

Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 7 • July 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people

Dear Friends,

Check out this “Summer Bucket List:”

- Enjoy a backyard BBQ
- Nap in a hammock
- Cool off in a pool
- Eat popsicles (a lot)
- Get patriotic on the 4th of July
- Run through the sprinkler
- Wave at your neighbors as they laugh
- Get to know some new friends

If this summer list sounds good to you, make it happen! We can help with the new friends – join us at a July workshop! I guarantee you will meet someone new.

Enjoy your summer.
Enjoy your family.
Stay cool.

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



Hank—living his best summer life.



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June 2022 Workshop Update

Forestry 101

June 7, 2022
Ruston, LA

June 14, 2022
Bossier City, LA

WORKSHOPS	ATTENDEES	RATINGS	SPONSORS
2	46	71% OUTSTANDING	15

WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



Being able to ask questions during the lecture.

All! Very informative.

Dr. Williams was very knowledgeable.

Statistics represent a total or average for the two June workshops.

Upcoming Events

July 5 - 6 p.m.

Forestry 201 for Landowners with Tim Holland
Mudd & Holland
Consulting Foresters
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

July 12 - 6 p.m.

Forestry 201 for Landowners with Tim Holland
Mudd & Holland
Consulting Foresters
History Center, Bossier Parish Library
Bossier City, LA

July 19 - 10:30 a.m.

Advanced Backyard Birds with Dr. Ashley M. Long
LSU AgCenter
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

July 26 - 6 p.m.

Pond Management with Jeff Sibley
LDWF
Sheriff's Complex
Viking Drive
Bossier City, LA

COMING SOON

- Fall Food Plots - August
- Working With Loggers - August
- Waterfowl Habitat - October
- Wildlife Forestry Field Day - October

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 July!

FORESTRY 201 FREE Workshops workshop for landowners

July 5, 2022

Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Pizza at 5:15 p.m.*

July 12, 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!

Featured Speaker
Tim Holland
Owner and Lead Forester
Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters

Forestry Management in Dynamic Times
Best Management Practices
USDA Assistance

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

*In cooperation with the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and other great sponsors.



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
- LSU AgCenter
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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.

Advanced Backyard Birding

July 19, 2022

FEATURED SPEAKER
Dr. Ashley M. Long
School of Renewable Resources
Louisiana State University

Lincoln Parish Library
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Lunch Provided

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

*In cooperation with the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and other great sponsors.



TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS:

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

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 July!

Check us out on YouTube!



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



Farm Pond Management workshop

July 26 2022

Bossier Parish Sheriff's Complex
2510 Viking Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Refreshments served at 5:30 p.m.

- Vegetative management
- Water quality
- Nutrient issues
- Pond stocking
- Technical/financial help



FEATURED SPEAKER
Jeff Sibley
Fisheries Biologist Manager
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

FREE Workshop

Conservation Conversation

SILVOPASTURE

Silvopasture is the production of trees, forage, and livestock on the same land at the same time.

Trees + Cows = Profit

USDA, NRCS

Benefits

Income diversity

Trees provide long-term returns, while livestock generate an annual income.

Control of weedy vegetation

Grazing controls vegetation under trees, reducing the need for chemical or mechanical treatment and reducing the risk of fire.

Provide shade and shelter for livestock

Trees provide a cooler environment and reduce heat stress for livestock in summer months.

Improved livestock nutrition

Shaded, cool season forage can be more nutritious for livestock.

Trees/Grasses/Legumes

Silvopasture systems are created by introducing forage in a forested area or planting trees in a pasture area. In the southeastern United States, loblolly pine, slash pine, and longleaf pine are used for silvopastures very effectively with bahiagrass and crimson clover understory forage.¹ A silvopasture system usually employs native grasses, fertilization and nitrogen-fixing legumes, and rotational grazing systems with short grazing periods to maximize plant growth and harvest.

Livestock

Potential livestock choices for a silvopasture system include cattle, sheep, goats, horses, turkeys, chickens, ostriches, emu, rhea, or game animals such as bison, deer, elk, caribou, etc.²

Technical/Financial Assistance

If you are interested in starting a silvopasture system to provide food, shade, shelter for your livestock or improve the productivity of your trees/shrubs, contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS offers voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage forestland and grazing lands.

¹ What is silvopasture? USDA National Agroforestry Center, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/assets/documents/workingtrees/infosheets/WhatIsSilvopastureInfoSheetMay2013.pdf>, viewed 6/29/2022.

² Silvopasture, USDA National Agroforestry Center, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/nac/practices/silvopasture.php>, viewed 6/29/2022

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.

www.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance through conservation programs to help you develop a forest management plan and to implement conservation practices such as silvopasture.



USDA, NRCS

News

Events, happenings, and milestones

Birding in Louisiana

LOUISIANATRAVEL.COM offers information on great places in Louisiana to visit, stay, eat, party—and watch birds!

Join us on July 19 -
10:30 a.m. -at the
Lincoln Parish Library
for an Advanced
Backyard Birding
Workshop!



Check out these recommended local birding spots:

Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Bossier City. A seven-mile trail system provides access to what is said to be a critical stopover point for more than 200 species of migratory songbirds and shorebirds, plus wintering grounds for waterfowl and wading birds.

C. Bickham Dickson Park in Shreveport. Over 200 bird species have been recorded at the park, including the yellow-crowned night-heron, red-headed woodpecker, eastern bluebird, loggerhead shrike, and Baltimore oriole.

Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in Tallulah. Common species include wood duck, wild turkey and numerous warbler species.

Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Monroe. Check out the 1,700-acre lake, nature trails, boardwalks, pier, observation deck, nature center and more. This refuge offers plenty of bird-watching spots. Next to the visitor center you'll find the Conservation Learning Center with animal exhibits, an arboretum with native Louisiana woody plants, and a prairie demonstration area with native wildflowers.

From: By the Region: Great Spots for Birding in Louisiana, <https://www.louisianatravel.com/article/s/region-great-spots-birding-louisiana>, viewed 6/29/2022.

LDWF Announces Expanded Wild Turkey Population Survey With Online Component for the Public

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has developed a public online component to expand its Wild Turkey Population Survey. In addition to increasing participation in the survey, the online component can also incorporate and track wild turkey sightings throughout the year.

LDWF has tracked wild turkey reproduction since 1994 with a survey conducted by volunteer participants during the summer. It provides important trend data with regard to reproduction and recruitment in Louisiana turkey flocks. However, over the years, the number of observations have declined resulting in less reliable data. The new online reporting component will augment the summer surveys, which will continue.

“This web-based tracking component will allow us to greatly expand our survey,” said LDWF Small Game/Wild Turkey Program Manager Cody Cedotal. “Now anyone can assist us in our effort to keep track of Louisiana’s wild turkey populations. Whether you are sitting on your back porch in October, in your deer stand in December, turkey hunting in April or making a round through your property in August and see wild turkeys, we would like to know about it.”

The data obtained will allow managers to monitor population trends and help make regulatory recommendations as necessary to sustain populations.

The survey can be accessed on the LDWF website (<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/turkey>), by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the story or directly at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/81c20aa4e4524fbcbecc2c426d9d3e2a>

Once you have opened the portal to the survey, simply click the “LA Turkey Survey Data Entry” to review the specific instructions and log each separate wild turkey observation. You will be asked to provide your name, date, location and the number of males (adults or juveniles), females, and/or poult seen.

If you are interested in keeping up with observations as they come in, check out the “Turkey Survey Dashboard” tab. Here you can view updates on how many observations have been reported so far during the year. You will be able to view reported observations by parish and track the number of birds seen by sex and age to an extent (poult, juvenile male, adult male).

For more information contact Cody Cedotal at 225-765-2361 or ccedotal@wlf.la.gov.



Food for Thought Information worth pondering

U.S. Drought Monitor

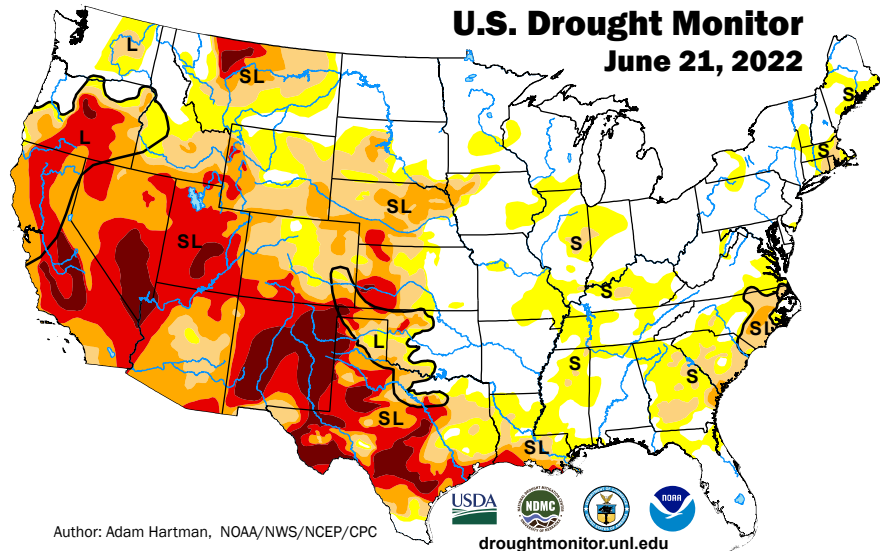
The U.S. Drought Monitor is a map released every Thursday by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, that shows parts of the United States that are in drought.

The map uses six intensity classifications:

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The drought monitor has been a team effort since its inception in 1999, produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The NDMC hosts the web site of the drought monitor and the associated data, and provides the map and data to NOAA, USDA and other agencies.



Author: Adam Hartman, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC.

The USDA uses the drought monitor to trigger disaster declarations and eligibility for low-interest loans. The Farm Service Agency uses it to help determine eligibility for their Livestock Forage Program, and the Internal Revenue Service uses it for tax deferral on forced livestock sales due to drought. State, local, tribal and basin-level decision makers use it to trigger drought responses, ideally along with other more local indicators of drought.

The drought monitor is freely available at: droughtmonitor.unl.edu.

If you don't like the weather now, just wait . . .

For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher).

From: NOAA predicts above-normal 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season, <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-above-normal-2022-atlantic-hurricane-season>, viewed 6/30/22.

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!



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



PAUL D. SPILLERS, Senior Counsel
 pspillers@thelaw.com (318) 388-0100
 LAW OFFICES OF THEUS, GRISHAM, DAVIS & LEIGH
 MONROE, LOUISIANA



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

"Look to the Lord
 and his strength;
 seek his face
 always."

1 Chronicles 16:11
 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.