

Trailblazer news

Volume 12 • Issue 11 • November 2022

good for the land . . . good for the people



Dear Friends,
Best wishes to you and your family from Trailblazer RC&D during this month of giving thanks.

We are thankful for your friendship and support and look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

We are Thankful

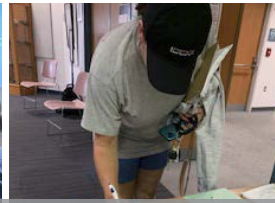
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



October 4



October 7



October 11



October 14

Photos by Trailblazer RC&D

October 2022 Workshop Update

Where are the Ducks?
Oct 4, 2022
Ruston, LA

Wildlife Forestry Field Day
Oct 7, 2022
Haughton, LA

Ten Timely Timber Tips
Oct 11, 2022
Bossier City, LA

Wildlife Forestry Field Day
Oct 14, 2022
Choudrant, LA

WORKSHOPS

4

ATTENDEES

152

RATINGS

77%
OUTSTANDING

SPONSORS

19

Statistics represent a total or average for the four October workshops.



WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST?

Mr. Jim provided some great info!
Inheritance practices.
Engagement with producers.

Great speakers and setting.
Field tour was excellent.

UPCOMING TRAILBLAZER EVENTS

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

November 1 - 6 p.m.
Mineral Leasing for the Louisiana Landowner with Attorney Paul Spillers
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

November 10 - 10 a.m.
Locally Led Conservation Meeting with NE SWCD
Scott Research Extension Center - Winnsboro
Lunch Provided

December 6 - 6 p.m.
Your Farm and Your Taxes with Attorney Paul Spillers
Lincoln Parish Library
Ruston, LA

Watch our online events calendar for upcoming 2023 events! We are looking forward to seeing you! www.trailblazer.org

Community Please join us in October!

November/December Events

MINERAL LEASING FOR THE LOUISIANA LANDOWNER

LINCOLN PARISH LIBRARY **November 1, 2022**
910 North Trenton Street
Ruston, Louisiana **Special Guest Speaker**
Attorney Paul Spillers

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join us at 5:15 p.m. for pizza!

- Basic Mineral Law
- Mineral Leasing Processes
- Landowner Protection AND MORE!

Photo by USDA NRCS



LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION MEETING

The Northeast Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) invites you to participate in a local work group meeting.

WHEN:

Thursday, November 10, 2022
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lunch Provided

WHERE:

Scott Research Extension Center
212 Macon Ridge Road
Winnsboro, Louisiana

RSVP:

Northeast SWCD
(318) 435-9424, ext. 3

AG PRODUCERS:

Join us to identify local resource concerns, discuss conservation priorities, and develop potential solutions.

This meeting is hosted in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Trailblazer RC&D.

YOUR FARM AND YOUR TAXES WORKSHOP

Special Guest Speaker
Attorney Paul Spillers

December 6, 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!

- How Taxes Apply to Farming
- Current Tax Law AND MORE!

FREE
Registration

Call today to register for these events!

Call or text (318) 237-8350

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!

November sponsors:

- 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
- Northeast Soil and Water Conservation District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



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

Mudd & Holland Consulting Foresters is a family-owned business established in 1959.

They manage timber for landowners in 28 counties and parishes across Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

They are committed to implementing good, sound forest and wildlife management practices that benefit landowners and the environment.

We appreciate Mudd & Holland's ongoing support of Trailblazer, our communities, and the environment!

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

Please check our website for a complete listing of events. Hope to see you in November!

www.trailblazer.org

Conservation Conversation

NRCS Announces Sign-Up Period for Conservation Initiatives Under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

NOVEMBER 18 APPLICATION DEADLINE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), including several special initiatives offered in Louisiana. **Producers interested in participating in EQIP should reach out to their local NRCS office and apply by November 18, 2022, for fiscal year 2023 first round of funding consideration.**

"Financial assistance is available for producers who are looking for ways to improve the natural resources on their land including soil, water and air quality and enhance wildlife habitat on their land," explained Chad Kacir, State Conservationist for Louisiana. "I encourage all farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying for EQIP to contact their local NRCS office."

In addition to general EQIP, the November 18th application period also applies to special initiatives such as the On-Farm Energy Initiative, Organic Initiative, Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, Longleaf Pine Initiative, Working Lands for Wildlife, Mississippi River Basin Initiative, and other state funding pools.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits. Applications for EQIP funding are accepted from agricultural and forestry producers at local USDA Service Centers throughout the year in a continuous sign-up process. However, NRCS evaluates applications during announced ranking periods. To be eligible for first-round funding for FY2023, producers should have their applications submitted to NRCS by November 18, 2022.

For more information about EQIP visit the NRCS EQIP webpage at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-environmental-quality-incentives> or visit your local NRCS office.

PLEASE NOTE

In addition to general EQIP, the November 18th application period also applies to special initiatives such as:

On-Farm Energy Initiative

Organic Initiative

Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative

Longleaf Pine Initiative

Working Lands for Wildlife

Mississippi River Basin Initiative

and other state funding pools



USDA NRCS

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 or go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

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

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

News

Events, happenings, and milestones

From the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries News Room

Hunters For The Hungry Louisiana kicks off the 2022-2023 Deer Season with Processors Statewide

Hunters For The Hungry Louisiana is once again accepting deer donations at partner processors that are signed up with the organization throughout the state, for the 2022-2023 deer hunting season.

Hunters are encouraged to visit the Hunters For The Hungry Louisiana (H4H) website to find a convenient partner processor where they can deliver their bounty and donate the deer. There is no cost to the hunter as H4H will pay the processing fee. Hunters are even allowed to keep the backstrap. The meat is then processed and picked up by a local food bank or agency within that community.

H4H collected over 800 deer for this program last hunting season, yielding over 30,000 pounds of meat that was distributed to the needy of our state. The goal for this season is to exceed 1,000 deer donations.

“So many of our hunters want to fill their own freezers but then continue to partake in the remainder of the hunting season. This program is the perfect way to continue to hunt throughout the season but also give back to your community” says Julie Grunewald, executive director of H4H. “Additionally, hunters and landowners are advised by LDWF to monitor the number of deer that are on their property. Our program provides an avenue to keeping a healthy herd of deer on your property and donating what needs to be harvested.”

With the support of local food banks, churches, and community betterment organizations, H4H orchestrates a successful statewide effort to provide for the five (5) major food banks in Louisiana, as well as direct to shelters and kitchens and other agencies in various communities. Thanks to the generosity of Louisiana’s sportsmen this past September, over 16,000 pounds of meat were donated to food banks and agencies statewide.

To learn more about monitoring your deer herd population, attend a Trailblazer wildlife management workshop in 2023!

Hunters for the Hungry Local Partner Processors

Bienville Parish
Wild Thang Custom Meats
318-230-3231

Bossier Parish
Bellevue Meat Processing
318-949-3794

Jackson Parish
End of the Road Processing
318-533-0491

Lincoln Parish
Dowling’s Deer Processing
318-247-3380
Dubach Deer Factory & Smokehouse
318-777-8800

Union Parish
Rocky Branch Deer Processing
318-726-5000

Yak and Kate's Redbarn Deer Processing
318-368-0245

Wilderness Acres Store
318-982-7450
Webster Parish
Payne Farm Processing
318-994-2049

For a complete list of partner processors, go to: <https://www.h4hla.org/processors>

Welcome and Introductions

**Eugene Livingston, Jr.
New Outreach Coordinator
for USDA NRCS in Louisiana**

Trailblazer extends a warm welcome to Eugene Livingston, Jr., the newest member of Louisiana’s USDA outreach team.

Originally from New Iberia, Louisiana, Mr. Livingston is joining Louisiana’s team from Mississippi where he served the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as an area forester. He joins Louisiana’s team following Dexter Sapp’s retirement. Dexter was a great friend to the people of north Louisiana.

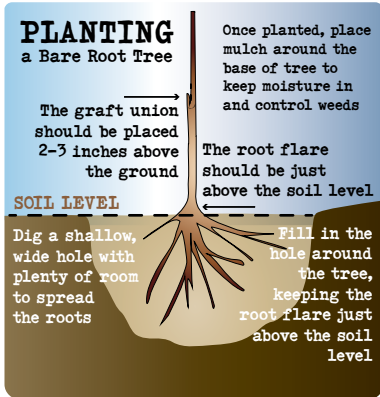
We are looking forward to getting to know Mr. Livingston and share our outreach success with him.

Food for Thought Information worth pondering

BARE ROOT TREES

Bare root trees are dormant trees that have been dug and stored without any soil around their roots.

These trees can be planted in the fall and early spring when soil is moist.



November is a great month to add trees to your landscape, and bare root trees are ideal for planting in the fall and winter.

Bare root trees may be purchased from local nurseries or online. When you receive your tree, it is important to keep the roots moist until planting. If the roots dry out, the tree may suffer poor growth or die. Ideally, a bare root tree should go directly from the packing material to the planting hole. Even a short exposure on a hot day may kill the tree's roots.

Checklist for Planting Bare Root Tree

Select a location with:

Good Soil Quality
Good Air Flow
Good Sun Exposure
Good Accessibility
Good Design for Space

Let's get this tree planted!

Check for utilities – Dial 811 to have lines marked
Soak tree roots in water for 1-2 hours before planting
Dig hole approximately 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep
Spread the roots out as you place it in the hole
Leave the graft union about 2-3 inches above the ground
Close the hole with the soil you removed
Water the tree—give it a deep soak
During the first growing season, water the tree every 7 to 10 days

BARE ROOT TREES

Advantages

- Transition to the soil sooner
- Well-developed root systems that enable the trees grow quickly
- Better survival rate than balled or burlapped trees
- Very easy to transport

Disadvantages

- If bare root trees are not planted soon after they are out of the nursery, the roots will dry out and the tree could die
- Planting times are very specific to fall or early spring when the soil is very moist

If you are interested in learning more about trees—both in the landscape and as a crop—attend a Trailblazer forestry workshop in 2023! Watch our website for a schedule of upcoming workshops: www.trailblazer.org

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, audiotope, 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.

Partners & Friends

Thank you for your support!



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



Natural Resources Conservation Service



FOREST PRODUCTS, L.L.C.



- FRIENDS**
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 - LSU AgCenter
 - Claiborne Parish Library
 - Village of Athens
 - USDA APHIS
 - Lincoln Parish Library
 - Bossier Parish Library
 - Webster Parish Library
 - Paul D. Spillers

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

"Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all
circumstances; for this
is God's will for you in
Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians
5:16-18
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.

Check us out on YouTube!

