazer RC&D workshops are offered free of charge because of the support of our great sponsors and 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
- Bossier Parish Police Jury
- Bossier Parish Libraries
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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.

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.

Please check our website for a complete listing of events. New events are added throughout the month, and we don't want you to miss an opportunity to attend! Hope to see you during June!

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEOS!

 **YouTube Trailblazer RC&D**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGghA8uiafntp92cYXWI5nw>



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**PLANTING FOR HONEY BEES**  
with amy weeks  
master craftsman  
beekeeper

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**FERAL HOG RESEARCH**  
with DR. GLEN T. GENTRY, LSU aGCenter

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**LEARNING ABOUT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
with Drew Wiggers, Louisiana's Northeast SWCD

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**SOIL HEALTH**  
**SOIL STABILITY**  
featuring rachel stout-evans  
usda natural resources conservation service

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**SOIL HEALTH**  
**PRINCIPLES OF SOIL HEALTH**  
featuring rachel stout-evans  
usda natural resources conservation service

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**SOIL HEALTH**  
**IMPACTS OF RAIN ON SOIL**  
featuring rachel stout-evans  
usda natural resources conservation service

# Conservation Conversation



## FORESTRY

Protecting Water Quality

### Streamside Management Zone (SMZ)

A Streamside Management Zone, or SMZ, is a forested buffer surrounding a stream that is managed to protect water quality. SMZs protect water quality by reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and chemicals that enter streams as a result of forest management activities such as, road construction, road use, timber harvesting, site preparation, forest regeneration, and prescribed burning. There are effective best management practices that forest landowners can implement to protect water quality during essential forest management activities.

#### Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones

- Do not remove trees from banks, beds or steep slopes if removal will destabilize soil and degrade water.
- Plan harvests to minimize stream crossings.
- Locate stream crossings where stream impacts are likely to be minimal.
- Locate roads, skid trails, fire lanes, and logging sets outside the Streamside Management Zone.
- Limit harvesting on Streamside Management Zones and sensitive forested wetlands during abnormally wet periods.
- Consider using wide-tire skidders, forwarders, cable skidders, and tracked equipment to minimize soil disturbance.
- Cross streams at right angles when practical.
- Promptly remove all temporary crossings and restore the site after harvesting is completed.

**For more information on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry in Louisiana,** see “Recommended Forestry Best Management Practices for Louisiana,” published by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Forestry Association, and Louisiana Logging Council, at

<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/BMP.pdf>

#### USDA to Allow Producers to Request Voluntary Termination of Conservation Reserve Program Contract

#### USDA Announces Additional Flexibilities to Help Address Threats to GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will allow Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants who are in the final year of their CRP contract to request voluntary termination of their CRP contract following the end of the primary nesting season for fiscal year 2022. Participants approved for this one-time, voluntary termination will not have to repay rental payments, a flexibility implemented this year to help mitigate the global food supply challenges caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other factors.

#### USDA also announced additional flexibilities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

FSA is mailing letters to producers with expiring acres that detail this flexibility and share other options, such as re-enrolling sensitive acres in the CRP Continuous signup and considering growing organic crops. Producers will be asked to make the request for voluntary termination in writing through their local USDA Service Center.

If approved for voluntary termination, preparations can occur after the conclusion of the primary

Continued on Page 4

# News

## Events, happenings, and milestones

From the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

### 2022 Turkey Season Success

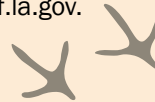
The 2022 Louisiana turkey harvest was the best since harvest reporting began in the state in 2009, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries announced, with hunters taking 2,846 birds compared to 1,886 in 2021, an improvement of 50.9%. The harvest is based on tag validation data, required by all turkey hunters.

“Hopefully this increased level of harvest will be maintained or improved upon in future years,” said Cody Cedotal, LDWF’s Small Game Program Manager. “This would indicate increasing populations in many areas of the state and may provide evidence that the season

change is working. Prime weather conditions the first three weekends of the season combined with relatively good reproduction in some areas of the state the last couple of years are likely contributing factors to the harvest increase.”

For the full news release and related statistics, go to:  
<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/louisiana-turkey-hunters-harvest-most-birds-since-reporting-began-in-2009-ldwf-announces>

For more information, contact Cedotal at [ccedotal@wlf.la.gov](mailto:ccedotal@wlf.la.gov).



From Trailblazer RC&D YouTube

### Feral Hog Research

During an April 2022 workshop in Ruston, Louisiana, Dr. Glen T. Gentry briefed participants on the latest research being conducted at the LSU AgCenter to address the overpopulation of feral hogs. Dr. Gentry serves as the Resident Director of LSU AgCenter’s Doyle Chambers-Central Research Station in Baton Rouge, as well as the Resident Director of the Bob R. Jones-Idlewild Research Station in Clinton.

Trailblazer RC&D offers a look at Dr. Gentry’s presentation on our YouTube channel. Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIOLBazaxeQ>

USDA Announces Additional Flexibilities to Help Address Threats to

## GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Continued from Page 3

nesting season. Producers will then be able to hay, graze, begin land preparation activities and plant a fall-seeded crop before October 1, 2022.

USDA also encourages producers to consider NRCS conservation programs, which help producers integrate conservation on croplands, grazing lands and other agricultural landscapes. EQIP and CSP can help producers plant cover crops, manage nutrients and improve irrigation and grazing systems. Additionally, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), or state or private easement programs, may be such an option. In many cases, a combination

of approaches can be taken on the same parcel. For example, riparian areas or other sensitive parts of a parcel may be enrolled in continuous CRP and the remaining land that is returned to farming can participate in CSP or EQIP and may be eligible to receive additional ranking points.

**Additionally, NRCS is also offering a new flexibility for EQIP and CSP participants who have cover cropping including in their existing contracts.** NRCS will allow participants to either modify their plans to plant a cover crop (and instead shift to a conservation crop rotation) or delay their cover crop plans a year, without needing to

terminate the existing contract. This will allow for flexibility to respond to market signals while still ensuring the conservation benefits through NRCS financial and technical assistance for participating producers.

**Producers and landowners can learn more about these options by contacting FSA and NRCS at their local USDA Service Center or visiting online at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).**

See NRCS local contacts on Page 5.

# Food for Thought Information worth pondering

## Lumber Sizes

### Why is a 2x4 not 2 inches by 4 inches?

Lumber is cut to standard widths and depths to make it ready for many applications. Typical sizes of lumber are 2x4, 2x6, and 4x4. However, every board has two sizes: nominal size and actual size.

The nominal size is the name of the board size; for example 2x4, 2x6, and 4x4. It is the standard terminology used when buying and selling lumber.

The actual size is the size of the board after drying and surfacing the rough lumber on all four sides. The actual size of a 2x4 is 1 1/2 inches x 3 1/2 inches.



**A word to the wise . . . When planning a project, be sure to check the actual sizes of your lumber before purchasing!**



Stephen Bratkovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Nominal Size	Actual Size
Two-by-four or 2 x 4	1 1/2 inches x 3 1/2 inches
Two-by-six or 2 x 6	1 1/2 inches x 5 1/2 inches
Two-by-eight or 2 x 8	1 1/2 inches x 7 1/4 inches
Two-by-ten or 2 x 10	1 1/2 inches x 9 1/4 inches
One-by-two or 1 x 2	3/4-inch x 1 1/2 inches
One-by-three or 1 x 3	3/4-inch x 2 1/2 inches
One-by-four or 1 x 4	3/4-inch x 3 1/2 inches

## 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

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# Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



### Friends of Trailblazer

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

LSU AgCenter

Claiborne Parish Library

Village of Athens

USDA APHIS

Lincoln Parish Library



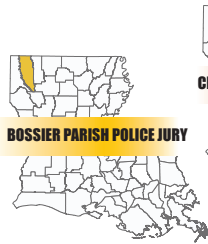
MUDD & HOLLAND CONSULTING FORESTERS, LLC  
Tim Holland (318) 286-2802



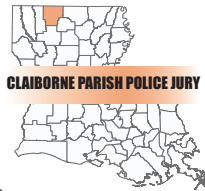
*Thank You!*  
for your support



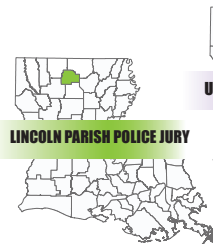
BIENVILLE PARISH POLICE JURY



BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY



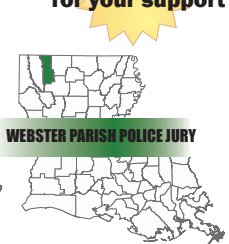
CLAIBORNE PARISH POLICE JURY



LINCOLN PARISH POLICE JURY



UNION PARISH POLICE JURY



WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY



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

"Let the trees of the forest sing,  
let them sing for joy before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth."

1 Chronicles 16:33  
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.