

Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 9 • September 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people



August 2, 2022
Fall Wildlife Food Plots



August 2, 2022
Fall Wildlife Food Plots



August 30, 2022
Fall Wildlife Food Plots



August 9, 2022
Logistics of Logging



August 9, 2022
Logistics of Logging

Dear Friends,

August workshops were a great blend of wildlife and forestry topics. September will bring workshops on how beekeepers can capitalize on value-added bee products, how to be successful in establishing fall wildlife food plots, and how to develop an ideal habitat on your land for whitetail deer. I am sure you will enjoy these workshops! Call and register today!

Sincerely,

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

August 2022

Fall Wildlife Food Plots

August 2, 2022
Ruston, LA

Logistics of Logging

August 9, 2022
Bossier City, LA

Fall Wildlife Food Plots

August 30, 2022
Bossier City, LA

Workshop Update

WORKSHOPS

3

ATTENDEES

90

RATINGS

79%
OUTSTANDING

SPONSORS

17

WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?



Interaction and overall knowledge.

Fantastic speaker.

Finding out why there's so much involved with cutting trees!

Terry's presentation contains so much useful info for landowners.

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

UPCOMING TRAILBLAZER EVENTS

September 6 - 6 p.m.
Value-Added Bee Products with Amy Weeks
Master Craftsman Beekeeper
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

September 8 - 6 p.m.
Fall Wildlife Food Plots with Terry Johnston
Wildlife Biologist
Winn Parish Library
Winnfield, LA

September 12 & 13 - 6 p.m.
Land Mgt for Whitetail Deer with David Moreland
Wildlife Biologist/Author
9/12: Homer, LA
9/13: Bossier City, LA

October 4 - 6 p.m.
Waterfowl Habitat: Where are the Ducks with Jim Ronquest
RNT-V Co-Host/Producer
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS: Call or text (318) 237-8350.

Community Please join us in September! and October!

Fantastic Speakers!

Sept 6
Features
Amy Weeks
Beekeeper at
My Favorite Honey

Sept 8
Features
Terry Johnston
Conservationist
and Wildlife
Biologist

Sept 12 & 13
Features
David Moreland
Wildlife Biologist
and Author

Oct 4
Features
Jim Ronquest
RNT-V Co-Host
and Producer
VP of Development
at Drake Waterfowl

Timely Topics!

<p>September 6 ✓</p> <p>TRAILBLAZER URBAN AGRICULTURE SERIES VALUE-ADDED BEE PRODUCTS Workshop</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>September 8 ✓</p> <p>FALL Wildlife Food Plots workshop</p> <p>Winn Parish Library Main Branch 200 North Saint John Street Winnfield, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments!</p>
<p>September 12 ✓</p> <p>Land Management for Whitetail Deer</p> <p>Claiborne Parish Library 909 Edgewood Drive Homer, Louisiana 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for refreshments!</p>	<p>September 13 ✓</p> <p>Land Management for Whitetail Deer</p> <p>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!</p>
<p>October 4 ✓</p> <p>WATERFOWL HABITAT Where are the ducks? WORKSHOP</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Free Registration TO REGISTER: Call or text (318) 237-8350 and provide your contact information and name of workshop.</p> <p>Refreshments at 5:30 p.m. Program begins at 6:00 p.m.</p>

Register TODAY!

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.

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.

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
- Lincoln Parish Police Jury
- Lincoln Parish Library
- Bossier Parish Police Jury
- Bossier Parish Libraries
- Claiborne Parish Police Jury
- Claiborne Parish Library
- LSU AgCenter
- Dugdeмона Soil and Water Conservation District
- Winn Parish Library
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



New Trailblazer Videos:

Fall Wildlife Food Plots: Soil Testing
<https://youtu.be/O4pwa44Vn8I>

Fall Wildlife Food Plots: pH and Fertilizer
<https://youtu.be/1gCRo0H4m2M>

Fall Wildlife Food Plots: Web Soil Survey
<https://youtu.be/6H9UrJ28JMq>

www.trailblazer.org

Please check our website for a complete listing of events. Hope to see you during September and October!

Conservation Conversation

What to Plant/When to Plant/How to Plant

NRCS has a tool that will help answer these questions.

Wildlife Food Plots in Louisiana

Landowners establish wildlife food plots to provide supplemental food sources for wildlife. Food plots are planted for summer and fall feeding. Summer plots are planted in the spring and provide deer with proteins needed for antler growth for bucks and healthy milk production for does. Fall plots are planted in mid- to late-summer and provide carbohydrates, which are easily converted into fat, to help the deer prepare for winter.

Wildlife food plot planting success depends on choosing the proper plant species, planting adequate amounts of seed, using proper planting techniques, and planting at the right time of the year.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Louisiana developed a guide to assist landowners and planners with conservation plantings, such as wildlife food plots:

Plant Materials Technical Note No. 1: Planting Rates for Louisiana by MLRAs

This technical note is a great tool for anyone planting conservation plants in Louisiana. See the link below.



Major Land Resource Areas (MLRAs) are geographically associated land resource units defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and characterized by a pattern that combines soils, water, climate, vegetation, land use, and type of farming. There are 204 MLRAs in the United States, ranging in size from less than 500,000 acres to more than 60 million acres.

Planting Rates for Louisiana by Major Land Resource Area (MLRA)

Appendix 1a - Page 1 - Planting rates for Louisiana by MLRA's		Source Area	Seeding Guidance	Adapted Plants by Soil Groups 3/				Conservation Practice												
Name		150A Gulf Coast Prairie	151 Gulf Coast Marsh	152A Eastern Gulf Coast Flatwoods	152B Western Gulf Coast Flatwoods	Optimum Seeding Dates 6/, 9/	Coarse	Moderately Coarse	Medium	Moderately Fine	Fine	327 Conservation Cover	550 Range Planting	512 Pasture Hayland Planting	388 Field Border	340 Cover Crop	39	60	34	
PERENNIAL GRASSES 1/, 5/																				
Bahiagrass, <i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Argentine Tifton 9 Riala	X	X	X		3/15-6/1 (3/1-8/1)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sanctuary recommended for heavy clay soils, pH 5.5-6.5, drought tolerant
Bermudagrass (broadcast green hay), <i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Alicia, Jiggs, Grazer, Brazos, Russell, Summitt 007, Little Phillip I, Tifton 44, Tifton 85, Coastal				X	4/15-6/30 (3/1-8/31)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	All soils, extremely drought tolerant

The NRCS guide provides recommendations on:

- Species Selection
- Variety
- Native Plant Selections
- Season of Growth
- Wildlife/Pollinators
- Adaptation by MLRA
- Planting Rates/Dates
- Soil adaptation
- Applicable Conservation Practice

Example page. Check out the entire document at the link below.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/lapmctn9979.pdf

If you would like to learn more about wildlife food plots and conservation planting recommendations, contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office or attend one of the great **Wildlife Food Plot Workshops and Land Management for Whitetail Deer Workshops** planned for September! Register today at (318) 237-8350.

News

Events, happenings, and milestones

USDA Investing \$197 Million in Partner-Driven, Locally led Conservation Louisiana project funded

In August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it is awarding \$197 million for 41 locally led conservation projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). RCPP is a partner-driven program that leverages partner resources to advance innovative projects that address climate change, enhance water quality, and address other critical challenges on agricultural land.

“Our partners are experts in their fields and understand the challenges in their own backyards,” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. “Through RCPP we can tap into that knowledge, in partnership with producers and USDA, to come up with lasting solutions to the challenges that farmers, ranchers, and landowners face. We’re looking forward to seeing the results of public-private partnership at its best, made possible through these RCPP investments.”

As part of this initiative, Louisiana is the lead state in a multi-state partnership project with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The Louisiana project is titled:

“Conjunctive Water Use Protects Mid-South Aquifers”

Conjunctive water use is the coordinated use of ground and surface water resources. Ducks Unlimited and more than 10 partners plan to help farmers implement practices and systems that increase the availability of surface water resources for irrigation while increasing irrigation efficiency. The project’s aim is to reduce dependency on dwindling mid-south aquifers.

For more information on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and a complete list of projects funded, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd1948235>

For more information on the Louisiana project, visit your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

USDA to Invest \$15 Million Climate-Smart Agriculture, Urban Agriculture and Addressing Invasive Species

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it will invest \$15 million this year for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Classic program. Through CIG, grantees work to address our nation’s water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while supporting agricultural production. This year’s funding priorities are climate-smart agriculture, addressing invasive species and conservation in urban agricultural systems.

For the fiscal 2022 award process, at least 10% of the total funds available are set aside for proposals that entirely benefit historically underserved (HU) producers.

Applications are being accepted now through October 11, 2022. Private entities whose primary business is related to agriculture, nongovernmental organizations with experience working with agricultural producers and non-federal government agencies are eligible to apply.

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



For more information and to apply, visit **GRANTS.GOV** at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343011>

For more information on the Conservation Innovation Grants program, visit the NRCS website at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/cig/?cid=nrcs143_008205

www.nrcs.usda.gov

Unsure who to call? Contact Trailblazer RC&D at (318) 237-8350, and we will put you in touch with the right people.

Food for Thought

Information worth
pondering

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Are Urban Soils Productive?

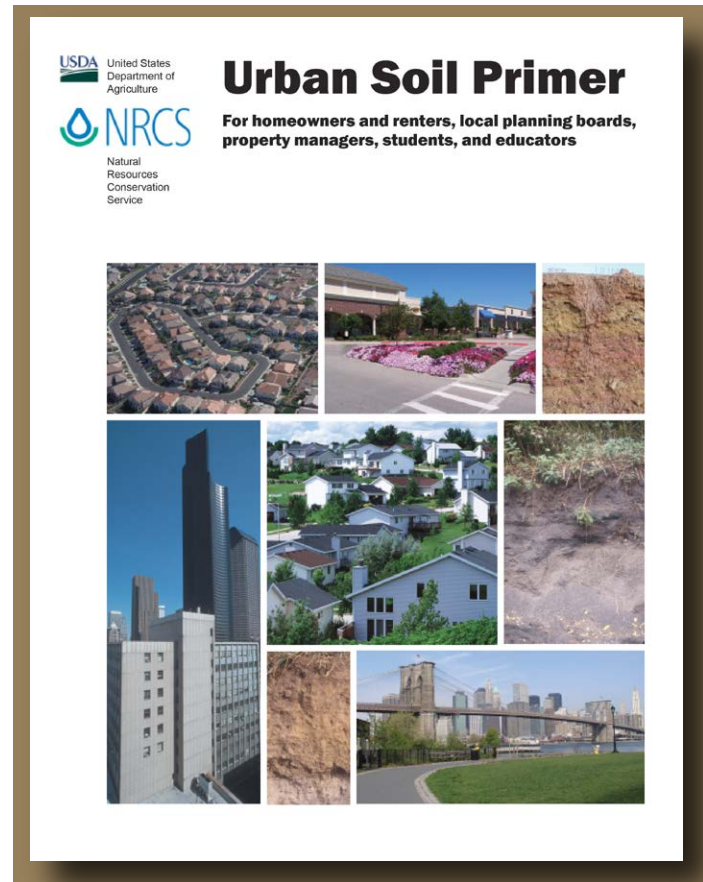
As cities grow, the soil of the city can be compacted, moved, deposited, and contaminated making it less productive for gardening or urban agriculture.

Some of the factors that may affect productivity in urban soil include:

- Little or no organic matter
- Artifacts that disrupt water movement
- Elevated salt content
- Interrupted nutrient cycling and modified activity of micro-organisms
- High soil temperatures that increase the rate of chemical reactions
- Generally higher pH values resulting from additions of cement, plaster, and road salts
- Lateral (sideways) subsurface waterflow resulting from compacted layers

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers an “Urban Soil Primer” to provide an introduction to soils and information important to planning and managing land resources in an urban area. To read more about the issues of urban soil and suggested solutions to common problems, check this publication out at:

https://www.blogs.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_052835.pdf



If you live in an urban area and you are interested in urban agriculture, contact your local office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or attend an upcoming Trailblazer RC&D workshop to learn more about urban agriculture opportunities. Check for workshop dates at www.trailblazer.org.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service



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USDA APHIS

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for your support



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

"I sought the Lord,
and he answered me;
he delivered me from
all my fears."
Psalm 34:4
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.

Check us out on YouTube!

